

➤ **The Weakness of Human Effort**

Philippians 3:2-3

²Watch out for those dogs, those people who do evil, those mutilators who say you must be circumcised to be saved. ³For we who worship by the Spirit of God are the ones who are truly circumcised. We rely on what Christ Jesus has done for us. We put no confidence in human effort."

➤ **The Temptation of Self Reliance**

Philippians 3:4-7

⁴though 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! ⁵I was circumcised when I was eight days old. I am a pure-blooded citizen of Israel and a member of the tribe of Benjamin—a real Hebrew if there ever was one! I was a member of the Pharisees, who demand the strictest obedience to the Jewish law. ⁶I was so zealous that I harshly persecuted the church. And as for righteousness, I obeyed the law without fault. ⁷I once thought these things were valuable, but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done.

➤ **The Sacrifice of Self**

Philippians 3:8-11

⁸Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ ⁹and become one with him. I no longer count on my own righteousness through obeying the law; rather, I become righteous through faith in Christ. For God's way of making us right with himself depends on faith. ¹⁰I want to know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised him from the dead. I want to suffer with him, sharing in his death, ¹¹so that one way or another I will experience the resurrection from the dead!



Perpetua of Carthage (181-203 AD)

"Father let me give you an example.

Do you see this vessel lying here, this little pitcher or whatever?"

He replied "Yes, I see it."

"Could you call it by another name than what it really is?"

He said, "No."

"It's the same with me. I can't be called anything other than what I am: a Christian."

For Perpetua, Jesus was worth it.

For Paul, Jesus was worth it.

Is Jesus worth it for you?