

## Philippians 3

**3** Finally, my brethren, **rejoice in the Lord**. For me to write the same things to you is not tedious, but for you it is safe. **2** Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the mutilation!

V1 - **Rejoicing**, its place is not found in this world, its place is in the Lord. A message taught twice is not a worthless message. It creates certainty and safety.

V2 - The danger were those teaching them that their standing before the Lord was determined by their works in the Law.

**3** For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh,

V3 - They were teaching that the greeks must be physically circumcised in order to be a part of God's people. Paul is saying here that without the physical mark we are God's people by way of the Spirit. And our **rejoicing** is in Christ. And our lack of trust in our own flesh!

P2 - Paul says that he could have the same confidence in his flesh that these evil workers have.

**Romans 3:10-12** - As it is written: "There is none righteous, no, not one; **11** There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God. **12** They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one."

**4** though I also might have confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so: **5** circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee; **6** concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.

V4 - More than anyone that could approach Paul in righteousness according to the works of the law, he would surpass them.

V5-6 - Paul lists his accolades and accomplishments according to the Jews and the Law of Moses. **Blameless!**

**Romans 7:18** - For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but *how* to perform what is good I do not find.

**7** But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for **Christ**. **8** Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of **Christ Jesus** my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain **Christ**

V7 - Every measure of success from a worldly perspective, Paul sees now as worthless not worthy of having for Christ.

V8 - Paul lost his entire old life for Jesus. Everything that is worth something to me, is garbage compared to even knowing who Jesus is as Lord of all.

**9** and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; **10** that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, **11** if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

V9 - Paul being found **IN** Jesus, has no righteousness of his own. But Righteousness from God by faith. Our own righteousness is from us, from ourselves, through the law. God's Righteousness is only through faith!

**Romans 2:14-16** - **14** for when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves, **15** who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves *their* thoughts accusing or else excusing *them*) **16** in the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus

Christ, according to my gospel.

**Romans 4:3** - For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness."

V10 - To know Christ and the **POWER** of His resurrection! And the sufferings.....Awkward! We don't want the suffering part of this whole equation. Everything up to this point has been stuff we can get behind. Being conformed, made to be like, made to look like, His death. The death of the cross, bitter, painful, shameful. Desperate to claim eternal life! The world over is filled with people desiring, long life, eternal life, to leave a legacy, to milk life for all its worth... In Jesus, Fulfillment and Eternal Life aren't pipe dreams, they're real.

*12 Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me. 13 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead. 14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.*

**V12** - He hasn't claimed everything he still battles with the flesh(Romans 7), but he keeps going for more of what Jesus has gotten ahold of him.

**Ephesians 2:10** - For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

**Romans 7:23-25** - But I see another law in my members, **warring** against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. **24** O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? **25** I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin.

**V13** - The call on our new lives in Christ, let the old things die. Let them stay dead. There is more for you ahead of you. But you must let go of that which was before Christ, and you must look forward to all that God has for you!

**Jeremiah 29:11** - For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

**V14** - The goal = Eternal Life, The prize = the upward call of God. Keep going in Jesus.

*15 Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind; and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you. 16 Nevertheless, to the degree that we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us be of the same mind.*

**V15** - Everyone should have the mind to let go of the past and push on toward the future. Walk in this rule, and if you think differently like the past is worth meditating on and focusing the Lord will reveal this to you.

**V16** - Let's walk by these rules, let us be in this way.

*17 Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern. 18 For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: 19 whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame—who set their mind on earthly things.*

**V17** - To follow Paul and those who press on toward Jesus, what does their life look like. How are they handling suffering in life.

**1 Corinthians 11:1** - Imitate me, just as I also *imitate* Christ.

**V18** - Many people walk near to the believers but they are not the same, they are enemies of Jesus!

**V19** - They are not saved, they worship their passions, and they celebrate their shameful deeds. And they think about worldly things and don't really care about the

things of the spirit. Perhaps they see church and believe as a way to get what they want.

*20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to **subdue** all things to Himself.*

**V20** - Our destination is heaven, we are not of this world. And we are excited for the return of Jesus our Lord! Our Salvation.

**V21** - Jesus will take our broken and sin filled body, transform it and when ultimately we are conformed to his death, the cross, we will then match his glorious body! He is able to subdue all things to Himself!

**1 Corinthians 15:50-53** - Now this I say, brethren, **that flesh and blood** cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed— 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. 53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality.

Who is going to take away your flesh. Who will raise your body from the dead. Will you? Is that a power you have?