



PHILIPPIANS:

Finding Joy
When Life's Complicated

Session 12: Our Source of Confidence Read Philippians 3:1-11

1. What was Paul willing to give up so that he could know Christ?

Romans 1:16-17

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."

2. In these verses, Paul addresses an issue that is sensitive for most Christians—if they are honest with themselves. It's about our confidence: "Where do you put your confidence? Where do you think people go to seek confidence?" Some typical answers might include:

- Successes and achievements
- Compliments and accolades
- Abilities
- Education
- Appearance
- Health/strength
- Possessions
- Job/status
- Relationships

P How do we rightly address the issue of Christian confidence according to Paul?

Isaiah 64:6

*We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.*

Read Philippians 3:12 – 4:1

3. In Philippians 3, Paul helps us navigate the road of the Christian life. This path is marked with guardrails on both sides. We just talked about one of these guardrails, legalism (e.g. The Judaizers were teaching that circumcision was required to be part of the family of God.) In this section Paul addresses the guardrail on the other side of the road – a teaching known as antinomianism.

Antinomianism -- The word comes from two Greek words, *anti*, meaning "against"; and *nomos*, meaning "law." *Antinomianism* means "against the law." Theologically, antinomianism is the belief that there are no moral laws God expects Christians to obey. Antinomianism takes a biblical teaching to an unbiblical conclusion. The biblical teaching is that Christians are not required to observe the Old Testament Laws as a means of salvation (e.g. circumcision). When Jesus Christ died on the cross, He fulfilled the Old Testament Law (Romans 10:4; Galatians 3:23-25; Ephesians 2:15). The unbiblical and extreme conclusion would be that there is now no moral law God expects Christians to obey.

What does Paul say about antinomianism in Philippians 3:12-21?

4. Do you find the metaphor of the Christian life as "running a race" (verse 13-16) to be helpful and meaningful? Why or why not? What limitations does it have?
5. Let's unpack verse 12. What does Paul mean when he says, "make it my own?"