**Second Chances**

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday September 22nd, 2019

Text: Phil 3:4-11

# **Intro**

1. Many people seek for second chances (for various reasons) – Who gives second chances?
2. There are those who may believe in giving 2nd chances – but to whom do they give them?
   1. Thieves?
   2. Rapists?
   3. Addicts?
   4. Murderers?
3. The gospel is the message of a 2nd chance – to be redeemed from sin and live a life of righteousness – Rom. 1:16; 13:12; Col. 3:8-11
4. As saints, we were given a 2nd chance, and we must also offer it:
   1. Mt. 18:23-35: The story Jesus told of a slave given a 2nd chance by the king, but he did not extend that 2nd chance (forgiveness) to a fellow slave and was punished for it!
5. The person who gets the 2nd chance needs to exhibit repentance, and that comes from a change of heart! *(Acts 3:19; II Cor. 7:9-11: Godly sorrow produces repentance, repentance leads to life)*
6. Phil. 3:4-11: Saul (Apostle Paul) had a change of heart and said the price was worth it!
7. Saul of Tarsus was given a 2nd chance, he changed his heart and became the Apostle Paul!
8. **Saul of Tarsus (Phil. 3:4-6)**
9. His “roots” (Phil. 3:5)
   1. Circumcised – the mark of God’s covenant with Israel – *Gen. 17:7-13*
      1. Born a Jew, not a proselyte. (Acts 22:3)
      2. Also a Roman citizen (born in Tarsus, the capital city of Cilicia, and inhabitants given Roman citizenship in 66 BC) – Acts 21:39; 22:3, 26-28
   2. Tribe of Benjamin *(I Sam. 9:21; I Kings 12:21)*
      1. Benjamin produced Israel’s first king, Saul (Paul had worn his name!).
      2. When the kingdom split after Solomon’s death, Benjamin remained faithful.
   3. “Hebrew of Hebrews”
      1. Abraham was first person recorded to be called a “Hebrew” *(Gen. 14:13).*
      2. In language, attitudes, and lifestyle – Acts 22:2; Gal. 1:14
10. His religious identity (Phil. 3:5-6)
    1. A Pharisee
       1. Had a proud heritage as a religious leader (“Son of Pharisees”) – Acts 23:6
       2. Conformed to the strictest sect of Pharisee religion – Acts 26:4-5
       3. *Pharisees believe in the resurrection from the dead and in angels – Acts 23:8*
    2. Leader in the efforts to destroy the church – Acts 22:3-4
    3. Keeper of the Law – Acts 22:3
11. His crimes against the church – Persecutor (Phil. 3:6)
    1. Hunted saints – Acts 9:2; 26:11
    2. Wrongful imprisonment – Acts 9:2; 22:4-5; 26:9-10
    3. Torture – Acts 26:11
    4. Murder – Acts 9:1; 22:4; 26:10
12. Ananias and the saints at Jerusalem didn’t want to give him a 2nd chance! (Acts 9:13-14, 26)
    1. Ananias did because God told him to (9:15-16); and the saints at Jerusalem did at the assurance of Barnabas (Acts 9:27-28).
    2. A change of heart is necessary to keep a 2nd chance from turning into a 3rd, 4th, etc.
13. Saul went on to show them all he had a change of heart and was worth a 2nd chance!
14. **Saul’s Change of Heart (Phil. 3:7-8)**
15. He rejected those things that were gain (Phil. 3:7)
    1. His standing as a Jew (gave him political security and recognition)
    2. His religious devotion (He was a Pharisee, and an active Jew)
    3. He was a leader of men (Acts 9:1-2, 7)
16. God gave him a second chance (Saul, who persecuted the church to the death – Acts 22:4; Gal. 1:23)
    1. Ananias didn’t want to give him a 2nd chance (Acts 9:13-14)
    2. The saints in Jerusalem didn’t want to give him a 2nd chance (Acts 9:26)
    3. Saul’s deeds after his 2nd chance (conversion) is what earned him trust among the brethren (Acts 9:27-28)
