

Counterfeit Confidence

September 2nd & 3rd, 2017

Philippians 3:4-6

Paul, before he had his encounter with Jesus Christ, took pride in his pedigree. Three times the word “confidence” is found in verses 3 and 4.

Confidence: “...reliance; an assurance of mind or belief...”¹

Counterfeit: “Assuming the appearance of something; false; ...”¹

Paul realized that before God, his confidence was based on false assumptions!

Philippians 3:7 “But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ.”

Paul had a reason for his confidence in his Jewish culture and among his peers.

“...circumcised on the eighth day”

- Genesis 17:10-14

“...of the people of Israel”

- Romans 9:1-5

“...of the tribe of Benjamin”

- 1 Samuel 9:1-2; 10:1

“...a Hebrew of Hebrews”

- Genesis 14:13

“...as to the law, a Pharisee”

“Paul’s life was one of scrupulous obedience to the law, both the Torah and associated Jewish traditions. (Acts 22:3; 26:5; ...).”²

“...as to zeal, a persecutor of the church”

- Acts 26:9-11

“...as to righteous under the law, blameless.”

“This is not a claim of sinlessness (Rom.7:7-13), but of fidelity to the Old Testament’s prescribed way of life...”²

- Galatians 1:14

❖ Paul was serious about what he believed and sincere in his commitment! Paul was confident that he was right in his view of God. He knew that he was right with God because of his zeal and anyone who disagreed would be eliminated!

Paul had an encounter with the Living Christ that changed his mind!

- Acts 9:1-22

Paul realized that his confidence in his heritage and religious lifestyle was futile.

- ❖ Following his “born again” experience, Paul began to understand and teach the truth!

Romans 3:21-26 ⇒ All have sinned.

Ephesians 2:1-4 ⇒ All people are born under the wrath of God.

John 3:16-18 “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him. Whoever believes in Him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.”

Ephesians 2:5-10 ⇒ God, by His mercy and grace, has given us salvation.

Titus 3:3-7 ⇒ God saved us, not because of our good works, but by His mercy!

Colossians 2:6-7; 3:5-11 ⇒ Christian Lifestyle follows a Christian Conversion!

Paul’s confidence was now placed on the saving work of Christ alone!

Galatians 2:15-16 “We ourselves are Jews by birth and not Gentile sinners; yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified.”

¹ Webster, Noah. *American Dictionary of the English Language (1828 Facsimile Edition)*. San Francisco: Foundation for American Christian Education, 1989.

² Sproul, R.C. *The Reformation Study Bible*. Orlando: Ligonier Ministries, 2005.

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