



How Good does a Person Have to be to get into Heaven? Philippians 3:4-7

DR. JOE K. TAYLOR, SENIOR PASTOR, SOUTH RENO BAPTIST CHURCH, RENO, NEVADA • APRIL 18, 2021

All Scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted. • When Pastor Joe's commentary is added, God's Word will be printed in regular faced text with commentary in the smaller faced text. • Biblical words, underlined with dots, are explained in the brackets.

Pastor Joe's email is Joe@SouthReno.com.

Intro to Chapter 3

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Paul's Past

The Accountant

"I count" (New Values)

vv. 12-16

Paul's Present

The Athlete

"I press" (New Vigor)

vv. 17-21

Paul's Future

The Alien

"I look" (New Vision)

Message Section

PAUL'S RÉSUMÉ

Philippians 3:4–7, NLT -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!*

1. He thought he had the **Right Ritual**.

Philippians 3:5, NLT -⁵ *I was circumcised when I was eight days old.* [He was a Jew by birth—not a convert later in life. Gk: lit, "I, circumcised, an eight-day man," meaning, he was a pure Jew by action.]

2. He thought he had the **Right Relationship**.

Philippians 3:5, NLT -⁵ *I am a pure-blooded citizen of Israel...* [He was from the spiritual stock that can be traced through Jacob. When the Jewish people wanted to stress their special relationship to God, they used the word "Israelite."]

3. He thought he had the **Right Respectability**.

Philippians 3:5, NLT -⁵ *...and a member of the tribe of Benjamin...* [Benjamin, is the child of Rachael, the well-loved wife of Jacob. Paul came from one of the highest esteemed tribes.]

4. He thought he had the **Right Race**.

Philippians 3:5, NLT -⁵ *...a real Hebrew if there ever was one!* [Lit., a "Hebrews of Hebrews," meaning that both parents were Hebrews; Paul was a pure Jew, growing up speaking the language and practicing all the customs of the Israelites.]

5. He thought he had the **Right Religion**.

Philippians 3:5, NLT -⁵ *I was a member of the Pharisees, who demand the strictest obedience to the Jewish law.* [The word 'Pharisee' to us means something negative; back in that day, a Pharisee was the highest level one could attain in the Jewish faith.]

6. He thought he had the **Right Reputation**.

Philippians 3:6, NLT -⁶ *I was so zealous that I harshly persecuted the church.* [No one could question Paul's passion for the things of God. His name was spoken of by the historians of that day—everybody knew Saul.]

7. He thought he had the **Right Righteousness**.

Philippians 3:6, NLT -⁶ *...and as for righteousness, I obeyed the law without fault.* [Amazingly, Paul external actions and declare, 'as for legalistic righteousness, faultless.' He could say with the Rich Young Ruler and Mark 10:24, "all these I have kept since I was a boy."]

Life Application Section

A. True Christianity means writing off all human merit as loss.

Philippians 3:7–8, NASB95 -⁷ *But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ.*
⁸ *More than that...I count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ...*

B. True Christianity means claiming the work of Jesus Christ on the cross as the only basis to be saved.

Philippians 3:7, The Living Bible -⁷ *But all these things that I once thought very worthwhile—now I've thrown them all away so that I can put my trust and hope in Christ alone.*

C. True Christianity means gaining Christ through surrender.

Philippians 3:8, NCV -⁸ *Not only those things, but I think that all things are worth nothing compared with the greatness of knowing Christ Jesus [as] my Lord.*