17. All that he had to boast in physically, those things that were gain became loss! (Phil. 3:8)
    1. He gave those things up, counted them as “rubbish,” to gain Christ!
       1. The things men may have considered “success” Paul says he “suffered the loss of all things.” (Acts 13:9: Changed his name to Paul!)
       2. Learned lesson of the “pearl of great price” – *Mt. 13:45-46*
       3. He willingly gave them up, paid the price, to gain Christ (Acts 9:18; 22:16)
       4. He used the words “gain” and “loss” to describe his sacrifices (Phil. 3:7-8).
       5. He sacrificed security and personal safety to serve Christ – Phil. 1:13: “Imprisonment.”
    2. Saul’s change of heart was worth the price to “count all things to be loss” to gain Christ!
18. Saul’s change of heart led to him being the Apostle Paul, and he paid the price to remain faithful!
19. **Apostle Paul (Phil. 3:9-11)**
20. Found “in Christ” (Phil. 3:9)
    1. In Christ all spiritual blessings are found – Eph. 1:3; Gal. 3:27
    2. “Found” – when Jesus comes or when Paul would meet Him in death.
    3. Acts 26:19-20: His disobedient heart changed to an obedient heart (Acts 9:18; 22:16), and the persecutor became the persecuted *(II Cor. 11:23-28).*
21. “Righteousness” from God (Phil. 3:9)
    1. “Righteousness” by the Law was not attainable – Gal. 3:10-12
       1. The Law was the tutor that lead to Christ – *Gal. 3:24-25*
    2. Righteousness is seen in Christ and is found in the gospel – Rom. 1:16-17
    3. One must obey the gospel – Phil. 3:9 (Acts 22:16; Gal. 3:27)
       1. II Cor. 5:21: We become the “righteousness of God” in Christ!
22. “Know Christ” (Phil. 3:10)
    1. Difference in knowing about Christ and knowing Him!
    2. Paul knew Whom he believed in – II Tim. 1:12
23. The power of His resurrection (Phil. 3:10)
    1. The resurrection demonstrated that Jesus is alive (I Cor. 15:1-8, 16-20)
       1. Jesus knew Paul *(Acts 9; 22:6-8; 26:12-18)*
       2. Jesus was with Paul *(Acts 18:9-10)*
    2. The power of His resurrection is seen in the life of believers – Rom. 6:3-7, 11
24. Fellowship of sufferings (Phil. 3:10)
    1. Suffering for Christ is the price to be paid *(II Tim. 3:12; I Pet. 4:12-16)*
    2. Paul suffered for Christ – *Acts 9:15-16; II Cor. 11:23-33; Phil. 1:13*
25. Attain the resurrection from the dead (Phil. 3:11)
    1. The goal of the Christian! (Rom. 6:8; II Tim. 4:6-8; Rev. 2:10-11)
26. The reward (eternal life) for a faithful life is worth whatever price one must have to pay!

#### Conclusion

1. There is a cost to being a Christian! (Mt. 16:24-25)
   1. Paul counted physical gain as loss, as rubbish, to gain Christ! *(Worth the price!)*
2. There is an even greater price to be paid for ***NOT*** being a Christian! (Mt. 16:26)
3. The soul of man is the greatest possession we have and the greatest thing we can lose!
4. II Thess. 1:7-9: If not obedient to the gospel, one will lose it for eternity.
5. Paul “counted all things as loss” that did not lead him closer to Christ.
6. You can have a 2nd chance, to change your heart, and whatever price you pay to become a Christian is insignificant in comparison to the blessings received now and the reward that awaits us in eternity!
7. If not a Christian, need to be to have these promises! Repent and be baptized!
8. If a Christian in error, keep focused on the reward! Repent and be renewed!
9. Whatever your requests, come forward ***NOW*** while we stand and sing!