

Self-Confidence or Christ-Confidence?

Philippians 3:1-10

Scripture records many occasions where people put confidence in the flesh and then failed miserably, as illustrated by these three examples:

✪1) **The Israelites at Mt. Sinai.** They said, “All that the LORD hath spoken we will do” (*Exod. 19:8*). They had good intentions, and God even stated that “they have well said all that they have spoken” (*Deut. 5:28*), but they did not know their own hearts (*see Deut. 5:29*). The result: very quickly after God gave them the Ten Commandments, they worshiped the golden calf and broke God’s holy law (*Exod. 32:7-10*).

✪2) **The Israelites at the Time of Joshua’s Death.** Joshua told the people to put away their false gods and serve the LORD (*Josh. 24:15*). The people responded by saying, “God forbid that we should forsake the LORD....therefore will we also serve the LORD; for He is our God” (*Josh. 24:16-18*). Joshua was not impressed by their confident pledge (*Josh. 24:19-20*). After Joshua and the elders died, these Israelites plunged into the depths of iniquity as revealed in the sad book of Judges.

✪3) **The Disciple Peter.** “Though all men shall be offended because of Thee, yet will I never be offended” (*Matt. 26:33*). The very night those words were uttered, Peter denied his Lord three times. We must put no confidence in the flesh (*Phil. 3:3*), because the flesh will always let us down. The flesh can never please God (*Rom. 8:8*).

Jehoshaphat knew he had no ability, but his eyes were upon the Lord (*2 Chron. 20:12*). Paul knew not to trust in self because “how to perform that which is good I find not” (*Rom. 7:18*). May each believer learn this truth: *Whenever I try, I fail; whenever I trust, He succeeds!* “I can do all things through Christ who strengtheneth me” (*Phil. 4:13*).

Without Him we can do nothing!

~George Zeller: www.middletownbiblechurch.org

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