



- text

**For what will it profit a man if he gains  
the whole world and forfeits his soul?  
Or what shall a man give in return for  
his soul?**

**Matthew 16:26  
NT p. 31-32**

- Matthew 16:26: For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul?
- NT p. 31-32

## Mutilation? or True Circumcision?

god is their belly

Worship by the Spirit of God

Glory in their shame

Glory in Christ Jesus

minds set on  
earthly things

Put no confidence  
in the flesh

- Philippians 3:2-3 (ESV) 2 Look out for the dogs, look out for the evildoers, look out for those who mutilate the flesh. 3 For we are the circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh—
- 19 Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things.

# Confidence in the Flesh



- Confidence, trust
- Daniel 4:28-37 (ESV) 28 All this came upon King Nebuchadnezzar. 29 At the end of twelve months he was walking on the roof of the royal palace of Babylon, 30 and the king answered and said, “Is not this great Babylon, which I have built by my mighty power as a royal residence and for the glory of my majesty?” 31 While the words were still in the king's mouth, there fell a voice from heaven, “O King Nebuchadnezzar, to you it is spoken: The kingdom has departed from you, 32 and you shall be driven from among men, and your dwelling shall be with the beasts of the field. And you shall be made to eat grass like an ox, and seven periods of time shall pass over you, until you know that the Most High rules the kingdom of men and gives it to whom he will.” 33 Immediately the word was fulfilled against Nebuchadnezzar. He was driven from among men and ate grass like an ox, and his body was wet with the dew of heaven till his hair grew as long as eagles' feathers, and his nails were like birds' claws.
- 34 At the end of the days I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High, and praised and honored him who lives forever, for his dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom endures from generation to generation; 35 all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, and he does according to his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand or say to him, “What have you done?”
- 36 At the same time my reason returned to me, and for the glory of my kingdom, my majesty and splendor returned to me. My counselors and my lords sought me, and I was established in my kingdom, and still more greatness was added to me. 37 Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, for all his works are right and his ways are just; and those who walk in pride he is able to humble.

# Confidence in the Flesh

**“Is not this great Babylon,  
which I have built by my  
mighty power as a royal  
residence and for the  
glory of my majesty?”**

— Nebuchadnezzar  
Daniel 4:30, OT p. 1423-1433

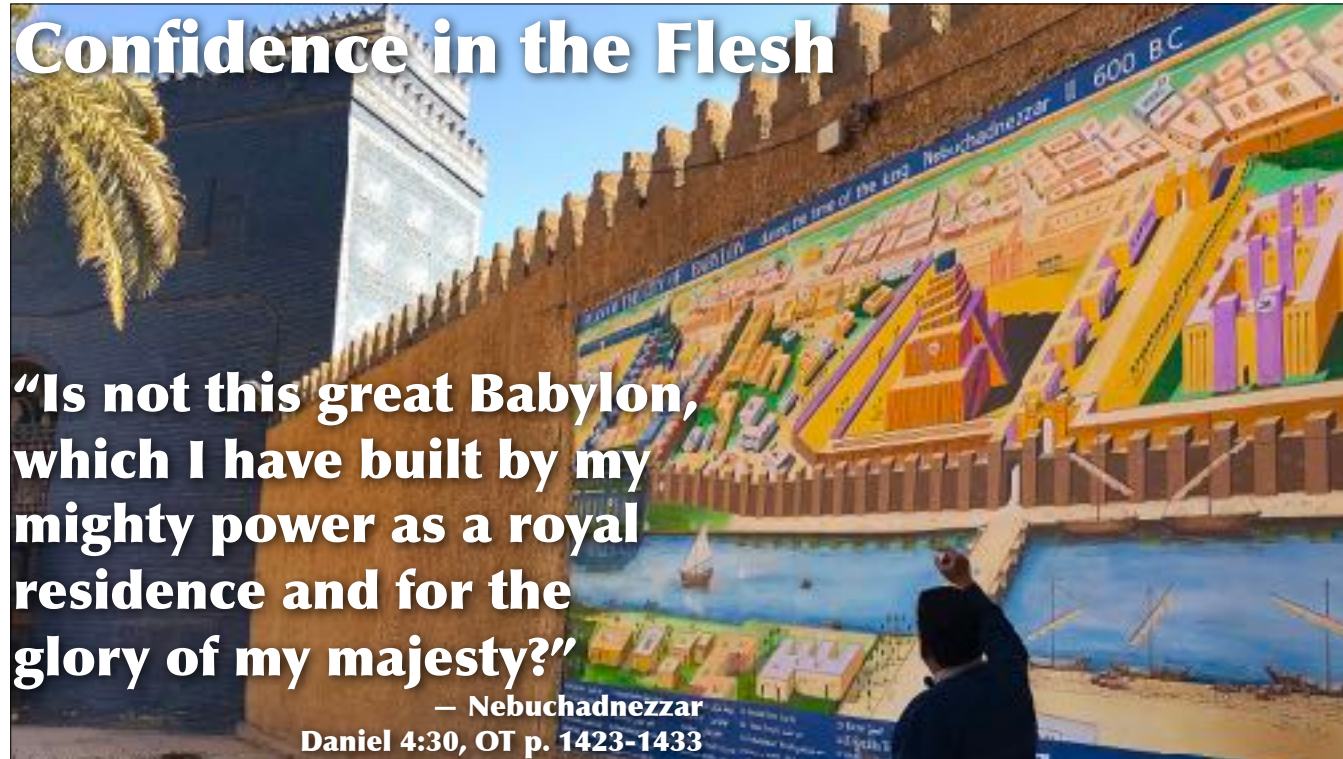
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## Confidence in the Flesh

