

w/b 14th July 2019

THEME: TRANSFORMATION - NEW CONFIDENCE - LIFE APPLICATION

PASSAGE: Philippians 3:1-11

LAUNCH

Have you ever been over confident in a situation and found yourself bombing out spectacularly? Equally has there ever been a time where you fully expected to fail but found yourself doing rather well?

What were the key genuine and misplaced confidences in these situations?

DISCOVERY & UNDERSTANDING

Paul's opponents were teaching that faith in Jesus alone wasn't enough to be saved - people had to obey the Jewish law (by being circumcised) as well. What 'extra requirements' do we sometimes mistakenly add to our faith in order to try and make ourselves more acceptable to God?

In Phil 3:9, Paul contrasts the (false) righteousness that comes from trying and failing to obey the law, with the true righteousness which comes from God as a gift, by faith. What do you understand by 'righteousness'? (compare Romans. 1:17 / Romans. 3:21-24)

What are some of the key ways in which you can tell the difference between legalistic righteousness and Christ given righteousness? How do we avoid the former and embrace the latter?

Paul used to rely on a false 'confidence in the flesh' (v3) - things he relied on for salvation from his personal background and personal achievements. He lists around seven of these in v5-6. Can you find them?

Can you suggest parallel false confidences that Christians are tempted to sign up to today? Why might they be more of a 'loss' than a 'profit'?

Compare the example of the rich young man in Mark 10 - what was he relying on to be sure of eternal life? What re-assurance did he get from Jesus?

APPLICATION

As we exercise faith in Christ and receive his righteousness (as opposed to relying on our own legalistic righteousness), what are the benefits for us, the church and the world around us?

Pray for one another that you would escape pompous self-righteousness and gain faith inspired Christ given righteousness