

“The Emptiness of Self- Confidence”

Philippians 3:1-7

Sept. 11, 2011

1. Beware of living for “self.” (3:1-2)

*“rejoice in the Lord...Beware of the dogs, beware of the evil workers, beware of the false circumcision,*

2. Be ready to put no confidence in “self.” (3:3)

*“...for we are the true circumcision, who worship in the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh.”*

3. Be alert to “self” confidence areas. (4-6)

- Family heritage – “circumcised the 8<sup>th</sup> day, of the nation of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin” (4-5a)
- Ethnic / Social advantages – “a Hebrew of Hebrews” (5)
- Educational / Job accomplishments - “as to the Law, a Pharisee” (5b)
- Religious effort –
  - a. Positive effort toward good.  
*...as to the righteousness which is in the Law, found blameless.” (6)*
  - b. Negative effort against supposed evil.  
*“...as to zeal, a persecutor of the church.” (6)*

4. Boldly transition to a new set of priorities. (7)

*“But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted loss for the sake of Christ.”*

**Application:**

1. Review the areas of your life that can become areas of your “self” confidence. How does knowing Christ change the way you view those areas?
2. Are there any areas of your life you need to turn over to the Lord today ...”for the sake of Christ?”

Bible Study Questions/ Discussion  
"The Emptiness of Self-Confidence"  
Philippians 3:1-7 (Sept. 11, 2011)

1. What personal areas of accomplishment are you "proud of?" In the area of our relationship with God and our ability to enter heaven what can our accomplishments do? (Eph. 2:8-9)
  
2. Paul describes people who are living for self in three ways in Phil. 3:2. What best describes your life before Christ?
  - "Dogs" – Independent without an owner; a dangerous wanderer;
  - "Evil Workers" – Either doing good with wrong motives or doing evil deeds;
  - "False circumcision" – External religion without inward transformation;
  
3. What does it mean to have "true" circumcision? (3:3) Identify the three descriptions of such a person in 3:3? What kind of person is the Father seeking? (John 4:23-24) When a person finds his glory in Christ Jesus, what does that mean? (2 Cor. 10:17; Ps. 29:2) Why should we not rely on the "flesh" to connect with God? (Rom. 8:7; John 6:63)
  
4. Paul reviews the areas of his life that he previously put his faith in.
  - Family heritage (4-5a) Do you know your background? Is it something that you are proud of? Were your parents Christian?
  - Ethnic/ Social advantages (5) How does Paul describe his advancement among his peers? (Gal. 1:14)
  - Educational /Job accomplishments (5b) What advantage did Paul have as a Pharisee? (Acts 22:3; 26:5) Share some of your achievements.
  - Religious effort (6) What is the main problem with good deeds getting you into heaven? (Rev. 3:1; Matt. 23:27-28)
  
5. As Paul reviewed his life, his evaluation of what really mattered had a dramatic change. What happened? (7) What was the most important thing now? (v.10)
  
6. Share with one another how your values have changed since coming to Christ.