**Philippians 3: 4 -16**

**Focal Truth: The believer must press on in faith expectant of complete conformity to Christ in the resurrection**

**Observations**

1. Paul describes His past confidence in the flesh – 4 – 6
2. A circumcised child of Israel of the tribe of Benjamin, Hebrew of Hebrew
3. Toward the Law, a Pharisee
4. Zealous, persecutor of the church
5. Righteous in obedience to the Law, blameless in commitment to obedience to Law
6. Paul considers his past confidence in the flesh as loss for confidence in Christ – 7 – 11
7. He considers his past confidence in his heritage & religious life a loss for the sake of gaining Christ -7

Count – hegeomai = consider, think

Gain – kerdaino = acquire, gain favor and fellowship

1. He considers all things in his past life loss because for his knowledge of knowing Jesus Christ the Lord – 8
2. He considers suffering the loss of all things & counts them rubbish because he has gained Christ – 8
3. He considers suffering the loss of all things & counts them rubbish because he desires to have the righteousness of Christ not his own righteousness by Law – 9
4. He desires a righteousness that comes from God based on faith in Christ – 9
5. He desires a growing knowledge of Christ – 10
6. He desires the power of Christ resurrection in his life – 10
7. He desires the fellowship of the sufferings of Christ in his life – 10
8. He desires to be die to sin & self in order to live for Christ – 10
9. He desires to attain the resurrection from the dead in Jesus Christ – 11

Attain – katantao = to arrive, to attain or possess something

1. Paul’s commitment to live anticipating complete conformity to Christ which comes in the resurrection from the dead in Christ – 12 -16
2. He does not believe he has attained perfection which comes in the resurrection -12
3. He presses on to lay hold of the eternal life which he has in Christ – 12

Press = dioko = to run after someone or something

1. He lives forgetting his past confidence in himself and desires deeply to the resurrection that is coming in the future – 13
2. He presses to the goal the prize of the high calling of God in the resurrection in Christ Jesus – 14

1 Cor. 15:21 – 23 – for since by a man death came, by a man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive. But each in his own order; Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ’s at His coming

1. Paul calls the church to practice the attitude of confidence in Christ – 15 -16
2. As many as are mature will have this attitude of pursuing the coming resurrection in Christ – 15
3. Keep living by the same gospel truths – standards which you have attained – 16

**Things to Remember**

1. Every believer must have the attitude of Christlike humility & the attitude of pursuing complete conformity to Christ in glory
2. Count your past confidence as complete loss for knowing Jesus Christ
3. Count your greatest gain to know Jesus Christ – His power, His fellowship & conformity to Him
4. Pursue Christ & your coming complete conformity to Christ in the resurrection from the dead

 1 Cor. 15:52 – 54 - in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet, for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable and we will be changed. For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality. But when this perishable puts on the imperishable, and this mortal puts on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, death has been swallowed up in victory.