

Philippians - Part 5

The Best Resume Ever

Philippians 3:1-11

Memory Verses: Philippians 3:7-8

MANUSCRIPT

Introduction (Me, We, & the Struggle)

Turn with me over to **Philippians 3:1** where we are today. What is the first thing we see? “Finally brothers, rejoice in the Lord.” Rejoice! Once again we are in the book of Philippians; the letter of Paul to the small church plant at Philippi, and what do we see is the main theme? Joy or rejoicing, right? Paul's main concern for this church is that they would not spend their lives chasing the fleeting emotion of happiness, but to find true, sustaining, life transforming joy.

And over the past month we've seen in this letter how we can find this joy. We can find this joy through ministry. Not being ministered to, but spending our lives dedicated to ministering to others through things like intercessory prayer, intentional discipleship, and proclaiming Christ and his Gospel. We can find this joy by fighting for the faith. By living a life dedicated to the cause of Christ. By laying our lives on the line for the Gospel, and for the maturity of the church. And by suffering for him. Yes, we rejoice in our suffering because our persecution and sufferings are a gift given to us by Christ so we can know him better and be more like him, and when we rejoice through our sufferings the world sees that the cause we fight for is real! We can find this joy through a unified and healthy church that is maintained through individual attitudes of humility. As we've mentioned numerous times throughout this series, nothing brings a believer as much joy in this life as being in unity with the church. The fellowship, discipleship, love, encouragement, and accountability we find in the local church is God's plan for the believers sustained joy in this world. But we can't have church unity without individual humility. So we humble ourselves, we reject selfish ambition, we reject vain conceit, we consider others more significant than ourselves, and we look out for the interest of others before ourselves and then we find joy. And then as we saw last week we find joy when we shine in the darkness. How do we shine for the Lord in the darkness of this world? Once again... through personal sanctification, through sacrificial service to the community, and by risking your life for the cause of Christ.

And so today we come to **Philippians 3:1-11** and we see once again rejoice.... find joy in this. What are we to find joy in today? Let's read together.

Okay, here's some context. The early church was always under attack by those who subscribed to a mixed religion of Jewish law and the

grace of God being preached to the Gentiles. So they would say, yes Gentiles can be saved through a faith in Christ, but they also have to be circumcised as to adhere to the strict law of Moses. Paul here in **verse 2** calls these teachers dogs, and evildoers because to call people to be circumcised for the sake of the law while Christ has already been killed in the flesh on our behalf and given us salvation through grace is to mutilate the flesh. You know what circumcision is right? Okay, just checking. To call grown men who have just come to faith in Christ to be circumcised... you can see how this might be a problem right?

No, in **verse 3** we see the truth... we don't need to be circumcised to be saved, for we are the circumcision. Look real quick at **Romans 2:28-3:1**. For those of us who are believers, circumcision isn't an outward physical expression, it is an inward spiritual expression; it's a circumcision of the heart. So we don't need to be circumcised but we need to have faith in the salvation of Christ.

Now look at the end of **verse 3** again. Paul says, “we... put no confidence in the flesh.” So get this; circumcision in the flesh is a reminder that before Christ, the law made it seem like we had to work for our salvation. Before Christ, the law made it seem like we needed to depend on our own good works to save us... we had to put a great deal of confidence in our flesh. We had to obey all of the law, never stray, be perfect, and then you could have assurance of your salvation. But, now Paul is saying... stop putting your confidence in the flesh. Stop looking to your works, whether circumcision or anything else... because that can't save you. We have no confidence in the flesh.. all of our confidence is instead in who? Jesus.

And here's the challenge for you today! And here's where you will find life sustaining joy. Stop living like your salvation depends on your resume. Stop living like your good works, and your good reputation, and your religious piety, and your self-righteousness is going to save you.... cause it ain't. Your resume of good works can't save you! Only Jesus can save you today! Get this, if you don't get anything else get this... **When It Comes To Salvation, Your Resume Just Isn't Cutting It**.

Let's look at this passage this morning and get a deeper sense of what we are talking about this morning.

Teaching (Expand on the Problem, God)

The first thing we see here is that **Your Resume Doesn't Stack Up Well Against Paul's (vs4-6)**. Not at all. Paul says, we can't put our confidence in the flesh, not in circumcision, not in our works... but... but... if it were possible to earn salvation through a resume of good works... his would be at the top of the pile. He's not bragging here, not at all... but what he's saying is that his resume is better than yours. That's not bragging if it's facts. And here's where we confront the issue head on. Some of us are so talented, so moral, so popular, and so religious... that we can start to believe

in our own self-righteousness. Paul says, we shouldn't, but we can see how it happens. The more God blesses you and the more you grow in maturity, the more you have to fight the temptation to think that you are good enough! The whole point of this passage is that... no matter how good you are... you will never be that good! Don't con yourself.

