

A TALE OF TWO RELIGIONS

Philippians 3:4-7

From: Scott Carlson

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INTRODUCTION: ONLY TWO RELIGIONS

Men often make decisions that feel right at the beginning, but turn out very wrong in the end.

Proverbs 14:12

There is a way *which seems* right to a man,
But its end is the way of death.

Matthew 7:13, 14

Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it.

Wide Path Religion

1. Work as hard as you want...
2. ...to achieve your version of heaven.

Narrow Gate Religion

1. God works in us...
2. ...to accomplish His desires.

Ephesians 1:4-6; Romans 9:14-18; Titus 3:5-7

I. PAUL'S ASSETS

A. SPIRITUAL HERITAGE

1. Circumcised: "An 8th Dayer"
2. Of the Nation of Israel.
3. Of the Tribe of Benjamin

Point: If Paul could gain entrance into the kingdom of God based on his spiritual heritage, he was in.

? What does it mean to place no confidence in the flesh?

B. SINCERE DEVOTION, V. 6a

Galatians 1:14

and I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries among my countrymen, being more extremely zealous for my ancestral traditions.

Jim Rosscup

You can be sincere, and yet be sincerely wrong.

Romans 10:1-4.

C. OUTWARD MORALITY, VV. 5-6b

1. A Pharisee

2. Blameless

Summary:

When you trust in Jesus Christ to save you, you can have _____.

John 10:3ff.; Romans 8:16

Once you are a child of God, no one can take that away from you. Romans 8:38, 39

? When you commit to a system of works, how much is enough?

Romans 10:5; Galatians 5:11, 12

? When you realize that your spiritual activity affords you nothing toward salvation, what do you do with it?

II. ...BECAME PAUL'S LIABILITIES

Matthew 13:44-46

CONCLUSION

So how does all this fit into the story of the Philippian church?

1. We can slip into wrong ways of _____.

2. Over time, our religion can slip into _____ and _____

APPLICATION

Take stock of your spiritual life.

? Have you moved all you thought was spiritual assets into the debit column?