

Philippians 3 Pt 1

Jesus

Ch. 1 Paul addresses **trouble without**: Persecution can steal our joy
Key to Joy: Conscious choice to see the good in every situation

Ch. 2 Paul addresses **trouble within**: Pride in our lives will steal our joy
Key to Joy: Conscious choice to humble ourselves before others

Ch. 3 Paul addresses **overcoming discouragement**: Legalists seek steal our joy/freedom
Key to Joy: Conscious choice to place no confidence in flesh but in Jesus alone.

I. Overcoming Discouragement Walking in Freedom

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.

- **Joy** **5X** in Philippians
- **Rejoice** **9X** in Philippians

"It is a duty for us to cultivate this joy. We must steadfastly arrest any tendency to murmur and complain; to find fault with God's dealings; or to seek to elicit sympathy. [Meyer]

Philippians 1:18 [I may be in jail but I know...] Christ is preached; and in this I rejoice, yes, **and will rejoice**.

1 Thessalonians 3:9 [Paul thanks the church] for **all the joy** with which **we rejoice** for your sake before our God...

1 Thessalonians 5:16 **Rejoice always**, 17 pray without ceasing, 18 **in everything give thanks**; for **this is the will of God** in Christ Jesus for you...

Colossians 1:24 [In all situations] I now **rejoice** in my sufferings for you...

- **Same things:**
 1. Paul reminds his listeners of **basic truths** before he dies
 2. **Peter reminds his listeners of basics truths before he dies...**

2 Peter 5:12b ... I will not be negligent to **remind you** always of these things... 13 Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to **stir you up by reminding you...** 15 Moreover I will be careful to ensure that you always **have a reminder** of these things after my decease.

We don't to find/come up with something new to tickle people's ears
We need to remember the basics...

- **Basics of the Faith are "safe"**
 1. Salvation by Grace
 2. Deity of Christ
 3. Resurrection
 4. Inherency of Word of God
 5. Reality of Heaven/Hell
 6. Triunity of the Godhead

7. Joy/Freedom in knowing the Lord

- **We don't need something new**

1. If it's new it's not true
2. If it's true it's not new

**Our sins will not be held against us...We can Rejoice
Our Salvation is secure in the work of Jesus on the Cross!**

- **Satan wants to steal that hope**

If Satan had a garage sale, he would sell all he owned except one item; his most useful tool...**Discouragement**

While I am away...
BEWARE!!! DANGER!!!

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

- **Beware the Dogs** Jewish Legalists
- **Beware the Evil Workers** False ministers
- **Beware the Mutilation** Works based Gospel

Galatians 1:6 I marvel that you are turning away so soon **from Him** who called you in the grace of Christ [True Gospel] , to **a different gospel**, 7 which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ.

- **Pervert Good News into Bad News:** Jesus sacrifice was not enough

Galatians 2:4 ... **false brethren secretly...came in by stealth to spy out our liberty** which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us **into bondage...** 5 ... we did not yield **submission even for an hour, that the truth of the gospel might continue with you.**

Jesus is Freedom...Religion is Bondage to the Devil

- Tell joyous Christians they must be circumcised...to be saved!

Acts 15:1 ...certain men came down from Judea and taught the brethren, "**Unless you are circumcised...you cannot be saved.**" 2 Therefore, when Paul and Barnabas had no small **dissension and dispute** with them....

- **Paul's not happy...**

Galatians 5:12 [If they believe circumcision is a means to Salvation...] I could wish that those who trouble you would even **cut themselves off!** 13 For you, brethren, have been **called to liberty...**

- Paul doesn't like seeing people's freedom in Christ stolen

John 10:10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

- Religion steals/Religionists are thieves/Legalists are satanic slave-masters

Rejoice in the freedom of the Lord...

Beware...Don't let legalists steal your joy...putting you back under the law

Old Testament is a Physical Representation of a **New Testament Spiritual Truth**

- Circumcising was a picture of the work of Jesus dealing with our flesh

Jeremiah 4:4 Circumcise yourselves to the Lord... take away the **foreskins of your hearts...**

- When Jesus came, we no longer needed the picture...**the reality was here**

If we want to try to keep the Jewish Law, we must keep it **perfectly**

Romans 2:25 For **circumcision is indeed profitable if you keep the law**; but if you are a breaker of the law, your circumcision has become uncircumcision....**28** ... 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...**

- **Physical Circumcision is profitable...**if you keep the whole law

James 2:10 ...whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all.

