**Title of Series: Joy Amid Trials Date of Delivery: December 1, 2024**

Lesson 5 of 7: No Confidence in the Flesh

***(Our confidence is not in “who” we are but in “whose” we are!)***

**Focus Scriptures (Philippians Chapter 3):**

*“For we are the circumcision, who worship the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh.”**(Vs. 3:3)*

*But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ.  (vs. 3:7)*

**Main Objectives:**

1. Our focus is not on what we have done but who we have become through Christ! (vs. 8 & 9)
2. Count everything as rubbish to gain Christ. (v8)
3. Our righteousness comes from Faith. (vs. 9)

**Class Activity**

*To start class - Read Philippians 3: 1-11 and ask the class to focus on the following words:*

Rejoice, Watch-Out, Flesh, Confidence, Gain, Loss, Faith, Power, and Resurrection!

*Note*: Ask the class to reflect on these words as the scriptures are read and how they relate and contrast within Paul’s message. Consider which Word or Words speak to you the most.

**KEY POINTS and QUESTIONS – PHILIPPIANS CHAPTER 3: 1-11**

**Rejoice and celebrate in the Lord!**

3:1-2 Further, my brothers and sisters, rejoice in the Lord! It is no trouble for me to write the same things to you again, and it is a safeguard for you. **2**Watch out for those dogs, those evildoers, those mutilators of the flesh.

Questions to consider:

1. How do we rejoice in the Lord when we face trials and know there are those who want to do us wrong? *(James 1:2)*
2. What is required for us to stay safe?
3. Who are those we need to watch out for?
* **No Confidence in the Flesh (What we have done or accomplished)**

**3**For it is we who are the circumcision, we who serve God by his Spirit, who boast in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh— **4**though I myself have reasons for such confidence.

If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: **5**circumcised on the eighth day of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; **6**as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless.

Questions to consider:

1. What is the point Paul is making in verses 3 through 6?
2. How can we be proud of what we have accomplished and yet not give too much credit to ourselves?
* **Our gains in Christ surpass everything we consider loss because of our faith in Christ**

**7**But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. **8**What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ **9**and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Philippians%203%3A%201-11&version=NIV#fen-NIV-29431a)] Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith.

Questions to consider:

1. Why is it so hard to put our “faith in Christ Jesus” first in our lives?
2. What does this require from both a personal choice and sacrifice to fully gain Christ?
* **Knowing Christ includes becoming like him in his death and attaining the resurrection**

**10**I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, **11**and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.

Questions to consider:

1. How does our suffering help us know the power of Jesus’ resurrection?
2. Do we (Christians) fully understand what Jesus’s Resurrection means for our salvation? Should we spend more time seeking to know the power of the resurrection?

Conclusion: As our lesson started, “*Our confidence is not in “who” we are but in “whose” we are!” This should be reflected in what we say and what we do! It is so important we never lose sight of this point!*