

Series on the conversion of Paul – sermon 1 - 6/03/11 (am)

Useless Assets

Philippians 3:1-7

Theme: A person's confidence for salvation must never be in the flesh but in the Lord Jesus Christ alone.

Why look at the Conversion of Saul?

We see essential elements of all genuine Christian conversions.

It is good for Christians to understand what happened at their conversion.

Like the pre-conversion Saul, some may mistakenly believe they are in a right relationship with God.

Some might be being dealt with by God in the same way Saul was leading up to his conversion.

The Starting Point – the Pre-Christian Pharisee

Before Saul's conversion, certain factors led him to believe he was already in a right relationship with God.

The same factors can lead people today into a false belief that they are in a right relationship with God.

Saul's supposed Assets

Philippians 3:1-7

If salvation was achievable by any means other than Christ, Paul was a prime candidate.

His credentials outstripped all others!

The 'assets' in which he had been trusting for a right relationship with God were:

Generally: Confidence in the flesh,
(3:4).

flesh = any human effort to curry
favour with God to achieve salvation.

Specifically, Saul relied on two assets:

1) His Heritage.

The circumstances he was born into (verse 5a-d).

Four factors:

- circumcised on 8th day
- of the *race* of Israel
- of the tribe of Benjamin
- a Hebrew of Hebrews

*Do **you** rely on your heritage for
salvation?*

Protestant?

Catholic?

Christian family?

Baptism?

2) His Religion.

What he attained.

Three factors (5e, 6):

- Pharisee
- religious zeal
- religious righteousness

*Do you rely on your religion
for your salvation?*

What Saul of Tarsus came to see

His supposed assets were useless!

All he thought profit was actually loss.

I once thought these things were valuable, but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done (3:7 NLT).

Jesus was now Paul's only 'Asset'.

Jesus is the asset in a person's profit and loss account that will give a balance of 'justified' instead of 'condemned'.

How do you compare with the Apostle Paul?

*If Paul's credentials could not save
him, how can yours save you?*

**Faith in Christ is the only asset that
counts.**

Is He your only asset?