As a Pharisee



- 4 though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also.
  - If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more:
    - Each of these is a comparison to the claims of the false teachers...

## Confidence in the Flesh

As a Pharisee



✓ Circumcised on 8th day

- 5 circumcised on the eighth day
  - Not later, as a proselyte; but according to Jewish law: strict, parents
  - Leviticus 12:3



## Confidence in the Flesh

As a Pharisee



- ✓ Circumcised on 8th day
- ✓ Of the people of Israel

- of the people of Israel
  - Able to trace his lineage
  - Not a proselyte

## Confidence in the Flesh

As a Pharisee



- ✓ Circumcised on 8th day
- ✓ Of the people of Israel
- ✓ Tribe of Benjamin

- of the tribe of Benjamin
  - The son of Jacob's beloved wife, Rachel
  - The only son actually born in the promised land
  - Israel's first king, Saul, was from this tribe
  - The only tribe that remained true to Judah when the kingdom was divided

## Confidence in the Flesh

As a Pharisee



- ✓ Circumcised on 8th day
- ✓ Of the people of Israel
- ✓ Tribe of Benjamin
- ✓ A Hebrew of Hebrews

- a Hebrew of Hebrews
  - Pure Jew, no mixture with other blood

## Confidence in the Flesh

As a Pharisee



- ✓ Circumcised on 8th day
- ✓ Of the people of Israel
- ✓ Tribe of Benjamin
- ✓ A Hebrew of Hebrews
- ✓ As to law — Pharisee

- as to the law, a Pharisee
  - concerning
  - a separatist, the strictest sect (Ac. 26.5), who stood for the strictest observation of the law.

## Confidence in the Flesh

As a Pharisee



- ✓ Circumcised on 8th day
- ✓ Of the people of Israel
- ✓ Tribe of Benjamin
- ✓ A Hebrew of Hebrews
- ✓ As to law — Pharisee
- ✓ As to zeal — Persecutor of the church

- as to zeal, a persecutor of the church
  - so zealous for God that he persecuted a sect that blasphemed (Jewish view)



## Confidence in the Flesh

As a Pharisee



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### Phinehas

- Numbers 25:10-13: And the Lord said to Moses, “Phinehas the son of Eleazar, son of Aaron the priest, has turned back my wrath from the people of Israel, in that he was jealous with my jealousy among them, so that I did not consume the people of Israel in my jealousy. Therefore say, ‘Behold, I give to him my covenant of peace, and it shall be to him and to his descendants after him the covenant of a perpetual priesthood, because he was jealous for his God and made atonement for the people of Israel.’”

## Confidence in the Flesh

As a Pharisee



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- ✓ Of the people of Israel
- ✓ Tribe of Benjamin
- ✓ A Hebrew of Hebrews
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- Elijah
  - 1 Kings 19:10: He said, “I have been very jealous for the Lord, the God of hosts. For the people of Israel have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword, and I, even I only, am left, and they seek my life, to take it away.”

## Confidence in the Flesh

As a Pharisee



- ✓ Circumcised on 8th day
- ✓ Of the people of Israel
- ✓ Tribe of Benjamin
- ✓ A Hebrew of Hebrews
- ✓ As to law — Pharisee
- ✓ As to zeal — Persecutor of the church
- ✓ As to righteousness — Blameless

- as to righteousness under the law, blameless.
  - Most importantly...
  - blameless observance of the law, Paul had done everything correctly!
- As far as Paul was concerned, as a Pharisee, The LORD God must have been pleased with him.
  - He was just who he was supposed to be
  - He had done everything right.

## Confidence in the Flesh

Circumcised on 8th day

Of the people of Israel

Tribe of Benjamin

A Hebrew of Hebrews

As to law — Pharisee

As to zeal — Persecutor of the church

As to righteousness — Blameless



- Ultimately, none of these could save from sin!
- There is no hope beyond this life in this!



