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