

SOURCES OF CONFIDENCE

(Phil 3:1-17)

SOURCES OF CONFIDENCE CHANGE OVER TIME...

*Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things again is no trouble to me, and it is a safeguard for you. ²Beware of the dogs, beware of the evil workers, beware of the false circumcision; ³for we are the true circumcision, who worship in the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no **confidence in the flesh**, ⁴although I myself might have **confidence even in the flesh**. If anyone else has a mind to put **confidence in the flesh**, I far more: ⁵circumcised the eighth day, of the nation of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the Law, a Pharisee; ⁶as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to the righteousness which is in the Law, found blameless.*

That was
THEN

⁷But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, ⁹and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith, ¹⁰that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; ¹¹in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

This is
NOW

¹²Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus. ¹³Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵Let us therefore, as many as are perfect, have this attitude; and if in anything you have a different attitude, God will reveal that also to you; ¹⁶however, let us keep living by that same standard to which we have attained.

“Already”
and
“not yet”
tension

¹⁷Brethren, join in following my example, and observe those who walk according to the pattern you have in us.

(Phil 3:2-17, NAS)

...BUT ONE IS CONSTANT

- **Paul USED TO rely on (4-6)**

Circumcised 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 the righteousness which is in the Law (legalistic righteousness), found blameless

From Tarsus (Acts 21:39)

Born a Roman citizen (Acts 22:27)

Raised in Jerusalem; educated by Gamaliel (Acts 22:3)

- **Paul NOW relies on** (7-9)

But... (7)

Whatever things were GAIN to me I have counted as LOSS FOR THE SAKE OF CHRIST (7)

I count ALL THINGS TO BE LOSS in view of the surpassing VALUE OF KNOWING CHRIST Jesus my Lord (8)

I...count them but RUBBISH (8)

Confusion about the meaning of this word (*skúbala*) rooted in its etymology

- Some say root is *skor* = ‘dung, manure, animal feces’
- Some say root is *skubalon* = ‘what is thrown to dogs, food gone bad, refuse’
- Whatever; it’s all ‘unspeakable filth’

So THAT I MAY GAIN CHRIST, and may be found in Him (8-9)

...and has a **NEW GOAL** (10-11):

THAT I MAY KNOW HIM

and the power of His resurrection

and the fellowship of His sufferings,

being conformed to His death;

in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

- **APP for US**

¹⁵*Let us therefore, as many as are perfect, have this attitude; and if in anything you have a different attitude, God will reveal that also to you; ...¹⁷Brethren, join in following my example...*

- Let’s persevere in the PRESENT *press on (12, 14)*
- Leave the past in the PAST *forgetting what lies behind (13)*
- Lean into the FUTURE *reaching forward to what lies ahead (13)*