

# Peace in our time

## Peace within

Philippians 3:1-11 (NIV) – No Confidence in the Flesh

<sup>1</sup> Further, my brothers and sisters, rejoice in the Lord! It is no trouble for me to write the same things to you again, and it is a safeguard for you. <sup>2</sup> Watch out for those dogs, those evildoers, those mutilators of the flesh. <sup>3</sup> For it is we who are the circumcision, we who serve God by his Spirit, who boast in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh— <sup>4</sup> though I myself have reasons for such confidence.

If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: <sup>5</sup> circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup> as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless.

<sup>7</sup> But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. <sup>8</sup> What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup> and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in<sup>[a]</sup> Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. <sup>10</sup> I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup> and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.

1. Who do you think the "mutilators of the flesh" is referring to? Verse 2
2. What does Paul mean when he says "confidence in the flesh"? Verse 3
3. What is Paul's argument to have confidence in the flesh? Verse 5
4. What kind of a person was Paul before he was a Christian? How do you think he view his life, how it was going for him? Verses 5-6
5. Explain "what was gain I now consider loss". Verse 7
6. What does it mean to be "found in him"? Verse 9
7. How do we find our identity in Christ?
8. How has conversion to Christianity changed Paul's world view?
9. How has this brought him peace?