

“HAVE NO CONFIDENCE IN THE FLESH”

Philippians 3:4-8

INTRODUCTION:

Today, we will continue our study in Philippians with the sermon titled: **“Have No Confidence in the Flesh.”** We will look at seven items of Paul’s credentials – his resume of self-righteousness before his conversion. Paul confessed that his impressive credentials (false beliefs about salvation) were of no value – They could not save him or anyone else.

- I. Salvation is Not by Ritual** – “circumcised the eighth day” (v. 5)
 - A. Paul is saying salvation is not found in birth, religious rituals, or ceremonies.
 - B. Many think they are saved because of: Godly Parents, Baptism, Infant Baptism

- II. Salvation is Not by Race** – “of the stock of Israel” (v. 5)
 - A. Paul is saying that salvation is not found in your ancestry or social superiority.
 - B. Many think they are saved because of: Christian Name, Born American, Certain Race

- III. Salvation is Not by Rank** – “of the tribe of Benjamin” (v. 5)
 - A. Paul is saying that salvation is not found in social or religious status.
 - B. Many think they are saved because they belong to an upper class, a more elite church

- IV. Salvation is Not by Tradition** – “an Hebrew of the Hebrews” (v. 5)
 - A. Paul is saying that salvation is not found in religious faithfulness, language, and customs or in the ability to know and speak in religious terms.
 - B. Many think they are saved because they: Do good things and are faithful in doing good

- V. Salvation is Not by Religious Position** – “as touching the law a Pharisee” (v. 5)
 - A. Paul is saying that salvation is not found in religion.
 - B. Salvation is not based on a religious position – Pastor, Deacon, Bishop, Choir Director

- VI. Salvation is Not by Sincerity** – “concerning zeal, persecuting the church” (v. 6)
 - A. Paul is saying that salvation is not based on a false sense of sincerity. Paul was very sincere in his efforts to harm God’s people; however, he was sincerely wrong.
 - B. Many believe they are sincere about establishing a relationship with Christ but are sincerely wrong.

- VII. Salvation is Not by Legalistic Righteousness** – “touching the righteousness, which is in the law, blameless” (v. 6).
 - A. Paul is saying that salvation is not found in keeping the law.
 - B. Jesus met Paul on the Road to Damascus and his life was changed forevermore (Acts 9:1-19). Paul, then trusted in Jesus Christ alone for salvation.

CONCLUSION:

- A. If God were to ask you, why should I let you into my Heaven, what would you say?
- B. For Whom Did Christ Die?
- C. A-B-C of Salvation

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“... the word of our God shall stand for ever” (Isa 40:8)