

PHILIPPIANS Lesson 31

Chapter 3, verses 4-7: Blameless

21 November 2022

Paul was a sincerely devout religious man who strove to obey God's law and was righteous in the eyes of men. Even so, came short of heaven until he came to Jesus Christ by faith and was saved. The Law could not save a person. Jesus Christ is the only way to get to the Father in heaven (John 14:6).

Paul said he was blameless (vs 6). He was not sinless; no one is (Rom 3:23, 1 John 1:8, Rom 3:10, Isa 53:6).

Blameless: without fault; not meriting censure (criticism, condemnation). No failings, defects, or mistakes that could be pointed out and proven. Observably righteous (outwardly).

- Being blameless will not get you to heaven.
- God wants you to be blameless if you are on your way to heaven. God commands us to be righteous in the eyes of men.

James 5:16 “Confess your faults one to another.” New bibles replace “*faults*” with “*sins*.” That is unbiblical. God does not want us confessing our sins to other men (or women).

Luke 1:5-6 **Zacharias** and **Elisabeth** were known to be blameless. They were not only right in the eyes of God, but they were right in the eyes of men.

Acts 26:4-5 **Saul of Tarsus'** manner of life from his youth was known by all to be above reproach.

Genesis 12, 15 **Abraham** was justified in the eyes of God.

Genesis 22 Abraham was justified in the eyes of men. He showed his faith by his works (James 2)

The contrast: God said **Lot** was a righteous man (2 Pet 2:8), but no man would believe it by observing his life (Gen 19:14).

People ought to suspect that you are a Christian before you even tell them. If you are viewed as a hypocrite, nobody will listen to you when you talk about Jesus Christ the Savior.

Philippians 2:12-15 Being blameless is necessary today, while we live in this world among people who are watching us. We must stay straight and shine as lights in a crooked and perverse world if we want to win the lost.

1 Tim 3:1-10 “A bishop must be blameless...” “...let them use the office of a deacon, being found blameless.” Our outward testimony must match our profession of faith and we must have a “good report of them which are without” (vs 7). An unsaved person has high expectations of Christians. Make sure your life is consistent with what they expect it to be.

1 Tim 5:3-7 “A widow indeed” is a woman who gets to the end of her life and her conduct is viewed as blameless by all who know her.

1 Tim 5:22-23 Make sure that when people watch you, your activities don't *appear* evil.

1 Cor 1:6-8 At the end of your life, you ought to be able to look back and be certain that you did your best to live according to God's way and His will, having allowed Him to control your thoughts, words, and deeds “that ye may be blameless.”