

**Sermon Title:** Joyful Confidence

**Sermon Series:** Philippians – Unbreakable Joy

**Scripture:** Philippians 3:1-3

**Speaker:** Pastor Ian Bonthron



## **Self - Confidence**

**Where can we find lasting \_\_\_\_\_ that we are \_\_\_\_\_ with God?**

### **Philippians 3:1 ESV**

Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you is no trouble to me and is safe for you.

### **Philippians 3:2 ESV**

2 Look out for the dogs, look out for the evildoers, look out for those who mutilate the flesh.

### **Acts 15:5 ESV**

5 But some believers who belonged to the party of the Pharisees rose up and said, "It is necessary to circumcise them and to order them to keep the law of Moses."

### **Acts 15:6-9 ESV**

6 The apostles and the elders were gathered together to consider this matter. 7 And after there had been much debate, Peter stood up and said to them, "Brothers, you know that in the early

days God made a choice among you, that by my mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel and believe.<sup>8</sup> And God, who knows the heart, bore witness to them, by giving them the Holy Spirit just as he did to us, <sup>9</sup> and he made no distinction between us and them, having cleansed their hearts by faith.

### **Acts 15:10-11 ESV**

10 Now, therefore, why are you putting God to the test by placing a yoke on the neck of the disciples that neither our fathers nor we have been able to bear? 11 But we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will.”

### **1. Watch Out for False \_\_\_\_\_**

#### **Philippians 3:2 ESV**

2 Look out for the dogs, look out for the evildoers, look out for those who mutilate the flesh.

### **Self-Confident False Worship Brings Bondage**

**Legalism — I count on doing \_\_\_\_\_, which makes God love and accept me**

#### **Philippians 3:2 ESV**

2 Look out for the dogs, look out for the evildoers, look out for those who mutilate the flesh.

#### **Philippians 3:18-19 ESV**

18 For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. 19 Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things.

**Antinomianism** - I count on doing \_\_\_\_\_ I want because God loves and accepts me

## **2. True Worship Defined**

**Phil. 3:3 ESV**

**A. Worship through the \_\_\_\_\_**

**1 John 3:24 ESV**

24 Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God, and God in him. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

**B. \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ**

**C. Don't \_\_\_\_\_ on ourselves**

**Luke 18:10-13 ESV**

10 "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.' 13 But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!'

**Luke 18:14 ESV**

14 I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

*“In Christ, there is nothing I can do that would make you love me more, and nothing I have done that would make you love me less.”*

—JD Greear

### **Philippians 3:9 ESV**

9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—

We count on Jesus for our \_\_\_\_\_ with God. This brings  
\_\_\_\_\_.

### **Philippians 3:1 ESV**

Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you is no trouble to me and is safe for you.

## **Discussion Questions:**

### **Getting to know you Questions:**

1. What things give you confidence?

2. What are some things about yourself that make you feel confident? Why do you feel confident about those things?

3. On a scale of 1-10, 10 being High self-confidence and 1 being low self-confidence, where do you normally find yourself?

### **Into the Bible Questions:**

Read Philippians 3:1-3

Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you is no trouble to me and is safe for you.

2 Look out for the dogs, look out for the evildoers, look out for those who mutilate the flesh. 3 For we are the circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh—

4. What was something from the passage or sermon that surprised you, helped you, confused you, or bothered you?

5. What does this passage tell us about God? People? Living to please God?

6. Who are the “dogs”, “evildoers,” and “those who mutilate the flesh”? How are they contrasted with the Philippians?

7. Why would Paul consider those who held a different gospel to be evil workers? Why would it be evil to teach that the cross and additional behaviors are necessary for salvation?

8. If anything gets added to salvation by grace alone in Christ alone, what does that mean about the sufficiency of Christ? Why is the cross enough for salvation?

9. Paul called us to “rejoice in the Lord.” His next thought is to “Look out for the dogs, look out for the evildoers, look out for those who mutilate the flesh.” How might the influence of these people keep the Philippians from rejoicing in the Lord?

10. How have you seen Christians point people towards our acceptance with God being “doing good” instead of “glorying in Christ?”

11. Why should we rejoice in the Lord? What are some reasons that we get sidetracked from rejoicing in Christ? Why is rejoicing in the Lord foundational to our faith?

### **For Extra Study**

Read Galatians 5:1-14

For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

2 Look: I, Paul, say to you that if you accept circumcision, Christ will be of no advantage to you. 3 I testify again to every man who accepts circumcision that he is obligated to keep the whole law. 4 You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace. 5 For through the Spirit, by faith, we ourselves eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness. 6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love.

7 You were running well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth? 8 This persuasion is not from him who calls you. 9 A little leaven leavens the whole lump. 10 I have confidence in the Lord that you will take no other view, and the one who is troubling you will bear the penalty, whoever he is. 11 But if I, brothers, still preach circumcision, why am I still being persecuted? In that case the offense of the cross has been removed. 12 I wish those who unsettle you would emasculate themselves!

13 For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. 14 For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

12. According to Paul, what are the problems with counting on circumcision or our flesh for acceptance with God?

13. What would it look like to use our freedom to lovingly serve one another?

14. What do you find challenging about trusting God?

15. What needs to change in your life so that you can live this out?

16. Jot down any insights, questions, or key observations.

### **Application Questions**

17. What are some ways you count on your flesh for right standing with God?

18. How is this keeping you from enjoying Christ's work for you?

19. How would your walk with Christ be easier and more refreshing if you repented of this?

20. What would this week look like if you relied on the Spirit to help you count on Jesus instead of yourself?

21. How can we encourage each other to count on Jesus?