

I. **Philippians 3:1-16. Rejoice in the Lord...by staying in the gospel.**

A. **Finally...Rejoice in the Lord... 1**

1. Repetition is no trouble (ask any preacher)

B. **Watch out for certain teachings. 2**

1. The dogs. Wild vicious animals, not pets.
  - a) Used of enemies of God. Jews used this term of Gentiles.
  - b) Paul turns it on the very people who used it of others.
2. The evil workers. People doing evil work.
  - a) How could telling people to keep the Torah be considered “evil work.” By teaching Christians that Torah obedience...
    - (1) Produces salvation. Rom.9:30-33
    - (2) Maintains salvation. Galatians
    - (3) Demonstrates salvation. Rom.2-5
3. “The mutilation”. (a new punk rock group?)
  - a) katatomane = cutters, people who cut
4. **Who were these people? Judaizers.** Legalists from Judaism who came behind Paul and told people that they had to act Jewish in order to be Christian. **Acts 15:1**
5. *Paul calls them evil workers because heresy is evil work.*
  - a) *God will judge heresy. It’s legal in our country, but that doesn’t make it right. Gal. 1:6-9*
  - b) *Cults tell you to join their organization to be saved.*

C. **Because we (Christians) are the covenant people of God. 3 (Jn.1:12-13)**

1. Note, He refers to the church as the circumcision—the covenant community of faith. Even though we are not under the law of circumcision! The New Covenant
  - a) Worship in the Spirit. (the messianic ministry)
    - (1) Latreuo = priestly service to YHWH
    - (2) The Holy Spirit as the agent of re-birth, loyalty, service and New Covenant worship
  - b) Glory in Christ Jesus. (Person and Work of Christ)
    - (1) Kauxaomai = boast/glory in: be confident and proud of someone or something for good reason. (Jer.9:23-24)
  - c) Put no confidence in the flesh.
    - (1) Confidence that by our personal strength we can contribute to the substance of our salvation.

D. **And I know what I’m talking about. 4-11**

1. **My Religion was my life and main identity. 4-6**

- a) Circumcised the 8th day. Born into the Jewish community
- b) Of the Nation of Israel, Of the tribe of Benjamin.
  - (1) A very proud tradition. Ben was the youngest and a favorite of Jacob. (King Saul was a Benjaminite, also Jeremiah)
- c) Hebrew of the Hebrews = not a Hellenized Hebrew, but Hebrew speaking, steeped in the Law.
- d) Pharisee. Dedicated to fanatical obedience to the Law.
- e) Zeal. Persecutor of the church. Tried to kill the church.
- f) Law-righteousness. Blameless?
  - (1) He had kept the law as far as Pharisaism was concerned.
- g) **Gal. 1:13-14** Note 3 characteristics of human, legalistic religion:
  - (1) Personal advancement is the goal. (Not Christlikeness)
  - (2) Competition is the means. (better than others) Jn. 5:44; II Cor. 10:12
  - (3) Zeal for human tradition is the stock-in-trade. Matt. 15:1-9
    - (a) Not the same as loving the Lord.

**2. But losing everything to Jesus was the best thing that ever happened to me. 7-11**

- a) Coming to know the Lord relativized all my other values.
- b) Rubbish = skubalon = earthy word for human excrement refuse, rubbish, garbage, dung.

**3. Because the gift of His goodness (righteousness) has transformed me. 9-11**

- a) His Righteousness: His Gift to me.
  - (1) Double Imputation. (Rom.3:20-5:1; 6:23)
    - (a) He takes our blame and gives us his record of goodness.
  - (2) The gift of a right relationship with God in Christ not dependent on law-obedience, but on radical faith in Jesus personally.
- b) His Relationship: Knowing Him. 10
  - (1) In the power of His resurrection
  - (2) Sharing of His suffering
  - (3) Anything to live in the resurrection 11.
  - (4) This is not doubt about his salvation, but humility with regard to his life.
- c) *The Spirit deepens us and transforms us as we grow deeper in our appreciation of the gospel. The saving and transforming lordship of Jesus Christ.*
- d) *Look at the transformed desire in this man. This is an indicator of regeneration.*

**E. And I'm pressing forward in this grace. 12-16 (17)**

- 1. Moving forward, deliberately interpreting life in light of the gospel. straining forward toward the upward call.

**II. Remember that Joy is in the Lord (Rejoice *in the Lord*). This kind of joy becomes clearer when we...**

**A. Focus more on what we have gained in Christ than what we have lost in this world. 7-8**

- 1. What I thought was gain... Lk.16:15
- 2. Loss in this age is inevitable. Gaining Christ changes our view of loss in this age. Knowing God in Christ relativizes all other things we know and experience.

**A. Focus more on our relationship with Jesus than on how we have failed Him. 12-16 (1 Tim.1:15-17)**

- 1. Paul was aware of his failings in the past, but the regret drove him deeper into Christ's grace.
- 2. Regret + Grace = wisdom and humility
- 3. Forgetting what lies behind = leaving the past under the blood.
  - a) Paul didn't really "forget" but he deliberately faced forward.
- 4. Effort? "Straining forward" is *not religious works*, but a heart attitude of wanting to be like the Lord and know Him more deeply.
  - a) Praying through hard times, grief and sorrow *I want to be more like you, Lord.*

**A. Focus more on what he has done for us than on what we do for him. 3-9. 1Jn.4:9-10**

- 1. This will keep us out of moralistic, legalistic religion.
- 2. The mission is crucial and requires effort—but burnout is the result of not regularly coming back to the Cross and the arms of the Lord.
- 3. *Back always to the Cross and the Propitiation (hilasmon)*

**III. God's personal joy comes from living at the Cross, in His personal Word—the Message of who Jesus is and what He has done. The personal relationship with God in Christ.**