

THE BOOK OF PHILIPPIANS

JOY FOR EVERY SITUATION

PHILIPPIANS CHAPTER 3:1-3

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

“FRIENDS AND FOES IN THE FELLOWSHIP” – PART 3

DISCOVERING THE PRESENCE OF GOD AND HIS JOY IN EVERY SITUATION

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Discipleship, Salvation, Power, Comfort, Growth, Living

Introduction to the Text; [Philippians 3:1-3](#)

When you begin to look at what is being said here by the apostle Paul, a wonderful, powerful, and convicting truth is revealed, and that is; that true joy is inseparably linked to Orthodox, Biblical Doctrine. The Unshakable, Unchanging Truth of the Bible.

But Truth has It's Enemies

Philippians 3:18-19

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. (with the intent to acquire gain)

And one of the telltale signs of enemy presence is the lack and loss of spiritual joy.

John 15:11, 16:33

“These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full... 16:33 These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”

My Christian Joy, Your Christian Joy is measured out to us, better yet, harvested by us in direct correlation with how much exposure we give ourselves to His Word (doctrine.)

Do I understand what the Scriptures are saying?

Then, do I believe the scriptures in what they say?

If so - The result will be “joy” in my life.

Philippians 3:1-3

Finally, my brethren, (1) **rejoice** in the **Lord**. For me to write the same things to you is not tedious, but for you it is **safe**. :2 (2) **Beware** of **dogs**, (3) **beware** of **evil workers**, (4) **beware** of the **mutilation**! 3 (5) For we are the **circumcision**, who **worship God** in the **Spirit**, (6) **rejoice** in **Christ Jesus**, and (7) have **no confidence** in the flesh,

Friends And Foes In The Fellowship

3.) **Combat-Faith will become your reality** vs. 1-3

What do I mean by “Combat-Faith?”

Let me explain...

According to Jesus Christ, The Reality Is...

Matthew 10:16-20

“Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves. 17 But beware of men, for they will deliver you up to councils and scourge you in their synagogues. 18 You will be brought before governors and kings for My sake, as a testimony to them and to the Gentiles. 19 But when they deliver you up, do not worry about how or what you should speak. For it will be given to you in that hour what you should speak; 20 for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father who speaks in you.

1 Timothy 4:1

Now the Holy Spirit tells us clearly that **in the last times** some will turn away from the true faith; they will follow **deceptive spirits** and **teachings** that come from demons.

2 Peter 2:1

But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies,

Philippians 3:1-3

Finally, my brethren, (1) **rejoice** in the **Lord**. For me to write the same things to you is not tedious, but for you it is **safe**. :2 (2) **Beware** of **dogs**, (3) **beware** of **evil workers**, (4) **beware** of the **mutilation**! 3 (5) For we are the **circumcision**, who **worship God** in the **Spirit**, (6) **rejoice** in **Christ Jesus**, and (7) have **no confidence** in the flesh,

Friends And Foes In The Fellowship Combat-Faith Will Become Your Reality

3a.) **Combat-Faith is joy on alert**

vs. 1

Finally, my brethren, (1) **rejoice** in the **Lord**.

For me to write the same things to you is not tedious, but for you it is **safe**.

There is a powerful communication shift that
takes place here that serves us well in our day.

Finally, my brethren, (1) **rejoice** in the **Lord**. For me to write the same things to you is
not tedious, but for you it is **safe**.

The Need of Repetition in Teaching and Instruction.

tedious o jknhro/β okneros, *ok-nay-ros* ; apathetic, annoying, redundant, lazy.

To “**write the same things**” – But what are those “same things”?

Our Existence is to be Discovered by
“Rejoicing In the Lord”

Not the Circumstances, nor the events of this life.

Apparently, the Author of the Bible, the Holy Spirit
deemed it needful to send the Christians in Philippi a word of encouragement.

We can all use honest and Biblical encouragement.

To rejoice or to be rejoicing is something that cannot happen from anything that this world can
provide us. I do not expect to have joy in my life by drinking from this well. The things of this
earth, this world cannot provide joy nor re-joying me.

It's the Lord who encourages us the best.

(some of us are not easily encouraged – I need Jesus to do it in my life)

how do you do this?

You seize, lay hold, grab on to what He has said.

Notice;

The truth of God's Word and its power to change things
is absolutely not dependent upon any earthly circumstance or situation of ours.

