



# GracePoint: A Weekly Sermon Discussion

## 15 – Confidence

10/15 @6:30  
Grace Group at  
3513 Northpointe Dr

10/17 @6:00  
Grace Group at  
2070 Corley Dr

10/17 @6:30  
Grace Group at  
1710 Mariposa Dr

**ICE BREAKER:** Can you think of a time when you felt like a “fish out of water”? What was that like?

**REVIEW:** Was there anything covered or said on Sunday that you had any questions or comments about?

**READ:** Philippians 3:3-9

On Sunday we spoke on the righteousness that we have in Christ Jesus, but there is a particular thought that caused Paul to jump into this sharing of his resume, and we see this word in verse 3: “confidence.” We are to be those that “put no confidence in the flesh,” while at the same time we have a lot to be confident in. So today I would like to spend our time together looking at what it means for us to have confidence, and more importantly, what it should (and shouldn’t!) look like. So let’s dive in!

We should start by understanding what we should certainly never put confidence in, specifically “the flesh”. Paul says that “we are the circumcision, who worship by the spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and *put no confidence in the flesh.*” It is almost as if it is part of the definition of Christian that Paul has in mind here. What are Christians? Well, they are people who place no confidence in the flesh! But then we can (and should!) ask: “*why* should we not put confidence in the flesh”? And this is where Paul’s resume is rather helpful. It is because all things of the flesh are, in the final calculation, “rubbish”. It won’t gain you anything and it is of no *eternal* value. In Scripture, “the flesh” is almost universally contrasted with “the Spirit.” The flesh is temporary, fleeting, and often sinful, the spirit on the other hand, is eternal and lasting and has great value (see Romans 8:5-13). So we start here: make sure *none* of your confidence is in the flesh!

**DISCUSS:** In what ways are we guilty of putting confidence in the flesh? What steps can we take to be people who “put no confidence in the flesh”?

So then where should we place our confidence? I’ll give you a hint: It’s (as always!) Jesus! We have confidence in him because we “glory” in him (verse 3). We have confidence in him because even just knowing him carries a “surpassing worth.” (verse 8). We have confidence in Christ because we are “found in him” and therefore have a “righteousness that depends on faith” (verse 9). Really this has been the point of Paul for the whole book of Philippians. To try and say this a slightly different way: Our confidence does not come from the “flesh” or anything in us, rather it comes from knowing that we are *in Christ*; so his goodness is ours. We know that we are *in Christ* so his righteousness (which is a perfect righteousness) is ours. Our confidence then is simply in one thing: being “in” our perfect savior!

**DISCUSS:** In what ways does knowing that you are “in Christ” give you confidence? Is there anything that *should* shake that confidence? Is there anything that *does* from time to time?

So then how can we keep our confidence from being shaken? The not-so-helpful answer is have more faith! But that no-so-helpful answer is actually a little bit helpful when we understand what can become the source of that “more” faith. We look to one critical event in history: The resurrection. We will look at this in depth next week, but here’s a sneak peek: Paul lays aside all his “confidence in the flesh”, he counts it all as worthless rubbish, he casts off the trappings of earthly glory and hope for one critical reason: “that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.” In other words, he trades in earthly confidence for eternal heavenly confidence! We are so much “in Christ” that I am identified in his death, and I am therefore identified in his resurrection. So how does that build confidence? Because no matter what happens, no matter what befalls me, even if they take my life, I know for certain that I will be resurrected. “*For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.*” (1 Thessalonians 4:14)

**DISCUSS:** Why is the resurrection so important to our confidence? How can we *live* in light of the resurrection?