

Paul's Qualifications

Philippians 3:2 – 4:3

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The assembly in Philippi sent Epaphroditus to offer assistance to Paul, under house arrest in Rome. Epaphroditus brought financial support and news of Paul's best-loved community of believers. Paul sent off a letter to the Philippians:

Watch out for those who say you must be mutilated by circumcision in order to be saved. We are circumcised in spirit. We boast in Christ Jesus, not in human action. If anyone could trust in their own qualifications, it would be me:

- circumcised when I was eight days old
- a true Israelite
- from the tribe of Benjamin
- I speak Hebrew, as did my parents
- a Pharisee, devoted to the Law of Moses
- a zealous persecutor of believers in Christ
- righteous through obedience to the Law

Pff! Worthless! It's all garbage compared to knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. True righteousness depends on faith in Christ. So I ignore what's behind me and strain toward what lies ahead. I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling me.

We should all be living this way.

Philippi is a great city in the world's eyes, a place where you can satisfy your every desire. But your citizenship there is worthless. We are citizens of heaven. And from heaven our savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, will come. He will transform our mortal bodies into glorious bodies, using the same power by which he will bring everything under his control.

Stand firm in the Lord. I love you. I long to see you. You are my joy and my crown.

Oh yes! Euodia and Syntyche, you both belong to the Lord, so settle your disagreement.