

## Glow: Philippians 3:1-11, 7/5/20

### A Call to Prayer

#### Scripture Reading

#### Sermon

If you google how to build a **resumé** you will find hundreds of tutorials, articles and services ready to help you put your best foot forward and make you sound like a future employee of the year. Some websites will help you to make the most mundane skills sound profound. Your paper filing experience is transformed into “Spearheading the curation process of essential company artifacts.” We use resumé for more than just getting in the door of a company. We use resumé to get into the school you really want, that’s what the application is all about. To prove why you are university material. Online dating sites are like a resumé on steroids. Because you can be whoever you want to be. How you help the elderly, quotes that make you sound well-read, Pictures of **hipsters with kittens**, Although not all dating profiles put their best foot forward.

Here’s one profile that just says in the **caption- “Me on our first date”**.

**Or how about Juwon?**

Or poor **Zach here.**

**[Slide]** We live in a resumé world. We size each other up when we meet and we wonder if we will be accepted. Our resumé are the things that we use to validate ourselves. What we hope gets us in the door. It is our case for why we belong, why we are good enough, smart enough, qualified enough, made of the right material.

Well here in Philippians 3, Paul gives us his spiritual resumé. And what we want to do is answer three questions: **What is on your Resumé? What is the problem with our Resumé? What is the only acceptable resumé?**

#### **What is on your Resumé?**

Well before we talk about ours, let’s see what was on Paul’s.

**Philippians 3:4-6**

*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.*

Now, this means little to us today- if you handed this resumé to an employer, probably not getting an interview. But for a 1<sup>st</sup> century religious culture- Paul’s spiritual resumé was flawless. Paul was the man. Cream of the crop. Culturally and ethnically he was from the most religious people, the Jews- Paul was from the kingly line of Benjamin- the lineage of David and Solomon-

the heroes of the Jewish faith. He was a teacher of the religious law, and we know from Acts that he was trained under one of the most revered pharisees of all time- Gamaliel. But it wasn't just his family pedigree or his training, he saw himself as God's Secret Service- doing whatever it takes to protect the faith. Now it was clearly misguided zeal. Outwardly, he had an unblemished record, 5 star-review. Paul's spiritual resumé is what he used to put his confidence in, glory and boast in. This is what defined him and validated him. **Paul's resumé is what he was counting on to get him in the door with God.**

**What about you?** You know, our resúmes might not look quite as glowing as Paul's, but we all have things that where we are tempted to lean upon to validate ourselves or get in the door with God. Maybe it's our church attendance, our generous giving, maybe a title or position in the church. Or it could be outside the church, we are more respectful than most, we care more about social issues than others, our kids are more successful than others, we follow the rules. This is the tendency of the human heart. My tendency is to pad my spiritual resumé with serving people, success in ministry, sacrifice for God and theological acumen. What might you be trying to add to your spiritual resumé to get you in the door with God?

### **What is the problem with our Resumé?**

That fact that Paul's resumé is so glowing makes his declaration in verse 8 all the more shocking. **"I consider it all garbage."** In fact, that's not quite strong enough- the actual Greek word is excrement. Paul is saying- all my religious accomplishments are crap. Worthless. I can put no confidence in anything on that resumé to get me in the door with God. Now if the great Paul says his glowing resumé was worthless...what chance do you and I have?

Why is this the case? It is implied here in **v.9 not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law.** Paul is saying that he came to realize that his spiritual resumé could never be good enough to achieve the perfect and holy standard of God.

### **Romans 3:20, 23**

**<sup>20</sup> Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin. <sup>23</sup> For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.**

**No one is getting in the door of heaven by their spiritual resumé.** And this is why religion is so dangerous. This is exactly what Paul is warning against earlier in **verse 2.**

**<sup>2</sup> Watch out for those dogs, those evildoers, those mutilators of the flesh.** Wow, for Paul to use these harsh words, they must be major sinners, right? Must be gamblers, alcoholics, use profanity, promiscuous... Nope, he is referring to a group of morally buttoned up **religious leaders**, called the Judaizers who were trying to convince the Christians that in order to be righteous it wasn't enough to trust Jesus, but you had to be circumcised, you had to obey the Jewish law, observe the commands. In other words, you had to add acts of righteousness to your spiritual resumé to be accepted by God.

We might not have Judaizers around but it's really not that different than many religious systems and denominations today. They all have the same fundamental problem. Most people today think that's how it works.

Paul says- It's destructive...this is like poison. On one hand, people who are **rule followers** will be lured into a false sense of security and religious pride because of they have the right things on their resumé. My neighbor said to me about a month ago, "I've loved this pandemic because I'm not sinning by skipping mass, it's shut down!" See, if you drill down on that, what you will find at the core is that his understanding of righteousness and getting in with God is following the rules. I'm good as long as I'm doing what the Catholic church says I'm supposed to do. And this kind of attitude will also make us puffed up with pride. "I'm better than most, why can't they get their act together." And we will relate to God like we do our Governor. We pay our taxes, we contribute to society...now why haven't you paved the streets and fixed the potholes. God I've done good things, so God you owe me. And one of the reasons you know that you view your relationship with God this way is if you get angry with God when he's not doing what you want.

The other reason religion is dangerous is because there are equally as many people the **rule breakers**, those that feel like they can't keep the rules, They look at the resumé requirements and say, "I don't measure up, I can't be that kind of person." And so they will either play the game and pretend to be someone they aren't and keep all their skeletons in the closet, hope God and others don't notice. Or they will leave religion altogether and find something or someone that will valid them and give them that "righteousness" that their heart desires. This describes so many non-religious people today.

### **What is the only Acceptable Resumé?**

#### **Philippians 3:7-9**

*<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 Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith.*

Paul thought his resumé was glowing, until he came to know the radiant beauty, perfection and surpassing worthiness of Christ's Resumé. Suddenly he saw his for what it was. See the only resumé that gets us in the door with God is Jesus' resumé!

#### **Qualifications:**

**God in the flesh, Creator and Sustainer of the universe, All-Powerfully reigning as the right hand of the Father, Head of the church, Perfectly holy, just and loving.**

**Skills:**

Wonderful counselor, Mediation and Conflict resolution, wisdom and teaching. Heals the sick, opens the eyes of the blind, gives freedom to the captives and speaks life into the dead.

**Also Carpentry****Accomplishments:**

Left the glory of heaven to become human, was tempted in every way but never sinned, perfectly obedient to God the Father, Suffered and died in the place of mankind, resurrected from the grave, broke the curse of sin and death. Began the greatest movement in history.

Now let me ask you- if you died today and stood before the doors of heaven and God asked to see your resumé to see if you qualify for entrance, which resumé are you going to give him? The only options we have are our own or Christ's. Do you know Christ? You want to know him or have questions? Pause and [text \(302\) 217-6594](tel:3022176594)

**Facebook****Giving****Connection Card**

When we come to the communion table it is a tangible resumé of Jesus Christ and his work experience for you. It was his body that was given in your place, it was his blood shed instead of yours. As Pastor Todd leads us, take time for reflection and confession- may we confess not only our sins, but our resumé of the things we use to validate ourselves before God.