- What is YOUR confidence in the flesh? MAKE A LIST... seriously.
  - Perfect keeping of the law
  - right church
  - family comes from long line of Christians, preachers, etc.
  - Education, social status, wealth, country





- When ever we depend on anything other than Christ for salvation
  - No matter how “religious” sounding it is.
  - There is no joy in this:
    - we will always be working harder, because deep down we know whatever we’ve done isn’t enough.
    - So we work harder and our focus is on our selves, a misperception of God, and there is no joy!

## Confidence in the Flesh

As a Christian

~~Circumcised on 8th day~~

~~Of the people of Israel~~

~~Tribe of Benjamin~~

~~A Hebrew of Hebrews~~

~~As to law — Pharisee~~

~~As to zeal — Persecutor of the church~~

~~As to righteousness — Blameless~~



- 7 But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ.
  - All of the above, that had been so important to Paul at one time
  - gloried in, boasted in, even if not aloud, inside

## Confidence in the Flesh

As a Christian

~~Circumcised on 8th day~~

~~Of the people of Israel~~

~~Tribe of Benjamin~~

~~A Hebrew of Hebrews~~

~~As to law — Pharisee~~

~~As to zeal — Persecutor of the church~~

~~As to righteousness — Blameless~~



- 8 Indeed, I count everything as loss
  - Matthew 13:44-46 (ESV) 44 “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.
  - 45 “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, 46 who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

## Confidence in the Flesh

As a Christian

~~Circumcised on 8th day~~

~~Of the people of Israel~~

~~Tribe of Benjamin~~

~~A Hebrew of Hebrews~~

~~As to law — Pharisee~~

~~As to zeal — Persecutor of the church~~

~~As to righteousness — Blameless~~

count them  
as rubbish



- 8 For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish
  - (JFB) dung--Greek, "refuse (such as excrements, dregs, dross) cast to the dogs," as the derivation expresses. A "loss" is of something having value; but "refuse" is thrown away as not worthy of being any more touched or looked at.

## Confidence in the Christ Jesus

Surpassing worth



- because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.
  - surpassing worth / excellence
    - to excel, to be superior, better than, to surpass



## Confidence in the Christ Jesus

Surpassing worth

Knowing Christ ✓



- knowing Christ Jesus my Lord
  - (Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary) denotes, in the NT, "knowledge," especially of spiritual truth;
- It's not about things, or accomplishments
- It's ALL about relationship!

## Confidence in the Christ Jesus

Surpassing worth

Knowing Christ ✓  
Gain Christ ✓



- in order that I may gain Christ
  - profit, win; advantage
  - Matthew 16:26 (ESV Strong's) 26 For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul?
  -

## Confidence in the Christ Jesus

Surpassing worth

Knowing Christ ✓  
Gain Christ ✓  
Found in Him ✓



- 9 and be found in him
  - found
    - (ESV SB Notes) 3:9 Found in him means being spiritually united to Christ and therefore found not guilty before God as divine judge.
  - not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law
    - this is the confidence in the flesh spoken of earlier... completely let it go
  - but that which comes through faith in Christ
    - the righteousness from God that depends on faith—
      - Like Abraham and David!

## Confidence in the Christ Jesus

Surpassing worth

Knowing Christ ✓

Gain Christ ✓

Found in Him ✓

Know Him ✓



- 10 that I may know him and
  - Know
    - JFB: 10. That I may know him--experimentally.
      - To know HIM is more than merely to know a doctrine about Him.
      - Believers are brought not only to redemption, but to the Redeemer Himself.

## Confidence in the Christ Jesus

Surpassing worth

Knowing Christ ✓

Gain Christ ✓

Found in Him ✓

Know Him ✓

Know power of His resurrection ✓



- the power of his resurrection, and
  - Ro 4:25\* who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification.
  - 1Co 15:17\* And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins!
  - Col 2:12\* buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised
  - Col 3:1\* If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.



## Confidence in the Christ Jesus

Surpassing worth

Knowing Christ ✓

Gain Christ ✓

Found in Him ✓

Know Him ✓

Know power of His resurrection ✓

Share His sufferings ✓



- may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death,
  - Galatians 2:20: I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.
  - Romans 6:4-5 (ESV) 4 We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

## Confidence in the Christ Jesus

Surpassing worth

Knowing Christ ✓

Gain Christ ✓

Found in Him ✓

Know Him ✓

Know power of His resurrection ✓

Share His sufferings ✓

Attain the resurrection ✓



- 11 that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.
  - We must look beyond this life.
    - Ecclesiastes 5:15 (ESV) 15 As he came from his mother's womb he shall go again, naked as he came, and shall take nothing for his toil that he may carry away in his hand.
    - Psalms 49:17 (ESV) 17 For when he dies he will carry nothing away; his glory will not go down after him.

