

## PHILIPPIANS Lesson 30

### Chapter 3, verses 4-9: No Confidence in the Flesh (Religion)

14 November 2022

When Jesus Christ rose from the dead, He conquered sin and death and hell (Rev 1), rendering Satan powerless, spoiling principalities and powers, triumphing openly over Satan and all his hosts (Col. 2:15), and receiving all power for Himself (Matt 28:18).

Satan, stripped of his powers, now uses *religion* as his primary method of damning souls to hell by taking the focus off of Jesus Christ and enticing people to place their trust in their religious acts instead.

- Shortly after the time of the apostles, so-called “Church fathers” were teaching that water baptism, sacramentalism, rituals, and good deeds could get a person to heaven.
- The only God-ordained religion is Judaism. God established it and gave all the ordinances pertaining to it.

**Vs 4** Paul was very religious in the God-given religion of the Jews. And he tells us that his strict adherence to that religion gave him reason to have confidence in the flesh more than anybody.

- Paul was the best religious man that ever lived, and yet his religion would have taken him to Hell. Only faith in Jesus Christ can keep a person out of Hell.

**Vs 5** “**Circumcised the eighth day...**” the seal of circumcision separated a Hebrew from all other races and religions on the earth.

“**...of the tribe of Benjamin...**” Paul was from a southern tribe that stayed true to God.

“**A Pharisee.**” The Pharisees were religious leaders who held onto the law. Paul was a Pharisee who didn’t command others to do something that he wasn’t willing to do himself (unlike other Pharisees).

**Vs 6** Paul proved his zeal for God by “**persecuting the Church.**” He was obeying God’s commands (Deuteronomy 13:1-3).

- Jesus Christ came as a prophet, performed miracles, and promoted Himself as a God which the Jews had not known.
  - God instructed the Jews to put such a man to death (Deut 13:5). Paul was obedient to that command.
  - A Christian encouraging a Jew to follow Jesus was viewed as someone trying to “**entice thee secretly, saying, Let us go and serve other gods, which thou hast not known.**” (Deut 13:6). “**Thou shalt surely kill him.**” (Deut 13:9). Paul was zealously obedient to God’s command.

- When Paul found out Jesus Christ truly was God (the only one allowed to disannul the Law), he repented of persecuting the Church, received Christ, and served Him all his life.

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### THE LAW COULD NOT SAVE A PERSON (Romans 9:31-10:13)

- 9:31-33** The Jews tried hard to follow the Law that God gave them, but they never could keep it because they lacked faith in God. They focused on the Law instead of the Lord and stumbled over Him.
- 10:1-2** The Jews had zeal (like Paul), but they lacked knowledge; the **“knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord”** (Php 3:8).
- 10:3-13** **“Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.”** Paul was as righteous as a man could be by keeping the Law, but that couldn’t save him from hell. When he placed his faith in Jesus Christ, he received **“the righteousness which is of faith”** and was saved.

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**Gal 3:10-13** As long as you continue trying to be good enough for God by doing the works of the Law, you **“are under the curse”** (vs 10).

**“No man is justified by the law in the sight of God”** (vs 11). The evidence is that no one keeps the law.

**“Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us”** (vs 13).

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Our righteousness will always come short of God’s glory. Jesus Christ has the righteousness we need. He is willing to give us His righteousness when we place our faith in Him.

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