Psalm 27:1-3

The LORD is my light and my salvation; Whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life; Of whom shall I be afraid? 2 When the wicked came against me To eat up my flesh, My enemies and foes, They stumbled and fell. 3 Though an army may encamp against me, My heart shall not fear; Though war may rise against me, In this I will be confident.

Verse 1

but for you it is **safe**.

Safe ajsfalh/β **asphales**, *as-fal-ace*´; a fail-safe truth. a guard-rail like security. a reassuring presence. To hug or to hold you through

Friends And Foes In The Fellowship Combat-Faith Will Become Your Reality

3b.) Combat-Faith is **joy on target**

vs. 2

(1) **Beware** of **dogs**, (2) **beware** of **evil workers**,
(3) **beware** of the **mutilation**!

I like Paul.

Ya gotta love Paul's **inability** to beat-around-the-bush!

There's a dramatic and passionate shift in his words, much like a parent would when they're about to send their child to the bus stop in the dead of winter.

(1) Zip up your jacket. (2) Keep your gloves on, (3) don't remove your beanie (4) get your finger out of your nose. (5) **don't talk to strangers!**

There were at least 4 versions of what is called Judaism.

| | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| There was Mosaic Judaism – | John the Baptist |
| There was Pharisaic Judaism – | The Sadducees, Pharisees and Lawyers |
| There was National Judaism – | The Jewish nation is it. |
| Then there was Christian-Judaism – | You have to become a Jew first |

It's this version of **Christianized-Judaism** that Paul was exposing !

It was the well discussed in Acts 15

Warning Here to All;

The Judaizers **did not remove the need for faith** – they preached faith in Jesus Christ, but they added to it by requiring that works be co-equal for salvation.

This is a very real and present danger that God will not excuse.

Adding to the plan of salvation is heresy and is unforgivable to God.

The Judaizers would be equal to those false prophets of the Old Testament Era.

This is what all cults & legalists have in common - **A works based salvation**. The JW's, Mormons, Judaism and Islam, all of them require works that may or may not earn you your salvation.

2 Corinthians 11:12-15 NLT

I will continue doing what I have always done. This will undercut those who are looking for an opportunity to boast that their work is just like ours. **13** These people are false apostles. They are deceitful workers who disguise themselves as apostles of Christ. **14** But I am not surprised! Even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. **15** So it is no wonder that his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. In the end they will get the punishment their wicked deeds deserve.

Beware grk: keep your eyes wide open. Be looking for, be expecting danger. watch out.

To **“Beware of dogs”** was a very shocking &

Politically Incorrect thing In the Jewish culture 2,000 years ago. There were few things as disgusting as a dog. Dogs in that culture were wild animals that roamed at night and ate whatever they could kill or find. (like our coyotes here). The religious Jews would call gentiles

“Dogs” but here - Paul turns their own accusations against them.

“Paul impales the Judaizers on their own vocabulary.”

“Beware of those disgusting dogs that hunt like wild animals - looking for whatever they can to kill or eat.

Matthew 23:15 NIV

“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You travel over land and sea to win a single convert, and when you have succeeded, you make them twice as much a child of hell as you are.

(3) beware of **evil workers**,

evil workers

grk: kako/β kakos, kak-os´; depraved, injurious, toxic:
(1) depraved interests, (2) injurious motives, (3) toxic goals.

“Again impaling the judaizers on their own vocabulary.”

Paul calls them “Evil workers” – this is equally volatile.

By saying this he is pulling off the religious trappings of their “external good-works” Paul insists that their works are in fact evil.

The term or label “**Evil workers**” referred to those who professed to have faith in Jesus Christ but... They would say that Jesus died on the cross for their sins, they agreed that He rose from the dead and that He was the Son of God... but they also believed that Jesus died on the cross for their sins but now the “Christian” would have to maintain that salvation by addition...

(4) **beware** of the **mutilation!**

mutilation grk: to slice or shave or trim. to hack away.

katatomh/ **katatome**, *kat-at-om-ay'*; to cut, to cut away or to be removed by cuttings or shavings. The cutting down or off of. causing mutilation

to cut, to cut again, then again until there is nothing left.
to spiritually emasculate someone's faith by repositioning their weight.
the man-made religious requirements and demands for human works or efforts is what actually “cuts-off” a real, living and productive spiritual life.

To the Jew, Paul here does the unthinkable, In fact it is this reason why today Paul is hated among the Jewish people because of what he is saying here...

