

Philippians

(12) Paul's conversion testimony

Phil 3:4-11

4 though I myself have reasons for such confidence. If anyone else thinks he has 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 legalistic righteousness, faultless.

7 But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. 8 What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, 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 Christ – the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. 10 I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, 11 and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead. NIV

Paul reflects on how Christ changed him...3:1-9

Describe in your own words, Paul's list of personal 'achievements'. 3:4-6

But how did he feel, after getting saved, about these same things? 3:7

He realized they were his loss, hindrances to coming to faith in Christ. Trusted himself.

Beyond that, how did he see everything? 3:8a see Rom.8:18

He saw it all as loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ as his Lord.

Paul saw (2) kinds of 'righteousness'. What are they? 3:8b-9 ICor.1:30

His self righteousness (from the Law) and God's righteousness through faith in Christ.

How did Paul also describe the nation of Israel? Rom.9:30-10:4

As pursuing self righteousness through the Law rather than the righteousness of God.

Why is this such a fundamental truth? Jn.8:24; Mt.7:13-14

Because those are the only two options! Either self righteousness or God's righteousness!

From Paul's beautiful template, what simple test can you use to evaluate 'testimonies'?

If the words are all about what 'I've done'... Or is it about what Christ has done in me?

Paul's life motto...2:10

How does Paul sum up his heart *after* getting saved? 3:10a see IJn.2:3

I want to know Christ! It's the deep yearning of a maturing believer to really know Him.

What are some of the Hebrew/Greek uses of this word 'know'? Gen.4:1; Amos 3:2, etc

Intimate husband/wife relations. Also deep spiritual relationship with God. Not casual.

Why do you think Paul is focused on *the power of His resurrection*? 3:10b; IICor.13:4; IPet.1:3

It seems to represent the ultimate victory of Christ! Physical/spiritual/eternal/everything.

Next: Fellowship of Suffering??

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