

CHRIST THE SOLID ROCK

Philippians 3: 4-14

Monday, April 1, 2019

In these words from Paul's letter to the Philippians, he warns of several things that will not lead to salvation. Things that we should not have confidence in nor boast about, no matter how much assurance or comfort they seem to offer. He warns against entrusting our salvation to religious ritual; for no 100% service attendance, nor Sunday School participation, nor vast sums of tithes will make us worthy. He warns against trusting in lineage or positions; for not even belonging to the right groups, nor being born of faithful people, nor holding lofty offices among our peers will make us worthy. He warns against trusting in sincere motives; for someone can be zealously devoted to what they believe, but have beliefs that are not based in the truths of the Gospel.

It is telling that Paul includes himself in these admonitions, starting out by saying that "if anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh," he has more. This points out that we are all probably guilty of some of this faulty thinking. If much of this passage tells us where not to put our trust, where then is the answer we seek? English pastor Edward Mote penned these words in 1834 as the first verse of a now familiar and beloved hymn:

"My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness.
I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name.
On Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand."

These worldly things that we want to take comfort in and boast about are but sinking sand. Paul advises to put them aside, count them as loss so that we may gain the even greater – GREATEST – prize of knowing God and the power of His resurrection.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, we ask you to help us stay focused on you. Turn us aside, correct our course when we get caught up in our own worth and self-congratulatory ways. Help us to stand on the solid rock that is Christ our Lord, in whose name we trust and pray. Amen.

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