Need more evidence that you can't be that good? Paul throws down his resume in **verses 5-6**. He says... here's four things that prove to you that my resume is better than yours. Circumcised on the eighth day; Bam! A Hebrew of Hebrews from the tribe of Benjamin; Bam! A Pharisee who studied under Gamiliel; Bam! The lead detective on the nations largest manhunt; Bam! What you got?

It's kind of like me when I got my first job out of college. I ended up at a small church but I wanted to work at a real big ministry, but I couldn't cause my resume wasn't very good... I was fresh out of college at Liberty University with no experience, so I became a youth pastor at a small church in the burning land of Florida. Now, just imagine if I'd taken that to a mega church like McClean Bible Church in D.C. Where David Platt preaches... its like 30,000 people or something ridiculous like that. Anyway, just imagine me coming in with my little ole resume and applying for the lead pastor position... and then David Platt with his 4 Phd's and his 3 Masters degrees and his years of experience at other mega churches and as the president of the International Mission Board, and his 6 NY Times best selling books comes in after me and throws his resume down. It's like mine would shrivel into a pool of slime and then vaporize into dust as David's levitated in the air shining like gold... and then everyone starts laughing at me as I crawl out of the room. That what Paul's resume is to yours okay.

First, he says that circumcised. Circumcision is the very thing that most Jews would say gives them salvation, and so this is the most important of his accolades for self-righteousness and also the issue at hand. And his circumcision wasn't just on any ole day... it was on the eighth day, which was the appointed day for jewish baby boys to be circumcised. So he's a real jew... he was born a jew, not converted. He's basically saying, some of you Israelites were circumcised on day 3,053.... I got you beat but thousands of days. I'm better, and my circumcision is better. It's like my reformed friends up in Michigan who got baptized as babies. Their like... you got baptized when you were 7 I got baptized on day 7... so I must be more religious. My religion started in the cradle, yours started in kindergarten. I don't really know how hard of a flex that is now, but for Paul... he was hard flexing.

Second, he says that he is a true Israelite from the tribe of Benjamin; a Hebrew of Hebrews. Meaning, again... some of you were converted... my lineage goes back to Benjamin, the son of Jacob, the son of Isaac, the son of Abraham... ever heard of him. Who's your daddy?

Paul is saying, my religion is in my blood. I live and breath this stuff. It's not just something I inherited from my dad... its something I have fully embraced. I've been to every festival, I've honored every sabbath, I've done the jewish religion about as good as any lay person can!

Third, I'm a Pharisee. I graduated from the best seminary, I clerked for the famous Rabbi Gamiliel. I have memorized the Torah, I have taught in the Synagogue. I have risen to the top of the religious system and have become an elite. And as to the law... I've been blameless. Meaning... you can't find one law I've broken, you can't find one sacrament that I've ignored, you can't find one sacrifice missed. Not only am I elite, but I'm essentially morally perfect.

Fourth, I was the lead persecutor of the church. When the Sanhedrin needed a lead detective and bounty hunter, I signed up. I've brought in more criminals of the jewish religion than anyone else. I was famous in all of Israel for my zeal in fighting for the integrity of my religious institution and nation.

Paul's resume according to the law, is immaculate. If anyone could be saved because of their religion... it would be Paul. But here's the problem... you can't! It doesn't matter how good you are... you aren't good enough. And so Paul's resume doesn't mean anything? Nope... nothing! That's why... **one of the Bible's most sobering realities is that you can do everything right and still get it wrong.** Why? Cause it's not about you. **When It Comes To Salvation, Your Resume Just Isn't Cutting It.**

The second thing we see here is that... **Your Resume Downright Stinks Next To Christ's (vs7-10)**. If it's not about what I can do, then what's it about? Who is it about? Well look at **verse 7**. Paul says whatever I gained, whatever I had accomplished, all of my trophies and accolades... I count it all as a loss. In **verse 8** he calls it rubbish. The word in the greek means dung... poo poo... a load of cr... you get it right! He's saying my resume doesn't measure up. Measure up to who's exactly? To Christ's.

So if Paul's doesn't measure up, maybe ours will? So let's check your resume shall we? What about your family? You may say; "my family has been a part of this church or that church since they came over on the Mayflower." My daddy was a pastor, my grand daddy was Billy Graham, his daddy was the Pope. I come from a good family!

What about your religion? You may say; "I was dedicated the day after I was born, I went through catechism at age 2, I have 20 years of perfect attendance badges, do you remember those? I have tithed, prayed, read the Bible, served in VBS like every single day of my life. I own 2000 ties and my wife wears a dress even when she sleeps. I've sung the Doxology every Sunday and can quote Psalm 23 in reverse. My religion is on lock!

