

Philippians 3:4-19 “— though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also. If anyone else thinks he has reason for 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; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

Paul’s credentials in the flesh:

- Circumcised on the eighth day
 - Born into Israel
 - Tribe of Benjamin
 - Hebrew of Hebrews
 - As to the law, a Pharisee
 - As to zeal, a persecutor of the church
 - As to righteousness under the law, blameless
- ▶ Typically in the New Testament, the Jewish high archē, held that the outward appearance was paramount regardless of the condition of the heart. Jesus came against this philosophy and said it really was about the heart issue and anything different was hypocrisy.

Matthew 23:1-12 “Then Jesus spoke to the multitudes and to His disciples, ² saying: “The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses’ seat. ³ Therefore whatever they tell you to observe, *that* observe and do, but do not do according to their works; for they say, and do not do. ⁴ For they bind heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay *them* on men’s shoulders; but they *themselves* will not move them with one of their fingers. ⁵ But all their works they do to be seen by men. They make their phylacteries broad and enlarge the borders of their garments. ⁶ They love the best places at feasts, the best seats in the synagogues, ⁷ greetings in the marketplaces, and to be called by men, ‘Rabbi, Rabbi.’ ¹¹ But he who is greatest among you shall be your servant. ¹² And whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

- ▶ **Verse 7 (ESV)** “But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ.”
- ▶ **Verse 7 (NET)** “But these assets I have come to regard as liabilities because of Christ.”



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Pronunciation: dzay-mee'-ah
 In Greek: zhmiav 3, zhmiav 1
 In NET: liabilities 2, loss 2
 In AV: loss 3, damage 1
 Count: 4
 Definition: 1) damage, loss

Ephesians 2:8 “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, ⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast.”

Romans 4:1-3 “What then shall we say was gained by Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh? ² For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³ For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness.”

⁸ Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.



For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him,...

*When you lose everything it involves suffering.
 When you lose all, you're found in Him.*



...not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith...

Bottom Line: We are blessed with salvation for one simple reason, LOVE!

- It is not a righteousness I earn or is owed to me.
 - It is not a result of law keeping.
 - It is a righteousness that comes by FAITH!
- ▶ **Verse 10-11 (ESV)** “That I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.”
- ▶ **Verses 10-11 (AMP)** “*And this, so that I may know Him [experientially, becoming more thoroughly acquainted with Him, understanding the remarkable wonders of His Person more completely] and [in that same way experience] the power of His resurrection [which overflows and is active in believers], and [that I may share] the fellowship of His sufferings, by being continually conformed [inwardly into His likeness even] to His death [dying as He did]; ¹¹ so that I may attain to the resurrection [that will raise me] from the dead.*”

¹² Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³ Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you. ¹⁶ Only let us hold true to what we have attained.



Philippians 2:12-13 “Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.”

Questions to ponder:

1. Are you dwelling on the past, letting it control your attitudes and actions?
2. Are we standing firm and being misled to also stand still?
3. Are you following good examples? A Paul, Timothy, Epaphroditus? We all follow people we look up to and admire but are those people living a godly life style?

¹⁷ Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸ For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹ Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things.”

James 4:1-10 “What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? ² You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. ³ You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. ⁴ You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. ⁵ Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, “He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us”? ⁶ But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” ⁷ Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸ Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹ Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. ¹⁰ Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.”