Colossians 2:8

Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to **the tradition of men**, according to the basic principles of the world, and **not according to Christ**.

The Legalist, The Judaizers taught that;

The cutting away of the foreskin was necessary for a man to be saved. The outward “symbol” became the issue just like a “religious observances” have become in our day.

beware of the (hacks) **mutilation!**

they were guilty of misinterpreting the Bible.

These guys were known as the Judaizers, a group of Jewish “Christians” who insisted that the Mosaic law be kept and that the Gentile Christians – in order to be saved had to be circumcised.

Genesis 17:10-14

This is My covenant which you shall keep, between Me and you and your descendants after you: Every male child among you shall be circumcised; **11** and you shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins, and **IT SHALL BE A SIGN** (monument, beacon, mark, token, indicator) of the covenant between Me and you. **12** He who is eight days old among you shall be circumcised, every male child in your generations, he who is born in your house or bought with money from any foreigner who is not your descendant. **13** He who is born in your house and he who is bought with your money must be circumcised, and My covenant shall be in your flesh for an everlasting covenant. **14** And the uncircumcised male child, who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin, that person shall be cut off from his people; he has broken My covenant.”

Deuteronomy 30:6

And the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live.

Jeremiah 4:4

Circumcise yourselves to the LORD And remove the foreskins of your heart,

Romans 2:25-29

For circumcision is indeed profitable if you keep the law; but if you are a breaker of the law, your circumcision has become uncircumcision. **26** Therefore, if an uncircumcised man keeps the righteous requirements of the law, will not his uncircumcision be counted as circumcision? **27** And will not the physically uncircumcised, if he fulfills the law, judge you who, even with your written code and circumcision, are a transgressor of the law? **28** For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh; **29** but he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the letter; whose praise is not from men but from God.

Colossians 2:11-14

In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, **12** buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. **13** And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, **14** having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

Galatians 5:12

I could wish that those who trouble you would even cut themselves off!

Amen Paul ! - But Wait, I Want to Stop and Ask Some Questions?"

#1 - Where do I begin to cut?

#2 - How much skin do I cut?

#3 - How will I know if I've cut off enough?

#4 - Who is going to help me do this to me?

these are guilty of misinterpreting the Bible. Like those who say, "well, I sinned but God's grace will cover that."

"God's Grace at Work in the Believers Life – Empowers them to depart from evil, not swim in it." - jdh

Galatians 5:6

For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love.

Galatians 5:2

Indeed I, Paul, say to you that if you become circumcised, Christ will profit you nothing. **3** And I testify again to every man who becomes circumcised that he is a debtor to keep the whole law. **4** You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.

Friends And Foes In The Fellowship
Combat-Faith Will Become Your Reality

3c.) Combat-Faith is joy on purpose

vs. 3

For we are the **circumcision**, who **(1) worship God** in the **Spirit**, **(2) rejoice** in **Christ Jesus**, and **(3) have no confidence** in the flesh,

To "**Rejoice in Christ Jesus**" here is to "**Vaunt, Boast, in Christ Jesus**"

Ephesians 2:3-9

Among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. **:4 But God**, who is rich in mercy, because of His great **love** with which **He loved us**, **5** even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by **grace** you have been saved), **6** and raised us up together, and **made us sit together** (now seated) in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, **7** that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His **grace** in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. **8** For by **grace** you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, **9** not of works, lest anyone should boast.

Dr. Warren Wiersbe tells of when a woman came up to him

who wanted to argue about salvation being by faith alone and not of works as well, she said, "I believe that getting to heaven is like rowing a rowboat. It takes two oars. If you row with just one oar, you'll go in circles but if you row with the oar of faith and the oar of works together then you'll get to heaven." Wiersbe said, "there is only one thing wrong with your illustration," what's that? asked the woman. "nobody is going to heaven in a row boat"

We are utterly helpless and unable to take from our bag-of-tricks

Isaiah 64:6a

But we are all like an unclean thing,
And all our righteousness are like filthy rags;

Romans 3:23

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Romans 7:18

For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells;

Notice with me,, Paul's systematic answer to those who would trouble us;

Philippians 3:2

Beware of dogs, vs. *Because we are the circumcision;*
who worship God in the Spirit,

beware of evil workers vs. *For we are the circumcision who;*
rejoice in Christ Jesus,

beware of the mutilation! vs. *For we are the circumcision who;*
have no confidence in the flesh,

COME TO CHRIST TODAY

End of Study