

## April 2, 2017 Philippians 3:1-7 “More Is Not Enough”

<sup>1</sup> Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things *again* is no trouble to me, and it is a safeguard for you. <sup>2</sup> Beware of the dogs, beware of the evil workers, beware of the false circumcision; <sup>3</sup> for we are the *true* circumcision, who worship in the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh, <sup>4</sup> although I myself might have confidence even in the flesh. If anyone else has a mind to put confidence in the flesh, I far more: <sup>5</sup> circumcised the eighth day, of the nation of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the Law, a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup> as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to the righteousness which is in the Law, found blameless. <sup>7</sup> But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Philippians 3:1-7

<sup>44</sup> The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in the field, which a man found and hid *again*; and from joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. <sup>45</sup> Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking fine pearls, <sup>46</sup> and upon finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. Matthew 13:44-46

<sup>10</sup> For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one *point*, he has become guilty of all. James 2:10

### A. Religious Pedigree (vs.5)

Paul's religious inheritance was:

- 1.) Proper
- 2.) Privileged
- 3.) Prestigious

<sup>2</sup> He had a son whose name was Saul, a choice and handsome *man*, and there was not a more handsome person than he among the sons of Israel; from his shoulders and up he was taller than any of the people. I Samuel 9:2

### 4.) Parental

<sup>40</sup> When he had given him permission, Paul, standing on the stairs, motioned to the people with his hand; and when there was a great hush, he spoke to them in the Hebrew dialect, saying... Acts 21:40

### B. Religious Achievements (vs. 5b-6)

Paul's religious accomplishments were marked by:

### 1.) Devotion

<sup>16</sup> Then those who feared the LORD spoke to one another, and the LORD gave attention and heard *it*, and a book of remembrance was written before Him for those who fear the LORD and who esteem His name. <sup>17</sup> “They will be Mine,” says the LORD of hosts, “on the day that I prepare *My* own possession, and I will spare them as a man spares his own son who serves him.” <sup>18</sup> So you will again distinguish between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve Him. Malachi 3:16-18

<sup>4</sup>“So then, all Jews know my manner of life from my youth up, which from the beginning was spent among my *own* nation and at Jerusalem; <sup>5</sup>since they have known about me for a long time, if they are willing to testify, that I lived *as* a Pharisee according to the strictest sect of our religion. Acts 26:4-5

<sup>14</sup>and I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries among my countrymen, being more extremely zealous for my ancestral traditions. Galatians 1:14

## 2.) Dedication

<sup>4</sup>I persecuted this Way to the death, binding and putting both men and women into prisons, <sup>5</sup>as also the high priest and all the Council of the elders can testify. From them I also received letters to the brethren, and started off for Damascus in order to bring even those who were there to Jerusalem as prisoners to be punished.

Acts 22:4-5

Now Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest, <sup>2</sup>and asked for letters from him to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any belonging to the Way, both men and women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Acts 9:1-2

## 3.) Deeds

<sup>1</sup>Brethren, my heart's desire and my prayer to God for them is for *their* salvation. <sup>2</sup>For I testify about them that they have a zeal for God, but not in accordance with knowledge. <sup>3</sup>For not knowing about God's righteousness and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God. <sup>4</sup>For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes. Romans 10:1-4

<sup>7</sup>But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Philippians 3:7