

Phil 09 – Know Him – Phil 3:1-11

As we **begin Ch 3** –

Paul's continuing - central themes of **JOY** & **UNITY**

& He starts today;

- 1st w/ a **warning** - & then

- He uses himself as an **example** - to support the warning

His focus seems to be to **protect** the Philippians
from **losing** their **JOY** - & **losing** their **UNITY**

& in his approach – is 1 of the most wonderful
Personal Testimonies in the **N.T.**

This is also – a passage especially meaningful to me

The 1st time I taught behind a pulpit on a Sunday Morning –
THIS was the passage I taught

AND – this passage also includes **my life's verse**

Let's Pray

Phil 3:1

1 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.

“finally” may be better “to sum up” or “for the rest”

He's been talking about **Unity** – **Humility** – **Servanthood**
now he says - ***“To sum up my brethren – rejoice in the Lord”***

& then – as a warning of 1 of the top things
that can **keep us** from “rejoicing in the Lord” - he says in **V.2** → →

Phil 3:2

2 Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the mutilation!

3 warnings that will keep us

from being able to ***“Rejoice in the Lord”***

Paul knew - there were dangers outside the church

& dangers inside the church . . .

& inside – possibly the greatest danger - **were the Judaizers**

The Judaizers had accepted Jesus as Savior, & entered the church

But they brought **ALL** their **RULES & REGULATIONS** with them;

Some laid down by **O.T. law** -

MANY laid down by **Jewish church tradition**

I think Paul calls **the Judaizers** ***“Dogs”*** because they were ***always nipping*** at the heels of the **new Christians** . . .

trying to get them to **follow** their Rules & Regulations

& he **calls them** ***“evil workers”*** (w/ the focus on “Workers”) because they were all about - Works, Works, Works

You didn’t think works-based religion was anything new did you?

& **then** Paul **REALLY** names the Judaizers (end of **V.2**) –

“Beware of the Mutilation”

The **Judaizers big focus** was on circumcision . . .

But - **that was** ***only the beginning*** of the works-based requirements they constantly **tried to force** on the church

SO – in **V.3** Paul gives **3 Counters** to the **3 Bewares** of **V.2**

Phil 3:3

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

“**The circumcision**” is a reference to “**God’s People**” - & Paul says;

We **ARE** the true circumcision – Who;

- 1) Worship God in the Spirit
- 2) Rejoice in Christ Jesus
- 3) Have NO confidence in the flesh

& those are Paul’s “3 Counter’s” to the “3 Bewares” of **V.2**

To protect ourselves from “works-based” religion –
we must stay committed to;

Worshipping God in the Spirit
Rejoicing in our relationship with Jesus Christ
having **NO confidence** in our religious efforts

& **THAT** – is what makes us “God’s People” (*the circumcision*)

& now – in **V.4**, we **begin** one of the *greatest sections* in scripture
about Salvation coming **from a personal relationship**
w/ Jesus Christ **ALONE** – w/ **NOTHING** Added

It’s written as a defense **against** the Judaizers –
who had confidence in their “works-based religion” . . .

AND it’s written as “The Secret” to maintaining true **Joy** & **Unity**
which are the themes of the entire letter

Phil 3:4 → →

Phil 3:4

4 though I also might have confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so:

Paul begins his testimony by saying

“Look, don’t think I don’t understand these guys – believe me, I know what it’s like to have confidence in the flesh”

Now – Paul **tells us** about his **“Right On”** Religious Achievements **before** he met Jesus Christ

Paul says in Phil 3:5-6 – I was;

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.

Please hear me – Paul had it goin-on – He was **RIGHT** in every way; his **birth** – his **ancestry** – his **upbringing** – his **education** his **zeal** – his **righteousness** – **EVERYTHING**

In every way – Paul had it **ALL RIGHT** – He *looked, acted, lived* right - according to all religious requirements

He was (on the outside) - what we’d call today – the Perfect Christian! **Except** for one thing – He didn’t know Jesus Christ

Now – It was the Jewish religion that Paul was so good at . . .

But **his testimony** applies so much - to those today who work so hard to **look & act** “Right” or “Religious”

They seem to have it all goin-on – right in every way (On The Outside)

There’s **only one problem** – they may not really have an **intimate personal relationship** with Jesus Christ

For Paul – everything changed one day **on the road to Damascus** – because **that was the day** that he met Jesus Christ

How about you . . . ?

In your **Journey of Life** – Have you had that day - when you have a **personal encounter** w/ Jesus - that **radically changes** you forever

& believe me . . . **the more** religiously “**Right**” you are – **the more** you need that life changing moment

In **Acts 9** – Paul was **Journeying** - in his **Religiously Right** life . . .

