

Confidence – Phil. 3:3-11

By Brent Paschall – brent@brentnrachel.com

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- I. Introduction
 - a. Self Esteem - Considered to be very important in our day
 - i. Some truth to this
 - b. Confidence –
 - i. Someone who is confident
 - 1. Has been persuaded that the object of confidence is worthy of trust - Conviction
 - 2. Has a reliable foundation for their actions that serves as basis for acting and a support to continue acting even when it is difficult - Foundation
 - 3. Acts in a bold manner without regard for the obstacles in their way or the criticism of those who may disagree with them – Bold Action
 - ii. Blues Clues – You can do anything that you want to do
 - iii. Maria from Sound of Music – “I have confidence in me; I have confidence in confidence in confidence alone”
- II. Key Thought – Paul rejected false confidence and place his full assurance in Jesus Christ
- III. Confidence in the flesh – v. 3-6
 - a. Many do have it
 - b. He could have it
 - i. Circumcised the eighth day
 - ii. Stock of Israel
 - iii. Benjamite
 - iv. Hebrew of Hebrews
 - 1. Other examples
 - a. A man among men
 - 2. The holy of holies
 - 3. Most Hebrew
 - 4. An Israelite indeed!
 - v. Law? Pharisee
 - vi. Zeal? Persecuted the church
 - vii. Righteous obedience? Blameless
 - c. These were all gain to him
 - i. He had been proud of these things in the past – Acts 22:3-5
 - d. They had been sources of confidence to him
 - e. But now he rejected self-confidence
- IV. What is better than self-confidence? God-confidence! V. 7-11
 - a. He already had counted it loss for Christ
 - i. This counting had been completed

- ii. For the excellence (surpassing value/much better!) of the knowing Jesus Christ
 - b. He still felt the same way
 - i. Yea, indeed, therefore, truly, also I am STILL counting all thing loss
 - ii. Gaining Christ
 - 1. Worth the loss of all other things
 - 2. They are rubbish (excrement) in comparison
 - iii. Being found in him
 - 1. Won't happen based on our righteousness
 - 2. Righteousness from faith in Christ
 - iv. To know him
 - 1. It's not who you are or what you have done
 - 2. It is who you know
 - v. The power of his resurrection
 - 1. What that demonstrates about Jesus
 - vi. The fellowship of his suffering
 - 1. Someone worthy of suffering along with
 - vii. To be conformed to his death
 - 1. Buried in the likeness of his death
 - 2. Dead to self, dead to sin
 - 3. Dead to the world
 - 4. The old man crucified
 - 5. Losing your life for Christ's sake
 - 6. Faithful unto death
 - viii. And be resurrected
 - 1. Given an endless life
 - 2. With full fellowship with the one for whom you have given up all other benefits
 - 3. That is a reward worth seeking after!

V. Application

- a. False sources of confidence
 - i. Secular
 - 1. Riches
 - 2. Intelligence/Education
 - 3. Physical Strength
 - 4. Position
 - 5. Connections
 - ii. Spiritual
 - 1. Our goodness
 - 2. Our superiority over others
 - 3. Our knowledge of truth – Rom. 2:17-21
 - 4. Agreement with others
 - a. Parents/grandparents
 - b. Social circle
 - c. Opinion leaders in society

- d. Preacher/teacher
- 5. Many in our time have confidence in a plan of salvation taught nowhere in Scriptures
 - a. Praying the sinners prayer
 - b. Faith only saves
 - c. Being sprinkled as a baby
 - d. Eternal security that means that you have no need to act
 - e. These are all false sources of confidence
- b. Our true source of confidence
 - i. Our relationship with Jesus Christ
 - 1. It is the only sufficient basis of confidence in spiritual matters
 - 2. It is also sufficient in secular matters!
 - ii. Confidence – Three Greek words
 - 1. Conviction - Being persuaded – Phil 3;
 - 2. Having a foundation – “standing under” Heb. 3:14; Heb. 11:1
 - 3. Bold Action - Boldly declaring ourselves and our beliefs –
 - a. To others - Acts 28:31;
 - b. To God - 1 Jn. 3:21; 1 Jn. 5:14; Eph. 3:12 (both #1 & #3)
 - c. Ready for Christ’s return - 1 Jn. 2:28
 - iii. In what areas of life do you have confidence?
 - 1. Have been persuaded/convinced
 - 2. that is the basis of your actions
 - 3. And you boldly act in that area
 - 4. That is an area in which you have confidence
 - 5. Is that area your spiritual life?
 - 6. If not, why not
 - 7. Can we use more persuasion?
 - a. Acting on the basis of our convictions?
 - b. Without fear of the obstacles or of those who do not share our convictions?

VI. Conclusion

- a. If your greatest confidence is in the flesh...
 - i. You will boldly pursue the gain of the world without hesitation
 - ii. But be reluctant and hesitant to take action to gain the benefits of a spiritual relationship with Jesus Christ
 - iii. You will ultimately be disappointed
 - 1. You cannot profit if you gain the whole world and lose your soul
 - iv. The flesh is weak and will die
 - v. Saul of Tarsus was like this, but something changed... Acts 22:6-16
 - 1. He met Jesus

2. Everything else seemed VERY unimportant
- vi. There is something that is much more valuable than any fleshly advantage or accomplishment, or all of them put together
- vii. Jesus Christ
- b. If your greatest confidence is in Jesus Christ
 - i. Then you have the conviction which will serve as your foundation to act boldly on the basis of your faith
 1. toward God
 2. and men
 - ii. And you will NOT be disappointed
- c. You are my confidence – Psalm 71:5 NASB
- d. Invitation
 - i. Arise and be baptized and wash away your sins – Acts 22:16