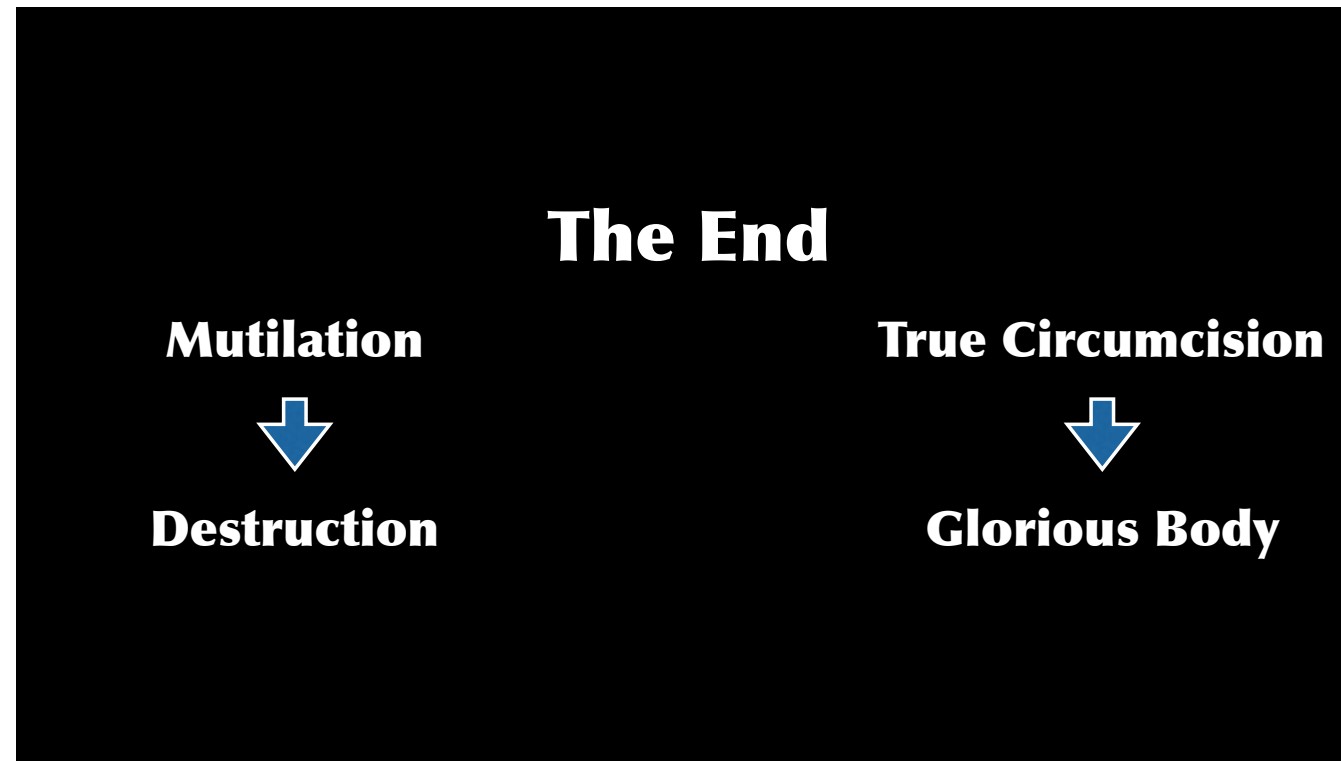
## Confidence in the Christ Jesus

Surpassing worth

- Knowing Christ ✓
- Gain Christ ✓
- Found in Him ✓
- Know Him ✓
- Know power of His resurrection ✓
- Share His sufferings ✓
- Attain the resurrection ✓



- 2 Corinthians 3:4-6 (ESV) 4 Such is the confidence that we have through Christ toward God. 5 Not that we are sufficient in ourselves to claim anything as coming from us, but our sufficiency is from God, 6 who has made us sufficient to be ministers of a new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit. For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.



- Philippians 3:19-21 (ESV)
  - 19 Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things.
  - 20 But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

**But we never can prove  
The delights of His love,  
Until all on the altar we lay;  
For the favor He shows,  
And the joy He bestows,  
Are for those who will trust and obey.**

**— John H. Sammis  
Trust and Obey, #326**

- But we never can prove
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**We implore you on  
behalf of Christ,  
be reconciled to God.**

**2 Corinthians 5:20**

Let all that you do be done in love.

1 Corinthians 16:14



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## I May Gain Christ

Philippians 3:4-11

Synopsis: To gain Christ we must learn to look at all the things of this world that we trust in clearly and see that they are of no value compared to gaining Christ. Where is your confidence? If it's in things or accomplishments, the end is destruction. If it's in a relationship with Jesus, the end is the glorification of your body.

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**"Let all that you do be done with love."**