Acts 9:3-9

3 As he journeyed he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven.

4 Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?”

5 And he said, “Who are You, Lord?” Then the Lord said, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads.”

6 So he, trembling and astonished, said, “Lord, what do You want me to do?” Then the Lord said to him, “Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.”

7 And the men who journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice but seeing no one.

THIS was Paul’s moment - - **When he met Jesus Christ** - personally & **Saul** of Tarsus – became **Paul** the Apostle . . .

& he was **forever changed** by his **Personal Encounter** with Jesus

Right then & there - Paul made Jesus Christ His **LORD** - & **he began to ask** Jesus - what **Jesus** wanted **Him** to do

How about you ?

In your Journey in life - have **you** had this moment ?

Have you stood before Jesus Christ;

Made Him your LORD . . .

Turned from your own plans -

Made a commitment to follow His direction for your life

If not – Jesus is waiting for you, right now, on your journey

waiting for you to call Him LORD - & surrender your life to him

Back in Phil 3 – we see what effect

Paul's personal meeting w/ Christ had on Him

Phil 3:7

7 But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ.

Everything that mattered to Paul before that moment

Everything He considered GAIN in his life

Everything previously important to him – **He counted loss for Christ**

But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ.

Look at that word "LOSS" for a moment

Handley Moule – English Scholar - 1800's - says of "loss";

***"not merely a worthless thing, but a ruinous one;
a robbery of the true blessing from my soul"***

All of that "Religious Rightness" is not just worthless –

it is actually robbing the true blessing from my soul

Paul says – the things I considered GAIN - I now consider LOSS

He's actually using accounting terms here . . . ;

all I had put in the GAIN column

I have now moved to the LOSS column

Because they are ***not only worthless*** –
they actually **ROB** the True Blessings from my soul

& in the beginning of **V.8** – he adds *even more emphasis* -
to an **already very powerful** statement

Phil 3:8(A)

8 Yet indeed I also count all things loss . . .

Paul's adding as much *force & passion* as possible to his words

Yet indeed I also count all things loss . . .

& the verb translated "*Count*" (in both these vs's)
indicates a "**Present, Active, Continuous**" action

"I **count**, am **counting**, & will **continue to count** . . . **ALL** things loss"

OK Paul we get it !!

But **WHAT** are you so *passionately, forcefully*, committed to
counting all things loss **FOR** ?

cont'g in Phil 3:8 (A-B)

8 Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, . . .

ALL that – *thrown out* - for the **KNOWLEDGE** of Christ Jesus ???

Ahhh . . . but **not just** *intellectual knowledge* – God Forbid

The words Paul uses here for *knowledge*
speak of a very special, *unique knowledge* . . .

It is Intimate, Personal, Experiential **Knowledge** he's referring to

Kenneth Wuest (Word Studies in the Gk NT) says:

“ [this is] the knowledge of the Lord Jesus which Paul gained through the experience of intimate companionship and communion with Him. Paul came to know His heart, His will, as one comes to know another through intimate fellowship and close association with that person.”

This is Personal, Intimate, Experiential **Knowledge**

We'll come back to this Great Word in a minute -
but 1st – let's re-read this entire Vs.

Phil 3:8 (all)

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

Now look at the words “suffered the loss” . . .

This is the **THIRD time** Paul has used this word – **LOSS**
& now - the word “suffered” has the clear sense
of **WILLINGLY FORFEITING** All Things

like willingly ***tossing something overboard***

I'm **willingly throwing** all things overboard;

For the far more excellent goal of having
an intimate personal relationship with Jesus Christ my Lord

& then – **after 3 uses** – the word **LOSS** **suddenly** *isn't serious* enough
So Paul searches for something stronger to convey his thought

& **he comes up** with a very descriptive word –
A word used **ONLY HERE** in the N.T.

So far he's said - regarding his "Self-Efforts" to reach God

- 1) I have **counted them loss** for Christ (v.7)
- 2) I **also count all things loss** for the knowledge of Christ (v.8)
- 3) I have **willingly suffered the loss** of all things for Christ (v.8)

& now – reaching for the **most descriptive word** he can find . . .
He says at the **end of V.8**

. . . and count them as [SKUBALA - GK], that I may gain Christ

SKUBALA – has been translated two ways;

- 1) **RUBBISH – REFUSE** – *Good only to be thrown away*
- 2) **DUNG** (*Lit: excrement*)

I **personally prefer** the KING JAMES Translation ;
*and do count them but **dung**, that I may win Christ,*

ALL I thought was worth so much in my life -
I now count as so much DUNG (excrement) . . .

