

HUMILIATION PRECEDES RECONCILIATION

PHILIPPIANS 3:1-16

We are a proud race...humanity

Contrast God's view of pride - Proverbs 8:13; 15:25; 26:12; Jeremiah 50:31; Matthew 23:12; Galatians 6:3; James 4:6 (1 Peter 5:5)

There is one vice of which no man in the world is free, which everyone in the world loathes when he sees it in someone else, and which hardly any people except Christians ever imagine that they are guilty of themselves. ... There is no fault that makes a man more unpopular, no fault which we are more conscious of in ourselves. And the more we have it in ourselves, the more we dislike it in others. According to the Christian teachers, the essential vice, the utmost evil, is pride. Pride leads to every other vice. It is a completely anti-God state of mind.

~ C.S. Lewis

Reminder: Christianity is about total dependence. That is a foreign concept to us (by nature). We have such a difficult time releasing control of our lives to God. The pathway to the blessings of God in Christ is through the valley of humiliation.

Humility is produced in us when we acknowledge and agree with the reality of our condition in light of God's holiness and our sinfulness.

The essence of pride is contending for supremacy with God, and lifting up our hearts against Him. ~ C.J. Mahaney (The end goal of all pride is self-glorification.)

1. Paul's warning to not be deceived from without or within – v.2

2. Paul's description of the 'true circumcision' group – v.3

1. Worship by the Spirit of God
2. Glory in the finished work of Jesus Christ
3. They put no confidence in the flesh

Romans 3:20; 7:18, 25; Galatians 2:16; 3:3; 5:19, 24

Man unaided is powerless to achieve righteousness before God.

By placing all our trust in Christ it removes any grounds for human pride or boasting

3. Paul's reminder that comparisons always fall short – v.4-7

4. Paul's exhortation to rest in the finished work of Christ alone – v.8-11

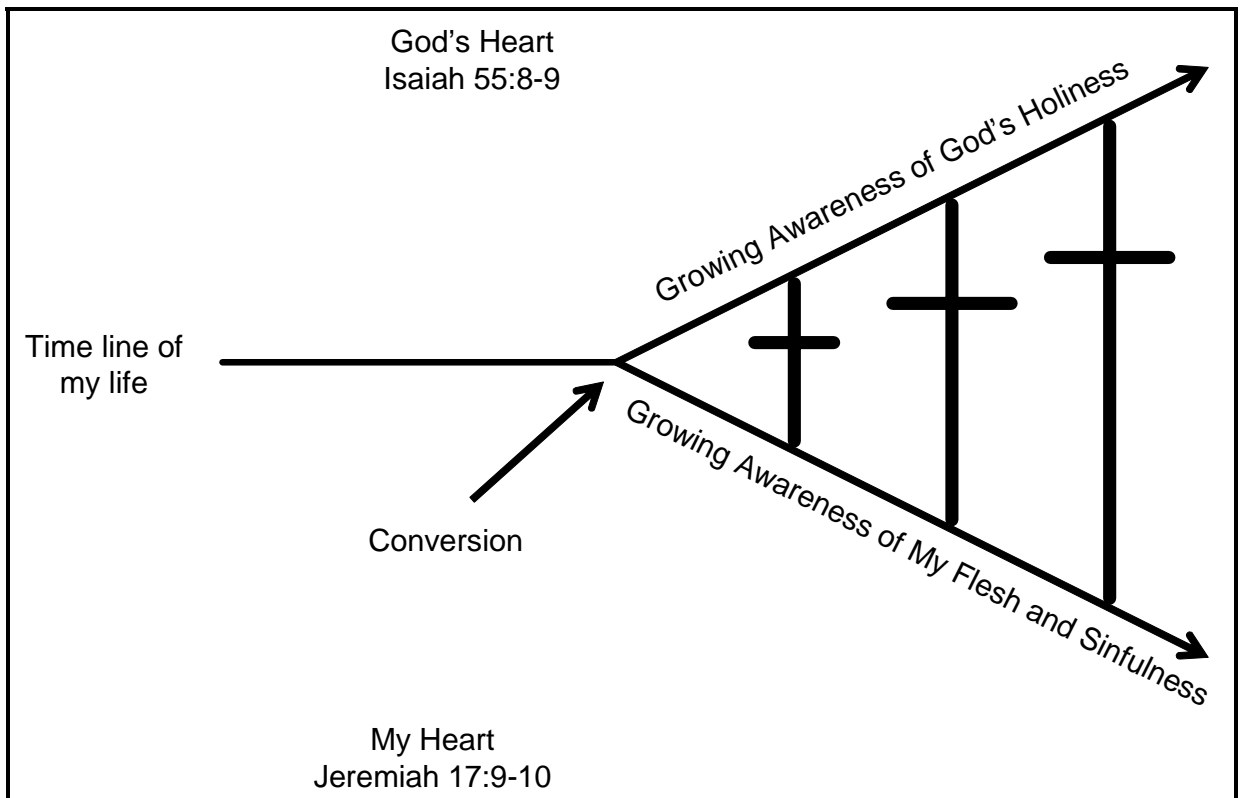
5. Paul's prompt to remember that we are in process – v.12-16

What a humble statement!

I am least of the apostles – 1 Corinthians 15:9

I am less than the least of all God's people – Ephesians 3:8

I am the worst of all sinners – 1 Timothy 1:15



What wisdom once devised the plan, where all our sin and pride
Was placed upon the perfect Lamb, who suffered, bled, and died?
The wisdom of a Sovereign God, whose greatness will be shown
When those who crucified Your Son, rejoice around Your throne
What righteousness was there revealed, that sets the guilty free
That justifies ungodly men, and calls the filthy clean?
A righteousness that proved to all, Your justice has been met.
And holy wrath is satisfied, through one atoning death.
And, oh, the glory of the cross, that You would send Your Son for us
I gladly count my life as loss, that I might come to know
The glory of the cross