

Paul's Life

Philippians 3:4-14

I. Paul's Earthly Heritage

If we believe we can glory in our heritage, achievements, and any other reason in the flesh, Paul gives 8 reasons why He can glory more

1. He has a Jewish heritage
2. He was circumcised on the 8th day according to the law
3. He was of the "stock of Israel"
4. He was of the tribe of Benjamin
5. He was a Hebrew of Hebrews
6. Touching the Law he was a Pharisee
7. He was zealous or sincere in His beliefs, so much so that he persecuted the church
8. In the righteousness of the law he was blameless before men

Yet all of this he counted as having no value when He met Jesus Christ

II. Paul's Heavenly Heritage

His desires changed when he was saved on the Damascus road. When he looked back over his life he realized the only things of importance were:

1. To win Christ
2. To be found in Him
3. To put on His righteousness, by faith
4. To know Him
5. To participate in His resurrection
6. To be made conformable to His death

III. Paul's High Calling

Paul likens His life to an Olympic race, probably a marathon. He says that we are like a runner that has won the race, already crossed the finish line, and are just waiting to be given our victor's crown. In verse twelve he says that we are running along trying to attain perfection, and win the race, but someone is gaining on us. Of course it is no other than Jesus. He overtakes us and instead of out running us He picks us up and crosses the finish line and allows us to win the race. This is the basis of the doctrine of Imputation.

He is not looking back in the past during the race, but he is focused on the goal, the finish line. He is pressing toward the time when He will stand before God with the righteousness of Jesus and receives the prize for coming in first. Every blood bought Christian will come in first place because of His perfection.