



WORSHIP

SUGGESTED WORSHIP SONGS:

This Same Jesus, Great is Thy Faithfulness, In Christ Alone

WELCOME

In what ways do you find yourself boasting about your religious/spiritual “credentials”? Do you focus more on changing outward behavior rather than helping bring about true heart transformation through Christ as you relate to others? Why?

WORD

PHILIPPIANS 3:1-11

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.² Beware of the dogs, beware of the evil workers, beware of the false circumcision;³ for we are the true circumcision, who worship in the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh,⁴ although I myself might have confidence even in the flesh. If anyone else has a mind to put confidence in the flesh, I far more:⁵ circumcised the eighth day, of the nation of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the Law, a Pharisee;⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to the righteousness which is in the Law, found blameless.⁷ But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ.⁸ More 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,⁹ and 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,¹⁰ that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death;¹¹ in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

Collecting things may give someone a sense of fulfillment or a sense of security. Over the past few weeks, we have seen people do this and go to the extreme by hoarding stuff they think they need. This gives them a sense of control, security and a feeling of confidence, sadly, at the expense of other people. But where should we put our confidence when it comes to our earthly life? The Apostle Paul gives us a timely reminder in **Philippians 4:19**: *God will supply all our needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus!* **Jesus should be the source of our confidence.**

More than our earthly needs, however, is a far greater need which will spell the difference between eternal joy and eternal regret. **Luke 12:15-21** reminds us that our possessions do not define us, lest we be fools. Our greatest treasure is **Jesus Himself!** When we have Him in our lives, we have everything we need! In Him, we have forgiveness, assurance of salvation, purpose in life, transformation in our lives and in our hearts – these are the things that really matter. So, the more important question to ask is, where should we put our confidence when it comes to **eternity? PUT YOUR CONFIDENCE IN CHRIST!**

KILLJOY: SELF-RIGHTEOUSNESS

As we will learn in Philippians 3, self-righteousness is a dangerous killjoy. The *International Standard Bible Encyclopedia* defines self-righteousness as “a term that has come to designate moral living as a way of salvation, or as a ground for neglecting the redemptive work of Jesus Christ...” For as long as we are depending on what we do for our eternal salvation, we are being self-righteous. The Apostle Paul reminded the church in Philippi to find their joy in Jesus and he also wanted to safeguard them

against the trap of self-righteousness (**Philippians 3:1**). Paul asked them to beware of the dogs, the evil workers, and the false circumcision (**v2**) – these are the Judaizers, Jews who taught that faith in Jesus Christ is not sufficient for salvation. They taught that one has to be circumcised and one must follow Jewish law in order to be saved. They were teaching a false gospel thus calling God a liar. They were only interested in the superficial – outward compliance to the law and not life transformation. They put confidence in the flesh – in what they do – for salvation.

TRUE GOSPEL

Salvation is by faith alone, in Christ alone. In contrast to what the Judaizers were teaching, true circumcision is of the heart. We worship God in Spirit and in truth. Our glory is not in ourselves but in Christ, therefore we put no confidence in the flesh (**v3**). **We should put our confidence in Christ!**

PAUL'S TESTIMONY

Paul was once totally convinced of his own righteousness and he recounts this in **verses 4-6**. He was circumcised on the 8th day, according to original command in Old Testament. He was of the nation of Israel, not a convert from another race or religion. He was of the tribe of Benjamin, one of Jacob's favorite sons and where the first king of Israel came from. He was a Hebrew of Hebrews, meaning both of his parents were Jews. He was a Pharisee, a revered religious leader of the Jewish people. He was a persecutor of the early Christians and he took it upon himself to get rid of the enemies of Judaism. And he was blameless as he followed all the rules and traditions of the Jewish system. How

WORD (cont'd)

do we translate this today? Some of us have been raised in Christian families, are involved in many ministries, and do all the Christian “stuff.” Though these are good, none of these credentials can bring us to heaven. That is why our confidence should be put in **Christ alone**. Jesus met Paul (then Saul) when he was on his way to Damascus and his life was never the same. Paul realized that he was spiritually bankrupt – no amount of self-righteousness could ever bring him to heaven, only faith in Jesus. In fact, he even considered himself as a chief sinner (**1 Timothy 1:15-16**), yet he found mercy. Paul now counted all his former “assets” as loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus (**vv.7-8**). Paul made the life-changing decision to move from self-confidence to **Christ-confidence**; from self-righteousness to **Christ’s righteousness (v.9)**!

KNOW JESUS MORE AND MORE

When we trust Jesus as Lord and Savior - our bankrupt, empty spiritual account is suddenly filled with the righteousness of Jesus Himself! God the Father imputes to us the perfect righteousness of His Son! Knowing this, just like Paul, our lifelong goal should be to know Jesus (**vv.10-11**)! The more we know Christ, the more we love Him. And the more we love Him, the more we want to know Him. And the more we know and love Him, the more we become like Him. So how can we apply what the Apostle Paul said – to know Jesus more and more?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

- 1. Self-Check.** Have you put your confidence in Christ alone for eternity? Explain your answer.
- 2. Setting It Right.** What steps will you take to know Jesus more each day?
- 3. Living It Out.** In what areas of your life do you need to become more like Christ? Share specific action points.

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Continue to pray for and with those who are fearful during this time. Pray for specific and practical ways you can show God’s love to them during this time and act on it! Share with them the confidence that you have in Christ!

You may join the **Dare to Share Training** to be more equipped on how to share the Gospel. Visit www.facebook.com/GLCequip for more details.

In the triumphal entry of Jesus, a fulfillment of the prophecy by Zechariah, He came not to overthrow the Roman Government as most were hoping, but to overhaul and transform people’s lives. He was gentle and He came riding in a donkey (**Matthew 21:4-5**). Not long after the people shouted, “Hosanna, Hosanna,” He was treated like a beast, an animal. This is how He bore the burden of our sins. He took our place on the cross. As we get to know Him more, we can become humble, selfless, a servant like Him. Why did Paul want to know the power of Jesus’ resurrection (**v10**)? There is no power anywhere that can do that! **Only the power of Jesus can transform people from the inside out.** Becoming more like Jesus cannot happen simply thru our own effort, it takes supernatural power - the same power of the resurrection! Lastly, Paul wanted to know the fellowship of Jesus’ sufferings. No one wants to suffer, but suffering is part of life. We need to learn how to respond to this the way Jesus did (**1 Peter 2:23**). We need to learn to be like Jesus - entrusting Himself to God believing He is in control.

In **verse 11**, Paul was confident in his eternal salvation because of Jesus. He knew that someday he would ultimately arrive in eternity with Jesus (**1 Thessalonians 4:16-17**). We can look forward to the same thing if we put our confidence in Christ!

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

II. Country and the World

- Wisdom, protection and saving faith for the frontliners and government leaders
- Nations around the world to recognize God as the only one who can end this pandemic

III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
- Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
- Ministries and Churches worldwide

IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living
- Salvation of family and friends