
**PRESS ON
IN CONFIDENCE**

A STUDY IN PHILIPPIANS AND COLOSSIANS

LESSON 9 PHILIPPIANS 3:1-6

1. What did you find convicting or inspiring from **Philippians 2:19-30**, and what difference did it make?

2. Pray and ask God to help you fully grasp the concepts in this lesson as you read **Philippians 3:1-6**. Then put **V1** in your own words.

3. Who do you think Paul was warning his readers to watch out for in **V2**? (For help, see **Acts 20:29-30** and **2 Peter 2:1**). How would his descriptions of them reinforce the pending danger?

Note: These particular false teachers insisted that salvation required faith in Jesus plus adherence to the Jewish tradition of physical circumcision. This denied the truth of the gospel, which involves a circumcision of the heart done by God (not a circumcision of the flesh).

4. a) Read **V3** where Paul referred to believers as “the circumcision.” What insight do you receive regarding our hearts and true circumcision in:
 - **Deuteronomy 30:6**

 - **Romans 2:28-29**

 - **Romans 3:29-30**

 - **Colossians 2:11**

 - b) What one truth about true circumcision from the verses above *touches* your heart and why?
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5. Re-read **V3** and list the three characteristics of those Paul called “the circumcision.”
6. In your opinion, what does it mean to “serve God by His Spirit”?
7. a) Paul said we are to “boast in Christ Jesus.” What do you think that looks like?
- b) Where are you tempted to boast about yourself or someone else besides Jesus? Explain.
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8. Comment on any similarities or new insights in what was going on with the Galatian church from **Galatians 6:12-15**.
9. What is the world’s view of confidence, and how does that differ from what Paul teaches (V3b) when he said, “put no confidence in the flesh?”
10. a) What do you learn about confidence in the Lord according to:
- **2 Corinthians 3:4-5**
 - **Ephesians 3:12**
 - **1 John 5:14**
- b) Which of these verses give you fresh confidence to press on in whatever you’re currently facing? Explain.

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11. a) In **V4-6**, Paul stated that if anyone had the credentials to put confidence in the flesh, he did. List those credentials, and state why they might have been significant in Paul's day.
- b) As you survey this list of religious credentials, what correlations come to mind in pursuit of spirituality in our day?
12. In **Philippians 3:1-6**, Paul has taught us a right perspective on how to *press on in confidence*.
- a) As you think back on your own faith journey, what are some things (even religious traditions or people) that you wrongly put your confidence in?
- b) From this lesson, what has been most encouraging or convicting for where you are in your current faith journey?
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DIGGING DEEPER

1. What do you learn from the following verses about how we might put "confidence in the flesh" and/or the results in doing so:
- **Proverbs 23:4**

 - **Proverbs 28:26**

 - **2 Corinthians 11:17**

 - **Jeremiah 17:5-6**
2. How does **Jeremiah 17:7-8** personally inspire you to put your confidence in the Lord?
3. a) Write out the Suggested Memory Verse: either **Jeremiah 17:7** or **2 Corinthians 3:4-5**
- b) Form a prayer from anything that was most meaningful to you in this lesson

NAME

PRAYER REQUEST