

### The Great Performance

#### read

*Philippians 3:4-9*

#### think

There's a race that we enter at a very young age. It's a race we may not even realize we're a part of. It's the race to justify ourselves. The race to perform in such a way that will prove to ourselves, others, or God that we are good enough. It may show up in striving to be the best athlete, seeking to gain a large social media following, getting into the right college, being the good kid at church, or a thousand other ways.

Paul labels this race to justify ourselves as putting confidence in the flesh. And he tells us he was an all-star at running this race. He performed so well that he had a resume that would've impressed a lot of people. But then Paul tells us that he now thinks the entire resume he was building is garbage. Why the drastic change?

Paul found a far better resume to put his confidence in: the resume of Jesus. It's because Jesus performed perfectly and had a spotless resume that Paul (and we) can be counted righteous and justified by trusting in Jesus. We no longer need to keep performing because Jesus performed on our behalf! We can step off the endless treadmill of trying to prove ourselves and instead live a life that is all about knowing Jesus. This is the life that Jesus offers us. And it's the life that Paul tells us is far better than trying to put on a constant performance.

#### apply

- What are some ways you might try to perform in order to prove yourself before other people or God?
- What might be some results of going through life always trying to perform?
- Why is the fact that it's Jesus resume that matters and not ours really good news?

#### pray

Father God, thank you that you don't judge us on the basis of our own performance. If it was up to us to prove ourselves, we would fail miserably. Thank you for the freedom of knowing that it's Jesus' performance for us that ultimately counts. Help us not to live to perform or prove ourselves, but to live a life aimed at knowing Jesus, the one who performed on our behalf.

#### by Kyle Kauffman

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