**PAUL’S LACK OF CONFIDENCE IN THE FLESH**

Philippians 3:4-11

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**INTRODUCTION**

On Paul’s 2nd missionary journey, he spent time in Philippi, which is in Europe. Ever since God led Paul to go westward into Europe, the great centers of the missionary enterprise and the predominance of the Gospel have moved ever westward. Now in our day, God is doing something special here in Asia as it has become the center of the mission movement. Today, we continue our study of Philippians and see Paul’s lack of confidence in the flesh.

1. **PAUL AND THE FLESH**
2. Paul could claim **greater** confidence in the flesh than others (vv. 4-6).
3. He boasted of his **family** heritage—being a member of the tribe of Benjamin.
4. He boasted of his **status** as a Pharisee.
5. He boasted of his **zeal**—even going so far as to persecute the church.
6. He boasted of his **legalistic** righteousness as being faultless.
7. Paul had **no** confidence in the flesh (vv. 7-8).
8. What he previously thought was profitable he saw as **worthless** (as loss).
9. He considered his previous life without Christ as **wasted** time (total loss).
10. He **willingly** lost everything for Jesus’ sake.
11. He evaluated all he had lost as equal to rubbish (**garbage** to be thrown out).

*When Paul became a believer, his values changed. What he formerly valued as most important in life suddenly became of NO value. What he formerly considered as lacking value became significant for him. God’s priorities became his priorities.*

1. **PAUL AND THE SPIRIT—FOUR SPIRITUAL GOALS (vv. 8-11)**
2. Paul wanted to **gain** Christ.

*“What shall it profit a man if he gains the whole world but loses his own soul?”*

1. Paul wanted to be **found** in Christ—“Free from the law, O perfect condition!”
2. Paul wanted to **know** Christ—to know Him is everything!
3. Paul wanted to **become** like Christ—to be like Jesus is our highest goal!

*In these verses, Paul reveals what truly matters in life. Life centers around Jesus.*

**CONCLUSION**

In conclusion, Paul despised his earlier life of trying to please God by following the law. He realized that actions in the flesh accomplished nothing but only deceived him into a false sense of security. He discovered that good people go to hell! Moral living is not enough! Like Paul, we also need forgiveness for our sins. We need help since we cannot save ourselves from ourselves! We need to realize the fearful truth that our flesh fails us, that only God can change our lives for the better. We need Jesus to save us from our sins. When we recognize our helpless condition in the flesh and invite Jesus to be our Savior, our Lord, we have real life, genuine life. Then, like Paul, we should desire to become more like Jesus!

*“O to be like Thee! O to be like Thee,*

*Blessed Redeemer, pure as Thou art!*

*Come in Thy sweetness, come in Thy fullness—*

*Stamp Thine own image deep on my heart.”*