THAT I MAY GAIN CHRIST

Knowing Christ – *Intimately, Personally, Experientially,*
THAT is Paul's *Supreme Goal*

THAT is the **ONLY** thing I put on the **GAIN side** of my life
EVERYTHING else – goes on the **LOSS side** !

WHY Paul ? – **WHY** ? – *What do you get out of it . . . ?*

Phil 3:9

*9 and **[that I may]** 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;*

That I may be Found "IN CHRIST"

My own righteousness is worse than worthless –
& I **don't want** to risk being found in my own righteousness

I want to **ONLY** be found in the Righteousness
that comes ***thru Faith in Christ***

The Righteousness which is from God By faith !

And so **EVERYTHING ELSE** was thrown aside – Counted Loss –
Forfeited – It was DUNG – It was Rubbish –

And he wanted to make that 100% perfectly clear . . .

I think he's done a pretty good job of it . . .

ALL the Righteousness we generate in our own effort
is like **so much Cow Manure** in a field . . .

It's not only worthless – but holding onto it
actually **ROBS** the true blessing from our soul

Holding on to our own efforts of Righteousness . . .

actually **ROBS** us from the **true, intimate, personal,**
knowledge of Jesus Christ

Paul realized this very thing

& it **lead him** to one over-riding – **above all** – GOAL in his life -
& **that Goal** is in the first 5 words of **V.10** . . .

Phil 3:10

10 that I may know Him . . .

These 5 words are my life's verse -

& recently - they became **the foundation vs.** for this church

THAT I MAY KNOW HIM

NOT *intellectual* knowledge - - **NOT** know *about* Him

But – that I may have that *ever-increasing, personal, intimate*
knowledge of my great *Savior & Lord* Jesus Christ

That I may know HIM !

The GK word is – “**GINOSKO**”

& it’s really **a word** the *WHOLE of the Bible* is **built** around

Ginosko – is a *personal, intimate, experiential* **knowledge**
of our *God & Savior* – Jesus Christ

Everything in your relationship w/ God
is wrapped up in the **full meaning** of this word “**Ginosko**”

Everything God has done for you – *in His* **AGAPE** *Love for you*

Is *so that you can have* this Personal, Intimate,
Experiential **Knowledge** of HIM - - **Ginosko**

Not earning your place with Him
Not making yourself better For Him . . .

But growing *deeper & deeper* in your
Personal, Intimate Relationship with Him

that you may know Him - - personally

AND – as the rest of **V.10** says;

Phil 3:10

10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,

That you may know **the POWER** –
the same power that raised Jesus Christ from the dead

Eph 1:19 says - God has made **THAT SAME POWER** available to **US**
to overcome sin,
to walk victoriously in this life – **AND**
to be raised from the dead

& then **V.10** says . . . **and the fellowship of His sufferings**

This is a much deeper level of Intimacy . . .

Do you want to know Christ so intimately that you **share**
some participation in His sufferings ??

1Pet 4:13 says:

13 but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy.

To **know Jesus** at this level –
includes some fellowship in His **sufferings**

& finally - **V.10** ends with: . . . **being conformed to His death**

THIS – would be the deepest level of intimacy –

NOT referring to the **TYPE** of death Jesus Died -
But **His willingness** to **DIE**

Remember - Phil 2:5 says

*5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, . . .
(Who humbled Himself to the point of death)*

To be conformed to the Mind of Christ **to this level** -
is the deepest possible intimacy

& exactly **WHERE** was Paul's **Over-Riding GOAL** going to take him ?

Phil 3:11

11 if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

Paul is **not expressing** any doubt here – but saying;

*“**AT ALL COST**, that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead”*

To count as LOSS - all I held as **GAIN**

To willingly throw over-board all my own efforts to reach God

To be found “In Christ” – having the righteousness of God in Christ

To take part in the glorious resurrection from the dead

TO KNOW HIM - - - To know Jesus - personally & intimately

That was Paul's over-riding – all-encompassing goal -

everything else came **Thru** or from **Within** - this Sole Desire

How about you ?

Do you **have that Desire** to KNOW Jesus –

Personally, Intimately, Experientially ??

You CAN know Him at this level - & **you can** begin today

If you are willing to throw overboard

ALL your own efforts to reach God

& simply desire to KNOW Jesus in this way – You Can !

He's waiting to begin revealing himself to you – **RIGHT NOW !**

All you have to do - *is come to Him . . .*

Let's Pray