



SERIES: Philippians (May / June) “Finding Joy in the Journey”

SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD

Wednesday, June 2, 2021

Scripture: Philippians 3:3-4

TITLE: How to Experience True Forgiveness

Do you remember the musical, *Camelot*? You know it - it is the story of King Arthur and his Knights of the Round Table. But there is one knight who was a cut above the rest: Lancelot. In his song “C’est Moi,” not being so humble, but this confidence would be his demise in the end. The Apostle Paul could have been like Lancelot - so proud that it brought about destruction. Instead, he realized that he was nothing. That brokenness leads to freedom in Christ.

Let’s pick up our study of Philippians in chapter 3:3-4 (NLT):

“For we who worship by the Spirit of God are the ones who are truly circumcised. We rely on what Christ Jesus has done for us. We put no confidence in human effort, ⁴ though I could have confidence in my own effort if anyone could. Indeed, if others have reason for confidence in their own efforts, I have even more!”

In the previous few verses, Paul has called out some false prophets who are preaching legalism - you must add to your Salvation, because what Christ offers is not enough. You must still play the game of religion. Well, this is not the Gospel. In Galatians, Paul says that a false gospel is no gospel, because it leaves us dead in our sins. So Paul says here, we who are saved by grace, we are the real circumcised. We don’t need to cut away foreskin, or mutilate our bodies for Salvation. Christ does a circumcision of the heart. That’s what is needed; not more religion. In fact, Paul says, we can’t put any hope or confidence in our works or ability to please God in our own power.

And then Paul almost pulls a Lancelot. He says, “But if anyone could, it would have been me”. Tomorrow we’ll talk about this resumé of Paul’s. But suffice it to say, Paul says, “Trust me. If you could get to Heaven by works, I would have gotten in. But it wasn’t good enough. I had to give up to go up to Heaven.”

The Gospel is that Christ came to this Earth as God in the flesh. He died for our sins, was buried, and rose again. According to Ephesians 2, Paul said we are saved by grace through faith. It’s not about our works. Peter told people to repent and turn to Jesus. From the time Jesus began his earthly ministry, He said, “Repent.”

We have to stop trying to save ourselves. We need to stop a life dedicated to sinning and playing the game of religion. Instead, turn to Jesus and experience freedom through our brokenness.

So here's my challenge for you today: If you've never turned from your sins and turned to Christ for forgiveness, do so today. He offers you soul-saving and life-changing Salvation, freely by grace through trusting in Him. Do so today.

If you have done this, but you've begun to drift towards legalism or even license (that lie that Salvation gives you the freedom to sin), repent of that, confess it to God, and then rest in God's grace. Allow the Spirit to guide your thinking and lives.

Christ came so we can have freedom and life to the fullest. That can only happen when we trust and rest in His grace. When we do this, Friend, we will win the day.