

BETTER TOGETHER #6

Philippians 3:1-11

07/12/2020
Sunday a.m.

Slide 1 - Feedback/Interact

Slide 2 - Title Slide

Slide 3 - 1st Century Philippi

- Colony of largely ex-Roman soldiers - living in their reward
- Via Egnatia - one of main roads from Macedonia to Rome
- Acts 16:6-40
 - Paul there after HS does not allow him into Asia
 - Told in dream to go to Philippi
 - First church Paul founded in Europe

Slide 4 - Letter of Encouragement

- Written to encourage them to progress in faith
 - Different flavor than most his letters in which he is addressing an issue within a church, divisions, an incorrect theology, etc.
- Themes of continuing, growing, joy, rejoicing

Slide 5 - v. 1

Slide 6 - REJOICE IN THE LORD

- REJOICE = be glad, rejoice exceedingly, thrive
 - Find joy that comes from the Lord – provision/sustenance for us
 - Find joy/celebrate in WHO God is – His character, faithfulness, wisdom, provision, compassion, grace, peace, + other attributes
 - Find joy in the Lord WHAT He does – our source
 - To be rooted in Him
- TROUBLE = grievous, slothful
 - Not lazy or running out of things to say
 - Even if you've heard REJOICE in the Lord 1000x, its good to hear it again
 - **Philippians 4:4**
 - Theme of the letter
- SAFEGUARD = certainty, a safe/sure spot, protection, something reliable
 - No matter what is going on around you, no matter what temptations arise - you are rooted
 - Regulates/stands against fear, bad circumstances, attitudes, etc...

Slide 7 - v. 2-3

Slide 8 - WATCH OUT

- WATCH OUT = be on the lookout, beware, take heed of
- DOGS – wild, travel in packs, out of control & dangerous, wreaking havoc, all about their appetite
 - **Slides 9-10, then back to 8**
 - Jezebel - **2 Kings 9:30-37**
 - Thrown out window. Went to bury her but “found nothing except her skull, her feet and her hands” because the dogs devoured everything else
 - Think dingos in Australia - “A dingo ate my baby!”
 - Seinfeld, Simpsons, Family guy, Rugrats, WWE
 - Lindy Chamberlain-Creighton wrongly convicted of murdering her 9 week old baby in 1980 trial
- EVILDOERS – wrong/wicked thinkers, destructive, poisonous/toxic, harmful to all
 - Doing evil in the name of good – maligning Paul, Christ, & gospel
- MUTILATORS of the flesh – cutting the flesh for no reason
 - Referring to the Judaizers – Jewish teachers following Paul around to “fix” the “errors” of grace & salvation for all, by faith
 - Insisting on physical circumcision for all non-Jews as means for salvation - must become a Jew and all that comes with it for salvation
 - Galatians
 - Circumcision – OT rite in Mosaic law – physical mark for Jewish males
 - Outward sign of being set apart to God; physical, daily reminder of covenant obligations
 - Circumcising their bodies, but not serving God faithfully (covenant obligation from Gen 17)
 - Jeremiah 9:25-26
 - ²⁵ “A time is coming,” says the Lord, “when I will punish all those who are circumcised in body but not in spirit— ²⁶ ... And like all these pagan nations, the people of Israel also have uncircumcised hearts.” (NIV)
 - Physical is not enough —> Spiritual requirement
 - Intended to be an outward sign of an inward commitment to serve God faithfully —> as skin cut away, so is the the hardness/dullness to God in their hearts
 - **Deuteronomy 10:16/30:6**
 - “Circumcise your hearts, therefore, and do not be stiff-necked any longer.” (NIV)

- “The Lord your God will circumcise your hearts and hearts of your descendants, so that you may love him with all your heart and with all your soul, and live.” (NIV)
- “we are the circumcision” - the real circumcision, change of heart produced by the Spirit (by grace through faith)
 - **Romans 2:28,29**
 - “For you are not a true Jew just because you were born of Jewish parents or because you have gone through the ceremony of circumcision. **29** No, a true Jew is one whose heart is right with God. And true circumcision is not merely obeying the letter of the law; rather, it is a change of heart produced by the Spirit. And a person with a changed heart seeks praise^[a] from God, not from people.” (NLT)

Slide 11 - CONFIDENCE IN CHRIST

- No confidence in flesh - the physical circumcision and works of the law, our own accomplishments, qualifications, righteousness (who we are/what we've done)
- Rather, confidence in Christ - the Gospel, grace through faith
- By the Spirit - justified (made right w/ God), sanctified (made holy before God), transformed, led

Slide 12 - vv. 4-6

Slide 13 - PAUL'S QUALIFICATIONS

- By the way, if you want to compare accomplishments in Judaism...
 - Circumcised, Israelite, Benjamite, Hebrew of Hebrews, Pharisee, zealous, faultless
 - The poster child – BUT I still needed salvation by grace, through faith

Slide 14 - vv. 7-9

Slide 15 - FROM GAIN TO LOSS

- v. 7 - Gain = advantage; Loss = damage
 - **BUT** (v. 7) - We can't compare our own 'goodness' against the Gospel message for *believing & receiving* Christ's righteousness
 - **James 2:10**
 - “For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.” (NIV)
 - **Isaiah 64:6a**

- “All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags;” (NIV)
 - Once advantage, but now, the reality of Christ has damaged those things and they pale in comparison
 - Upgrade - computer example
 - **Ecclesiastes** - meaningless
 - Pleasures - wine, vineyards, gardens, parks, servants, herds/flocks, silver/gold/treasure; Wisdom; Folly/Foolishness; Toil
 - 1:3 “What do people gain from all their labors at which they toil under the sun?”
 - 2:18 “I hated all the things I had toiled for under the sun, because I must leave them to the one who comes after me.”
- garbage - would throw it all away, just to know Christ Jesus and be found in Him
 - “any refuse, as the excrement of animals; of things worthless and detestable.”
 - Detestable = “deserving intense dislike”
 - Accomplishments in the flesh are like the natural by-product of the flesh - poop

Slide 16 - BEING FOUND IN CHRIST

- found = “be present;” “recognized;” “one’s character or state as found out by others”
- Then on judgment day, God will not see me and my toil and my filthy rags, but He will see Christ’s character and righteousness
 - This only comes through FAITH in CHRIST, from God (grace)
 - Freedom in letting go of the garbage and accepting salvation by grace
 - Not having to worry about living up to every letter of the law, not having to worry about who I am or what my purpose is because my identity is in Christ - His character, His mission, His righteousness

Slide 17 - vv. 10-11

Slide 18 - TO KNOW CHRIST

- “know” is a very intimate term for Jews
- The power of His resurrection - want to me made new
- I even want His suffering and death because the result is so much better
- This can’t happen through the works of our flesh – only by grace, through faith

Slide 19 - WHAT ARE WE DOING WITH THIS?

- SO WHAT IS OUR RESPONSE TO PAUL'S CHALLENGE?
- How then do I live? How do I fully embrace this life of Christ, through grace, by faith?

Slide 20 - Prayer Available

Slide 21 - Contact Info