



## Philippians 3.4-7 “My Resume”

### **Philippians 3:4-7**

**4** though I also might have confidence in the flesh.  
If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so:  
**5** circumcised the eighth day,  
of the stock of Israel,  
of the tribe of Benjamin,  
a Hebrew of the Hebrews;  
concerning the law, a Pharisee;  
**6** concerning zeal, persecuting the church;  
concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.  
**7** But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ.

- **Confidence** (4006) (*pepoithesis* from *peitho* = to persuade, come to a settled conviction) means full persuasion and expresses a belief in someone or something to the point of placing one's trust or reliance in them - the idea is having been persuaded and remaining persuaded. It is a belief that one can rely on someone or something.
  - **The nuance of meaning depends on the context – there are good contexts to use this word, there are not so good contexts.**
    - **it can mean confidence or trust in others:**  
**2 Corinthians 1:15**  
**15** And in this confidence I intended to come to you before, that you might have a second benefit—
    - **in God:**  
**Ephesians 3:12**  
**12** in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through faith in Him.
    - **in oneself (i.e., self-confidence):**

## **2 Corinthians 10:12–11:1**

**12** For we dare not class ourselves or compare ourselves with those who commend themselves.

But they, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.

**13** We, however, will not boast beyond measure, but within the limits of the sphere which God appointed us—a sphere which especially includes you.

**14** For we are not overextending ourselves (as though our authority did not extend to you), for it was to you that we came with the gospel of Christ;

**15** not boasting of things beyond measure, that is, in other men's labors, but having hope, that as your faith is increased, we shall be greatly enlarged by you in our sphere,

**16** to preach the gospel in the regions beyond you, and not to boast in another man's sphere of accomplishment.

**17** But "he who glories, let him glory in the LORD."

**18** For not he who commends himself is approved, but whom the Lord commends.

Pastor Conor taught us how some glory in their obedience to the Law of Moses, presuming a self-righteousness in their outward obedience while also supposing that it improves upon the cross of Christ!

## **Romans 2:25–29**

**25** For circumcision is indeed profitable if you keep the law; but if you are a breaker of the law, your circumcision has become uncircumcision.

**26** Therefore, if an uncircumcised man keeps the righteous requirements of the law, will not his uncircumcision be counted as circumcision?

**27** And will not the physically uncircumcised, if he fulfills the law, judge you who, even with your written code and circumcision, are a transgressor of the law?

**28** For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh;

**29** but he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the letter; whose praise is not from men but from God.

## Colossians 2:9–12

**9** For in Him dwells **all the fullness** of the Godhead bodily;

**10** and **you are complete in Him**,

who is the head of all principality and power.

**11** In Him you were also circumcised  
with the circumcision made without hands,  
by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh,  
by the circumcision of Christ,

**12** buried with Him in baptism,

in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of  
God,

who raised Him from the dead.

**4** though I also might have confidence in the flesh.

If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so:

- **Amplified:** Though for myself I have [at least grounds] to rely on the flesh. If any other man considers that he has or seems to have reason to rely on the flesh and his physical and outward advantages, I have still more!

(Amplified Bible 2015 - Lockman)

- **New Living Translation:** “though I could have confidence in my own effort if anyone could. Indeed, if others have reason for confidence in their own efforts, I have even more!”<sup>1</sup>

**5** circumcised the eighth day,  
of the stock of Israel,

of the tribe of Benjamin,

a Hebrew of the Hebrews;

concerning the law, a Pharisee;

**6** concerning zeal, persecuting the church;

concerning the righteousness which is in the law, **blameless.**

## We all have 2 resumes in our short life:

1. Worldly/Fleshly Resume – what I have accomplished
2. Spiritual Resume – what God has accomplished in me.

<sup>1</sup> Tyndale House Publishers, *Holy Bible: New Living Translation* (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2013), Php 3:4.

## Paul's Worldly/Fleshly Resume:

1. Circumcised on the 8<sup>th</sup> day after birth
2. Stock of Israel – a son of Jacob, Isaac, and Abraham
3. Tribe of Benjamin
4. A Pharisee
5. Church Persecutor
6. Blameless in the Law

**Spurgeon** - So that, if anybody could have boasted of what he was by birth, what he was by profession, what he was by the display of religious zeal, Paul could have boasted as boldly as anyone could, for in all those respects he was second to nobody. You know that it is a very easy thing, or it ought to be a very easy thing, for some people to be humble, for they have nothing to be proud of, but here is a man who had much of which he might have been proud. According to the letter of the law, he was a diamond of the first water; yet see what a different verdict he gives after grace has opened his eyes.

Human righteousness is **nothing** in the economy of Heaven

### **Romans 3:21–24**

**21** But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets,

**22** even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, **to all and on all who believe.**

For there is no difference;

**23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,**

**24** being **justified freely by His grace**

through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,

### • **James Montgomery Boice:**

**“Perfection is a whole.**

**Righteousness is exactly the same.**

**You are either completely righteous by God’s definition or you are not righteous at all. <sup>2</sup>**

○ “Almost perfect” is un-perfect!

○ “Almost righteous” is unrighteous

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<sup>2</sup> James Montgomery Boice, *Philippians: An Expository Commentary* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2000), 169.

- **AND YET – Jesus calls us to strive for perfection:**

**Matthew 5:48**

**48** Therefore **you be perfect** as your heavenly Father is perfect.

## **Paul's Spiritual Resume:**

### 1. Least of the Apostles

**1 Corinthians 15:9** For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

### 2. Chief among sinners

**1 Timothy 1:15** This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.

### 3. Love much – forgiven much!

**Luke 7:47** Therefore I say to you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven, for she loved much.

**But to whom little is forgiven, the same loves little."**

## **Psalm 130**

A Song of Ascents.

**1** Out of the depths I have cried to You, O LORD;

**2** Lord, hear my voice!

Let Your ears be attentive

To the voice of my supplications.

**3 If You, LORD, should mark iniquities,**

**O Lord, who could stand?**

**4 But there is forgiveness with You,**

**That You may be feared.**

**5** I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,

And in His word I do hope.

**6** My soul waits for the Lord

More than those who watch for the morning—

Yes, more than those who watch for the morning.

**7** O Israel, **hope in the LORD;**

For with the LORD there is mercy,

And with Him is abundant redemption.

8 And He shall redeem Israel

**From all his iniquities.** <sup>3</sup>

Place no hope in your acts of righteousness

- A Kosher lifestyle cannot save you
- Circumcision cannot save you
- Nothing can improve upon the CROSS!

Place no hope in your pedigree, your education, your wealth nor your rank attained!

- **HOPE IN THE LORD**

7 But what things were gain to me,  
these I have counted loss for Christ.

**Warren Wiersbe** – “In this intensely autobiographical section, Paul examines his own life. He becomes an “auditor” who opens the books to see what wealth he has, and he discovers that he is bankrupt!”

**Barclay:** “He knew what it was to be a Jew in the highest sense of the term, and had deliberately abandoned it all for the sake of Jesus Christ.” <sup>4</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> *The New King James Version* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1982), Ps 130:3.

<sup>4</sup> William Barclay, ed., *The Letters to the Philippians, Colossians, and Thessalonians*, electronic ed., The Daily Study Bible Series (Philadelphia: The Westminster John Knox Press, 1975), 57.