

Put Your Confidence in Christ Alone
Philippians 3:1-9

Main Point:

Only Jesus Christ can make you acceptable to God; put your confidence in Him alone and rejoice in His work on your behalf.

1. You need to be perfectly righteous in order to be accepted into God's presence.
2. You will be tempted to have confidence in yourself.
3. Beware of false teaching that encourages you to have confidence in yourself.
4. Throw off all self-confidence.
5. Put your confidence in Jesus Christ alone, because only He can make you acceptable to God.
6. Rejoice in the work of Jesus Christ on your behalf.

Quotations and Cross-References

WLC 93 What is the moral law? A. The moral law is the declaration of the will of God to mankind, directing and binding everyone to personal, perfect, and perpetual conformity and obedience thereunto, in the frame and disposition of the whole man, soul and body, and in performance of all those duties of holiness and righteousness which he owes to God and man: promising life upon the fulfilling, and threatening death upon the breach of it.

Frank Thielman: “Anyone who adds requirements to the pure gospel of God's grace, in Paul's view, rejects the gospel in its entirety. Such a gospel, as the apostle says elsewhere, is ‘a different gospel – which is really no gospel at all’ ...”

Frank Thielman: “Paul did not pronounce an anathema on the Judaizers over some fine point of eschatology, a particular mode of baptism, or whether to use musical instruments in worship. Their false teaching went to the heart of how one entered the people of God – whether or not one would be saved or condemned on the final day.”

Frank Thielman: “When God [converted] him, Paul saw them for what they were – fleshly and therefore fallible human efforts, tainted with sin and therefore unable to receive God's approval.”

Galatians 2:16b ¹⁶ ... for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified. (NKJV)

John Calvin: “Paul, therefore, divested himself – not of works, but of that mistaken confidence in works, with which he had been puffed up.”