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ONE DAY YOUR LIFE WILL FLASH BEFORE YOU. MAKE SURE IT'S WORTH WATCHING

REALIGN YOUR CONFIDENCE (Week 2)

WELCOME: What personal accomplishment are you most proud of?

WORSHIP: Sing "Give Me Faith" by Elevation Worship

WORD:

This second part of the series *Bucket List*, we have learned about *realigning our confidence*. One of the ways to truly let God add life to our years is by acknowledging His role in our life and our role in His purposes.

In Philippians 3:1-11, Paul summarizes his own experience that when you trust in your own performance it destroys faith in God, which ends up alienating us from God and his power to truly transform us. So Paul draws on his personal experience to teach the Philippians to put their complete confidence in Christ. That is the only way to fully enjoy their relationship with God, experience His power in our life and have the motivation to press on because of the assurance of God's favor.

MAIN IDEA: *Putting our complete faith in Jesus should be on our Bucket List—it is one of the things we need to be sure of, while we live on earth. It is only when we realign our faith toward Jesus that our eternal destiny is sealed.*

How do we realign our confidence in Jesus?

It's not about what you can do, it's about what Christ has done (Read verses 1-4).

The Apostle Paul tells the Philippians that there are false teachers who make external rituals as a requirement to be God's child. Paul contradicts those false teachers that becoming a Christian is not about external rituals, it's about genuine faith in Jesus Christ.

- Can you name some rituals and rules that some people believe to be the "ways" to heaven?
- Why should we not rely on rules and rituals for our salvation? (Colossians 2:8)

It's not your ancestry that determines your destiny (Read verses 5-6).

The Apostle Paul says that if there is anyone who can be confident in their own skin, it's him. He was the *crème de la crème*. He was a religious expert. Paul shows seven reasons why he could boast in the flesh:

- (1) *Circumcised*. He was a legitimate Jew from the beginning, not just a convert.
- (2) *An Israelite*. He had a pure lineage.
- (3) *Tribe of Benjamin*. The tribe of Benjamin, along with Judah, represents one of two remaining Israelite tribes in existence;
- (4) *Hebrew of Hebrews*. He was raised as in a family that retained the Hebrew language and customs.
- (5) *A Pharisee*. He was a member of the strictest sect of his religion;
- (6) *A Persecutor*. Before his encounter with Christ, he aggressively sought to defeat the early Christian churches; and
- (7) *Blameless*. He followed every rule and ritual in his religion.

What do you boast in? Where does your confidence lie?

Perhaps you have claimed one or more of the following. I was...born into a Christian country, raised by Christian parents or grandparents, baptized or confirmed in a church, or educated in a Christian school. Maybe even now you claim...I am a church member, I read my Bible and pray, or I am a good person. While these are blessings and privileges, they do not make you a Christian, or put you in good standing with God. Works have their place, but not when it comes to salvation.

- It's our faith, not our ancestry, which seals our destiny (Ephesians 2:8-9).

- Avoid legalistic “religion.” Embrace a relationship based on grace.
- Always remember, Christianity is not about a standard to live up to, it’s about a Savior to live for (Philippians 1:20).
- Our motivation in life: *We live for the honor of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.*

It’s not your pursuits that should drive your calling; it’s your calling that drives your pursuits (Read verses 7-11).

The Apostle Paul is saying that he made a decision to count everything that he had accomplished as loss, considering everything he has ever accomplished apart from Christ as rubbish (*the Greek word he used is equivalent to our English word for human excrement*). Paul learned to realign his confidence from his own supposed works of righteousness to the Lord Jesus Christ’s perfect righteousness.

Realignment of confidence involves a change of perspective. Paul learned that it should be his purpose as Christ’s disciple that should drive his pursuits. In verse 10, Paul shares his mission and ultimate purpose in life: “...*I want to know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised him from the dead. I want to suffer with him, sharing in his death, 11 so that one way or another I will experience the resurrection from the dead!*”

- To “know” Christ does not mean to have head knowledge about Him, but to “know Him” intimately and passionately. Here, in this context, however, to know Christ is to experience intimate fellowship with Him and live out His life. Paul wants to know Christ’s resurrection, but not just in an intellectual sense. Paul wants to be resurrected in a spiritual sense on a daily basis.
- He also wants to know the *fellowship* of Christ’s sufferings. Most Christians would prefer to skip this aspect of being a disciple, but for Paul, if suffering is part and parcel of the Christian life, he was willing to embrace it.
- Paul understood God’s purpose for his life: “To know Christ and the power of His resurrection...” That purpose became his primary inspiration to share the Word and bring more people to Christ. His pursuits were determined by God’s purpose for him. In almost all of Paul’s writings, he always referred to himself as “*an apostle and sent out to preach his Good News.*”
- Our calling as modern-day followers of Jesus is the same, “to preach His Good News” and bring people to him (2 Corinthians 5:20).

Application Questions:

1. Where am I in my pursuit to know Christ?
2. Does my old religious mindset still control the way I behave or view life sometimes?
3. How can I progress in my relationship with Christ?
4. Have I fully realigned my confidence from myself to Jesus?
5. Are you actively pursuing people for Christ?
6. Remember your commitment to reach and disciple two people in the next twelve months.

WORKS:

- Pray for your personal prayer items.
- Pray for our church’s goal (**Each 1 Reach 2 in 12 Months**).
- When you drive around the city this week, *say a prayer and speak revival* over our city and region, ask God for boldness to tell others about the Love of Jesus.