

The Book of Philippians

Lesson 9

Study Notes

The Joy Robbers

Foothills Baptist Bible College

Instructor. Douglas Woody

Text: Philippians 3:1-6.

Introduction: As Paul is concluding his letter to the Philippians; he felt the need to warn them against _____ and those _____ it. The verses we are looking at were the result of Paul's deep love for his friends at Philippi who were being asked to mix the _____ of God with the _____ of the flesh. Sinister teachers of legalism had crept into the body attempting to seduce the Philippians into adding circumcision to the plan of _____. Paul warned against these intruders and then explained that their premise was unsound. For if anyone could be recommended to God by virtue of accomplishment, Paul argued that he would be that person! If Paul had failed to achieve acceptance with God through all of his inherited and earned virtues, then, he reasoned, no one could climb up to God on his own merits. Throughout Paul's ministry he had to contend with certain Jews known today as the "Judaizers" they were false teachers who often sought to bind the act of circumcision and the Law of Moses itself upon the _____.

The warning is that Satan can steal your joy through the desire to please others.

I. The Blessing of Rejoicing.

Philippians 3:1 Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you, to me indeed is not grievous, but for you it is safe.

Someone has said that Paul is the prince of all those preachers who, when they say "Finally brethren," are really indicating the fact they have now gotten their _____. At this point he is only halfway through his letter to the Philippians.

Paul here is encouraging them to keep on _____ rejoicing in the Lord. Here is a man while in prison who could still say "Rejoice in the Lord," no matter how dark the day is, the Lord is still the Lord. He is still full of compassion and love, still concerned about us. The Lord is still on the throne, still sovereignly in charge. He is still able to make all things work together for our good. The Lord is still mighty to save, and mighty to keep. We do well to keep our eyes focused on Him in the trouble days.

Paul is glad to repeat the great truths of the faith so that they would become second nature to the Philippians. He did not think it "irksome" or "_____ " to write; but did so for their safety.

II. To Beware of the Dogs.

Philippians 3:2 Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the concision.

The warning is not against three types of people; but against one kind viewed from three angles.

A. Their _____ (dogs).

The word used here is not that of a household pet, but the prowling _____, without a home and without an owner: they were scavengers which ate garbage; they were vicious, attacking every passerby; they were unclean, mangy, flea ridden dogs.

These false teachers boasted in their religion, trusted in human attainment rather than divine atonement, trusted in the works of man rather than the grace of God. They were enemies to the gospel of Jesus Christ, and substituted something else for the _____.

B. Their _____ (evil workers).

These were deceitful workers.

2Corinthians 11:13-15.

These are deceptive _____, who only think in terms of the law, without the freedom of the gospel and the power of the Spirit. They were mischief-makers who disturbed both the faith and the peace of believers. They were wolves in sheep's clothing, deceiving, deluding, and destroying the flock.

C. Their _____ (concision).

These people had changed the sacred rite of circumcision to a mere _____ mutilation. Paul here refers to those who are not of the true circumcision. There were those who followed the law, but had no heart for God. They had substituted circumcision for the _____, and rested in the rite without the reality of salvation, and trusted in the sign without having the true substance of regeneration.

III. The Believer's Reality.

Philippians 3:3 For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.

A. True circumcision.

When we believe in Christ, we have the true circumcision of the _____. Circumcision that pleases God is spiritual, not physical; _____, not _____.

B. True worship.

There are many Greek words translated "worship" the one used here is usually translated "_____" and refers to _____ service. Christians practice priestly service in a spiritual ministry. Our service is inspired by the Holy Spirit, and _____ by the Holy Spirit, and supported by the Holy Spirit. Believers are priest of God; servants of the most High God and we serve Him through and by the Holy Spirit.

1Peter 2:9-10.

C. True rejoicing.

The term rejoice here means; to boast, to glory, to exalt, to take _____. Christ should be more than external ceremonies and legal observances; He is the reason of our glory.

1Corinthians 1:29-31.

D. Truth about the flesh.

The flesh is always flesh; it is always corrupt; it is never improved; it is never changed. No person can be saved until he has lost complete _____ in his flesh; who he is and what he can do. No person will ever truly honor God until he understands that external acts have no _____ except, they express the convictions of the soul. No person can ever have a right relationship with God until they see themselves as poor, blind, naked and needy before Him. There is no way we can ever please God in the flesh.

Romans 8:8 So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.

IV. The Boasting of the Flesh is Vain.

Philippians 3:4-6.

Paul's argument to his enemies if any had reason to boast in the works of the flesh; he more than others.

A. His religious rite.

He was circumcised the eighth day. He was a genuine _____.

Leviticus 12:3 And in the eighth day the flesh of his foreskin shall be circumcised.

B. His national claim.

He was of the stock of Israel, not a proselyte; he was not grafted in the covenant race. Both his parents were _____.

C. His tribal claim.

Paul was of the tribe of Benjamin. Israel's _____ came from this tribe; _____. This tribe was the only tribe to remain true to Judah when the kingdom was divided. Paul was proud of being a Benjamite since the name of this tribe appeared with honor on many a page in Scripture.

D. His parental claim.

Both of his parents were Hebrews. It would seem that Paul from a human level could boast of his pure _____.

E. His religious claim.

Paul's past listed him as a Pharisee. The Pharisee's were known to be loyal, patriotic, and conservative to the law. Thus, making them the straightest and strictest sect of the day. The Pharisees were distinguished among the Jewish sects for their rigid adherence to the letter of the law, and had endeavored to guard it from the possibility of violation by throwing around it a vast body of traditions, which they considered to be equally binding with the written law.

F. His character claims.

Philippians 3:6.

The most excellent quality that a Jew could possess was _____. He was a zealot of Judaism and against Christianity. He was zealous in his pursuit of Christians even consenting to the death of Stephen.

As to man's observance of his life "blameless" he observed the fine points of the law. He was faultless and beyond reproach; he would score one hundred percent in Judaism.

