

Philippians 3

V 1-3: rejoice in the Lord. The more we rejoice in Christ the more willing we are to work His Will. We will not be drawn away from Him. Keeps us “safe.” Paul is not tired of writing the same things. We need to hear truth over and over. They were troubled by Judaizers like the Galatians were. These were false teachers. **We** are the true circumcision, we worship in **Spirit and Truth** and not in the flesh. We are the spiritual circumcision. Not based on the carnal things of the Law. We rejoice in Jesus, not the Law. He is the Foundation.

V 4-6: Paul states his boast in the flesh. Born of Israel, Tribe of Benjamin. Always loyal. Jacob’s youngest son. Hebrew of Hebrews. He had the fleshly sign of the Covenant. Studied under Gamaliel. A Pharisee, and his father was also a Pharisee. Zeal for the Law; Greek means hot and fervent. Persecuted the Church. Righteous under the Law. Knew the letter of the Law. These were things he could boast about.

V 7-9: now he thinks very differently. He counts all that as loss compared to knowing Christ. Not only would those things not benefit him, they would impoverish him because they would lead away from Christ. The Greek means a detriment or damage. He only trusts in Christ. Cannot trust in the Law. He has knowledge of Christ; personal, powerful. Not just knowing facts about Him. Not just reciting prayers to Someone remote and far off. The knowledge is excellent.

Paul suffered loss of all his privileges, power, status because of Christ. Submitted to disgrace and persecution because of Christ. What he had before was rubbish. No comparison. Realizes now that righteous does not come from the Law but through grace from God in Christ. Paul has totally changed his outlook and thinking. Old Covenant based on Law; New Covenant based on grace.

V 10-11: has fellowship with His sufferings. Conformed to His death. Paul knew the Power of Jesus’ death. Everything Paul knew was crucified with Christ. Therefore, we are conformed to His Death. He knew the power of the Resurrection. Paul wants the resurrection of the saved; body and soul; to be with Christ, not condemned by Him.

V 12-14: Paul is still in a state of striving. Not yet perfected. He knows that. But he is always going forward and not looking behind. Presses toward the goal. Greek means pursue with vigor. He is never done. Understands that Christ has laid hold of us. That is where grace comes from.

Paul commonly uses examples from athletic contests. Press toward the goal, the prize. Runners and archers are always looking at the finish, the target. An upward calling.

V 15-16: those that are mature should have the same mind. God will reveal to you that you should press toward the mark. This is common to all Christians. WE should all be of the same mind in this.

V 17-21: should use Paul and other mature people as models. They should be patterns. Paul is weeping for many who say they are Christians but live like enemies of the Cross. He has warned them often about this and in other letters also. Paul does not worry about repeating himself. Message is so important. They use Christian terminology and then change teachings. They do not serve Christ. They serve themselves and try to be more like the world.

They are concerned with earthly things. Pleasure. Comfort. Things of the flesh. They also sin and then they boast of it and promote it. They glory in shame. Their end is destruction. What seems so great for them ends in destruction. Don't use them as examples.

Paul said that his old self was crucified with Christ. The flesh is the biggest distraction.

Our citizenship is in Heaven. Our minds should be there. Jesus will come back from there. Our lowly and corrupt bodies will be transformed into glorious bodies when He comes. He is the First Fruit of the Resurrection; we will we all rise in proper order.

He then subdues all things to His Authority.