

I Am Not Who I Used to Be

Philippians 3 & Isaiah 43 | Hope City Church

CENTRAL QUESTION

Will you keep living in who you used to be, or let God do something new?

I. Paul's Case for Confidence in the Flesh

Key Text: *Philippians 3:3-6*

- Paul opens by naming who he is before he says anything else.
- By birth and training he had every reason to boast: circumcised the eighth day, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews, a Pharisee, blameless under the law.
- He's not exaggerating. If anyone could trust their own credentials, it was Paul.

II. Paul Counts It All Loss

Key Text: *Philippians 3:7-9*

- Everything Paul listed as gain, he now counts as loss for the sake of Christ.
- He calls it dung, not because it was worthless on its own, but because it can't compare to knowing Christ.
- His righteousness isn't earned through the law. It comes through faith.

III. The Goal: To Know Him

Key Text: *Philippians 3:10, 13-14*

- Paul's aim isn't reputation. It's to know Christ, the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings.
- He forgets what's behind and presses toward what's ahead.
- Forgetting the past isn't easy. Paul had to choose it.

IV. God Reminds Israel of the Red Sea

Key Text: *Isaiah 43:14-17*

- God speaks to Israel in exile in Babylon the same way He once spoke to their ancestors leaving Egypt.
- He reminds them how He made a way through the sea and wiped out Pharaoh's army.
- They had been living on that testimony for generations, remembering yesterday's deliverance while sitting in captivity again.

V. God Says: Forget the Former Things

Key Text: *Isaiah 43:18-20*

- God tells them not to dwell on the former things, not even the miracle at the Red Sea.
- He says He's about to do something new: a way in the wilderness, rivers in the desert.
- God doesn't want to only be the God of your past miracles. He wants to be the God of your present and future ones too.

VI. I Am Not Who I Used to Be

- People around you will remember your failure and skip your victory. The addiction, not that you overcame it. The divorce, not the healing after it. The bankruptcy, not the blessing that followed.
- Some people keep calling the old number and visiting the old address. You don't live there anymore.
- Watching his own sons grown into men reminded Bruce that growth in Christ should work the same way: every day should look less like who you used to be.
- The charge: update who you are, not who you used to be.

FOR FURTHER REFLECTION

1. What credentials or past achievements do you lean on instead of your relationship with Christ?
2. What "former things" is God asking you to stop dwelling on?
3. Are you living on yesterday's testimony instead of expecting something new from God today?
4. Whose voice keeps reminding you of who you used to be instead of who you are now?
5. What would it look like this week to press toward what's ahead instead of looking back?

Scripture References: Philippians 3:3-14 | Isaiah 43:14-20