Sunday Sermon Notes

# THE BIG IDEA

What is the main truth The Lord showed you in this passage?



# Confidence in the Flesh Philippians 3:1-7

- 1 Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you, to me indeed is not grievous, but for you it is safe.
- 2 Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the concision.
- 3 For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.
- 4 Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more:
- 5 Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee;
- 6 Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.
- 7 But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.

In this next section of Paul's letter, he gives a strong warning to the church concerning the Judaizers. These false teachers were intent on persuading the Gentile Christians to keep the law of Moses beginning with the rite of circumcision. This mixing of law and grace was extremely dangerous because confidence in our flesh (works) negates any confidence in Christ (faith). Not only does this principle affect our salvation, but also our sanctification! Paul, who had every fleshly, religious qualification, saw them as losses rather than gains.

# Part 1 – Beware! Beware!

Read Philippians 3:1-2; 2 Corinthians 11:3-4, 13-15

1) Of what does Paul warn the Philippians to beware?

2) According to Paul in 2 Corinthians 11 why might false teachers be difficult to identify?

3) Why should Christians heed this warning today and how can they?

# Part 2—True Circumcision

Read Philippians 3:3; Deuteronomy 30:5-6; Romans 2:28-29

1) According to this verse what characterizes true circumcision?

2) According to Deuteronomy 30 and Romans 2 what was circumcision always intended to display?

3) How can you display confidence in Christ and <u>not</u> the flesh?

# Part 3—Self Confidence

Read Philippians 3:4-6; Luke 18:9-14

1) Why did Paul list his religious/fleshly claims?

2) Why did Jesus speak the parable in Luke 18?

3) Why is self confidence dangerous for the true Christian?

# Part 4—A Net Loss

Read Philippians 3:7; Matthew 16:26

1) Why did Paul count all his fleshly claims as loss?

2) According to Matthew 16 how should eternity affect our evaluations of gain and loss?

3) In what ways might American Christianity be banking a "net loss" rather than "gains"?