

CONFIDENCE IN CHRIST FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS

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READ Philippians 3:1-6

STORY: getting cut from the lacrosse team – ever feel like you do not measure up?

INTRODUCTION: Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord.

What is it about our salvation that brings joy? – Salvation is based upon righteousness (not guilty)

- In Christ by faith, his righteousness is given to us who are unable to be righteous.
- So, we are to live by faith, trusting and being confident in Jesus being our righteous
- Freeing us from having to live under unrighteous guilt & oppressed by striving for righteousness
- Apart from this, salvation is joyless, fearful, and filled with doubt.

Who are the dogs?

They are undefined here, but either Christians or non-Christians who rally for the law and circumcision. These people place confidence in their obedience to the law, and their own invented good works.

People who have spiritual résumés they are building for God:

If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more:

- circumcised on the eighth day,
- of the people of Israel,
- of the tribe of Benjamin,
- a Hebrew of Hebrews;
- as to the law, a Pharisee;
- as to zeal, a persecutor of the church;
- as to righteousness, under the law blameless.

Who are the Christians?

We are the real circumcision.

- Worship by the spirit of God- Heart attitude that come through my actions.
- Glory in Christ Jesus – not our checklist of things done I am supposed to do.
- Put no confidence in the flesh – I don't trust my actions or my resume – all filthy rags

Conclusion

Do you have a relationship with Jesus?

- What are you trusting in to get to heaven?
- If it is your goodness, your works, spiritual resume, or your prayer – one thing is guaranteed...
 - If you die tonight you will never get to heaven & will go to hell for your rebellion against God
 - **Galatians 2:16 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.**
 - To experience salvation, you must humble yourself by confessing your sinfulness and need of Jesus for forgiveness.
 - You must regret your sinful life of rebellion against God and trust Jesus to give you a new life.
 - You must trust that he alone is necessary for eternal life – not your efforts.
 - Confess Jesus is Lord, repent of your sinful life, and place your trust in Christ for life.

Christian, Do you live your life of faith with Joy?

- Do you suffer from guilt, fear and doubt thinking God's mad at you
- When you worship, serve and minister, is it joyful for you or a chore to build your resume?
- What is it that tell you that you are actually a Christian? What you have done or Christ? **JOY**
- Confess Jesus is Lord, repent of your sinful life, and place your trust in Christ for life.

