

Paul's Discoveries

Text: Philippians 3:2-10

Introduction:

-The Apostle Paul whose name was Saul before his conversion had been a very religious man.

-He was very much involved in and promoting the Jewish religion.

-As verse 5 of our passage tells us that he was "an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee;"

-He was very zealous in the persecuting of Christians.

-In fact, the Bible tells us in the Book of Acts that Paul then Saul was a witness to the stoning of Stephen.

-Saul we are told in Acts 8:1, "was consenting unto Stephen's death.

-However, when Paul came to Christ and was converted he made three very important discoveries.

-Today, we want to examine these three important discoveries of Paul.

I. HAVE NO CONFIDENCE IN THE FLESH

-Notice what the Bible says in v. 3.

-The Bible repeats this same truth over and over again.

-Ps. 39:5 - "...verily every man at his best state is altogether vanity."

-1 Pe. 1:24 - "For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away;"

-Rom. 8:8 - "So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God."

-Jer. 17:5 - "Thus saith the LORD; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD."

-Isa. 40:6 - "...All flesh is grass, and all the goodliness thereof is as the flower of the field:"

-Jesus said in Jn. 6:63 - "...the flesh profiteth nothing:..."

-Results of those that trusted in the flesh.

*Pharaoh - His entire drownd and destroyed in the Red Sea.

*The Apostle Peter - Mk. 8:31-33, rebuked the Lord.

*The Apostle Peter - When they came for Jesus in the garden pulled out his sword and cut off the hear of the servant of the high priest - Jesus rebukes him - Mt. 26:51-53.

*Martha - to busy getting serving and forget to worship Jesus like he sister Mary which set at the feet of Jesus.

*Sennacherib - King of Assyria beseiged Jerusalem during the reign of King Hezekiah.

-Read Isa. 37:8-20.

-Results of Hezekiah trusting in God not the flesh - vs. 36.

*Samson - ends up blinded, binded, and grinding the prison house.

II. THERE IS NO CONDUCT GOOD ENOUGH

-Read Phil 3:4-7

-We cannot earn our way to Heaven.

-Read Ephesians 2:8-9.

-Paul was religious, well-educated but was lost and on his way to hell.

-Pauls lists his creditals, his pedogree.

-He presents his resume.

-However, he discovers despite this he cannot base his salvation on these things.

-Notice the statement that Paul declares in v. 7.

-Examples of men in the Bible who were good, religious but lost.

*Jn. 3:3, Jesus tells a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews, "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

-In other words Jesus tells Nicodemus you cannot enter heaven based on who or what you are as result of physical or fleshly birth.

-You can only enter heaven by a spiritual birth.

-You must be born of the Holy Spirit.

*The Pharisee of Luke 18:9-14 - read.

-You may ask why is there no conduct good enough to get man into heaven?

-The Bible tells us in:

*Isa. 64:6

*Isa. 53:6

*You see given a choice, man naturally will go his own way and not God's way because of the sin nature inherited from Adam.

III. THERE IS NO CHOICE BETTER THAN CHRIST

-Read Phil. 3:8-10.

-The Bible tells us in Mark 8:36, - "For what will it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?"

-Paul had discovered that in indeed he had gain the whole world.

-He had possessions, position, and power but he his soul was lost and he was on his way to hell without Christ.

-Good example of a man gaining the whole world and ending up in hell would be the rich man in Luke 16.

-He had all the finest things that life could offer.

-However, we are told that the day finally came and he died was buried and "And in hell lifted up his eyes, being in torments,..."

-In Christ Paul tells with have the righteousness which is of God by faith.

-In Christ we have (present tense) everlasting life.

-In Christ "we have a joy unspeakable and full of glory"

-In Christ we have been given the victory:

*Victory over death.

*Victory over the grave.

*Vitory over sin in our lives.

*Victory over satan.

-In Christ with have peace with God and life more abundant.

-This morning in our passage we have seen the three important discoveries that the Apostle, Paul had made.

*HAVE NO CONFIDENCE IN THE FLESH

*THERE IS NOT CONDUCT GOOD ENOUGH

*THERE IS NO CHOICE BETTER IN THAN CHRIST

