

## Philippians 3:2-11

### One Confidence

*One confidence ...*

- I. Unsavory Teachers
  - A. Religious Indeed
  - B. And Anti-Grace
- II. The Circumcision
  - A. Worship by the Spirit
  - B. Glory in Christ
  - C. Delight in Grace
- III. The Chief of Sinners
  - A. Legally Credentialed
  - B. And a Loser
  - C. Who Knew Jesus

*... Christ's righteousness.*

### **Children, Listen ...**

1. Why is Paul mad at certain teachers? (He calls them dogs and evildoers!)
2. What is grace and why are Christians so thankful for it?
3. Paul tried to live the best he could before he knew Jesus. Why wasn't this enough to make him good with God?
4. What became the most important thing in Paul's life? Is that the most important thing to you too?

## A Loser's Reward

According to the standards of God's Covenant community of his day the Apostle Paul had impeccable religious credentials. He had the right pedigree, strove to maintain a high moral standard, practiced his 'faith' with fervor and he was extremely zealous when it came to church work. He thought he was right with God. What he did not know at the time was that no one was ever qualified to stand before the Holy God that way. The fact of the matter was that all of his attributes not only did not fit him for heaven, but fit him to be damned. His self-righteousness testified against him. It turned out that all the things he counted dear, and all the things he counted on to attain righteousness were worthless and aggravated his guilt. He was condemned, but the strange thing is, he was happy when that was finally revealed to him. It was only then that he learned that he had to let go of all of his efforts and to embrace the only "formula" that could save his soul; Grace alone through faith in Jesus Christ." He had to lose it all, all his self-effort in order to gain Christ.

What is your hope of heaven? If it is accumulating righteousness on your own, according to Paul you are basically heaping up a pile of worthless dung. Christ's righteousness alone is sufficient for your salvation – to attain that we must let all delusions of self-sufficiency go and embrace the grace of God, trusting in the merit of Christ alone for our salvation.