



CONFIDENCE: "THE GOD IN WHOSE HAND IS YOUR BREATH"

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"When my confidence is in anyone but God, I place myself in peril of his judgment."

How have you seen this play out in real life?

Dig In

If you have a misplaced self-confidence you have no fear of God (5:1-4), you have no appreciation for the past (5:5-12), you love the sound of your own voice (5:13-16, 29-31)

- When are you most likely to want to show a high degree of self-confidence?
- Do the people you socialize with most express confidence in themselves or confidence in God? How do your words and actions while with them show if you've misplaced your confidence in self or properly placed confidence in God?
- Is there any social practice or association you're engaged in that is fundamentally an insult to God? How has God spoken against what's being done? What does repentance look like for you in that situation?

If you have a rightly-placed confidence in God, you have no fear of man (5:17), you have high praise for God alone (5:18-21), and you speak the truth of God boldly (5:22-28)

- How is the fear of people's opinions directly related to your own problems with self-confidence? What are one or two biblical truths you can focus on to help you overcome the fear of people's criticisms?
- Read Psalm 118:5-9. Has God ever brought you through an overwhelming experience? What have you learned about how he loves, supports, guides, and protects you in those times? How have you given God praise for coming through for you in such a difficult circumstance?
- What is a particular situation you face that requires more boldness from you? What do you believe needs to be said?
- What excuses do people give for not speaking boldly? How can you move beyond the excuses and share what God would have you say?

Break Out: As part of this time, examine your life for examples of misplaced confidence:

- acting in blatantly offensive ways to God
- blowing off gathering together as the church
- failing to give generously and sacrificially
- showing no evidence of gospel transformation
- nothing done for those on the margins