What about your morality? You may say: "well i've never cussed (I

don't even say dang or heck), never drank (not even mouthwash), never smoked (I don't even inhale at a camp fire), never fornicated, never watched Oprah, never read a magazine, never played poker, never danced, never worn a two piece bathing suit, never ran in church... on and on... you win the never game! You remember the "I never game?" Someone says I never _____ and then if you have you have to switch seats. I never sat down! How bout that! But thats great for you... you're sinless so you've got it made.

I know of course all of that is hyperbole and I'm being a little dramatic... but I'm sure when you try to think of all of your greatness... you could conjure up something like that. But it doesn't matter. Why? Because Paul says that he and we must suffer the loss of these things for the sake of Christ. Whatever our trophies in this life are... they are really nothing worth trusting in. Instead, we must abandon our accolades, our dreams and our plans so we can take up his accolades, his dreams and his plans. **In order to gain Christ we must abandon ourselves.**

So we've seen Paul's resume, we've seen ours and how it doesn't stack up to Paul's... how do you think ours stacks up to Christ's? Let's look at Christ's resume in **verses 9-11**. First, Christ is full of the righteousness of God, meaning that he is perfect, holy, righteous, completely right, without sin or blame. Secondly, Christ died for our sins and laid down his life for us as a sacrifice. He died in our place because his righteousness was good enough but ours wasn't. He suffered for us. But lastly, he rose again for our salvation conquering death and satan forever, and rose to give us eternal life. Now because of what he has done we can have the resurrection from the dead, glorification, and eternal life.

Christ was the fully perfect sacrificial lamb of prophecy who not only died but rose again, and is now sitting at the right hand of God interceding for us. So... our resume vs Paul's... no comparison. Paul's resume vs Jesus... no comparison. **When comparing your works to those of Christ it should be easy to see why you fall short. When It Comes To Salvation, Your Resume Just Isn't Cutting It**

The third thing we see here is that... **When It Comes To Salvation In Christ You Need A Recommendation, Not A Resume (vs9)**. Your resume, Paul's resume, no resume is good enough. No resume will be accepted. No one measures up, except Jesus Christ. So you don't need a better resume... you need a recommendation from the one who has the only acceptable resume. You need a recommendation from Jesus to be saved. You need him to present you before the father and vouch for you. Look at what it says here in **verse 9**. You need to be found in him. You don't choose Christ he chooses you... **you don't find Christ he finds you**. You can't come to Christ... he comes to you and

finds you and chooses you and recommends you.

Not only do you need his recommendation, you actually need his righteousness. Salvation happens when Christ grants you his righteousness.... because your righteousness isn't good enough. We call this justification. Once again, justification is the process by which Christ imparts his righteousness to your account and now God views you as having the righteousness of Christ, the only righteousness that saves.

Let's go back to the whole resume / job illustration. You come in to God's office and interview for salvation. You say... "here's my resume, here's my good works." God, the boss, says... "okay... here is the 10 commandments, our company policy, have you ever broken any of these?" It's kind of like the time when I interviewed with Red Lobster in college. I made it to the third and final interview and the boss asked me if I'd ever done anything that could be considered wrong in the work place. Instead of lying I told him about a time I helped my friend steal from the concession stand I worked at in high-school. Needless to say, I didn't get the job. So God says; "have you ever sinned." You say, "yeah, i've made some mistakes." God, like the guy at Red Lobster, says; "well i'm sorry but this resume just isn't good enough... and I'm sorry to say this, but not only can we not offer you salvation at this time, but we actually have to throw you into hell for your crimes." But just then Jesus comes in and puts his resume on the table and tells God to accept his resume in your place. Because it's Jesus, God accepts it and grants you salvation. You need Jesus' recommendation, because you need Jesus' resume.

And how does this all work? Through faith. How do we receive this salvation? Through faith granted to us by the grace of Jesus Christ. He gives us the faith to accept his resume for our salvation. **By faith you have to accept that Jesus resume' is good enough to give you salvation. When It Comes To Salvation, Your Resume Just Isn't Cutting It...** you need Jesus'.

Application

So what are you going to do with this today? Do you recognize that your works are not good enough – your resume just doesn't cut it? Have you realized that you are not good enough and could never be? If Paul's self-righteousness was not good enough then yours is definitely not good enough. With this understanding – are you willing to allow Christ to trade your unrighteousness with his righteousness? Are you willing to allow him to trade your resume with his and grant you salvation?

Conclusion

Then by the faith granted to you by the grace of God all you have to do is put your trust in the righteousness of Christ and his works, repent of your resume, and turn to Jesus as your Lord. It's that simple.