Newsflash: Trying hard to keep the whole law separates us from God

Galatians 5:1 It was for **freedom that Christ set us free**; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a **yoke of slavery**. **2** Behold I, Paul, say to you that if you receive circumcision, Christ will be of **no benefit to you**. **3** And I testify again to every man who receives circumcision, that he is under obligation to keep the **whole Law**. **4** You have been severed from Christ, you who are seeking to be justified by law; you have **fallen from grace**.

- **OT Physical Circumcision:** Picture fulfilled in Jesus dealing with our flesh by His Spirit
- **OT Sabbath keeping:** Picture fulfilled in the rest from works we have in Jesus Christ

Reality of the Law is found in the Person of Jesus Christ
The Ceremonial Law melts in the face of Christ

- We fulfill the entirety of the Law as we are "in Christ" who kept it
- **No one else has...ever**

Dogs, Evil Workers, Mutilation want to lay this trip on you
...a trip they can't come close to attaining

- **Gentiles were being saved/dancing in streets confronted by dogs...**

Acts 15:10 [Peter to church in Jerusalem where sin- sniffers came from] why do you test God by **putting a yoke on the neck** of the disciples which **neither our fathers nor we were able to bear?** **11** But we believe that through the **grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved** in the same manner as they [Gentiles] ...

- Letter brought back to encourage Gentile believers...

[cont.] 28... it seemed good to the Holy Spirit, and to us, to lay upon you **no greater burden** than these necessary things: **29** that you abstain from things offered to idols, from

blood, from things strangled, and from sexual immorality. If you keep yourselves from these, you will do well.

NOTE: No circumcision, no Sabbath keeping... just basic moral code and abstaining from things that would turn away unsaved Jews from potentially accepting the Gospel

- **Mutilation of Today?** Those demanding strict observance of the Jewish Sabbath

Colossians 2:16 So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or **sabbaths**, 17 which are a **shadow of things to come**, but the **substance is of Christ**.

- **Entire Book of Hebrews:**

1. **Christians should not be going back to OT Jewish Legalism**
2. **Christians should be bringing legalists into the Grace of God**

BEWARE of those who seek to steal your joy in the simple Gospel

Ephesians 1:8 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.

That's Good News. That is the Gospel. Rejoice

- Beware of those who say you are not saved if not circumcised like them

Colossians 2:23 These things indeed have an appearance of wisdom in self-imposed religion, false humility, and neglect of the body, but are of **no value** against the indulgence of the flesh.

They tell you how to know God yet ... **They themselves don't even know God**

3 For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus...

- **Spiritual Intimidation is real:** "Maybe their right?"
- Don't let the religious intimidate you...

Religion trusts in an "it" that cannot save but...

We trust in Jesus the Savior and have His Spirit

- **Rejoice in Jesus Christ!**

3b... and have no confidence in the flesh,

- Why should God let you into heaven?
- **Please choose only one:**
 - a) I'm a pretty good person. I keep the Law [see James 2:10]
 - b) I'm not a murderer or adulterer [See Mat.5]
 - c) I'm better than Fred down the street. Still has his Christmas lights up
 - d) Jesus died on the Cross for me to pay for my sins in full
 - e) All of the above

Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the mutilation! Philippians 3:2

Those that would seek to put believers back under OT Law

- Paul rebukes Peter who stopped eating with Gentiles to eat with Jews

Galatians 2: 14 "If you, being a Jew, live in the manner of Gentiles and not as the Jews, why do you compel Gentiles to live as Jews? ¹⁵ We *who are* Jews by nature, and not sinners of the Gentiles, ¹⁶ knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by **faith in Jesus Christ**, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be **justified by faith** in Christ and **not by the works of the law**; for by the works of the law **no flesh shall be justified.**

By the works of the Law NO flesh shall be justified

The just shall live [be saved] by faith

- **Jews/Gentiles:** Made one by the cross/in the Spirit

Ephesians 2:14 [Paul to new Gentile believers] [Jesus] **Himself is our peace**, who has **made both** [Jew/Gentile] **one**, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, ¹⁵ having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself **one new man from the two**, thus making peace, ¹⁶ and that He might **reconcile them both to God** in one body **through the cross...18** For through Him we both have access by **one Spirit to the Father.**

- Gentiles did not become Jews. Jews did not become Gentiles. They became believers

Jesus came to bring New Wine to all men
When Jesus died the Old Covenant was both fulfilled and finished

- **Believers now indwelt by the Spirit:** Able to worship in Spirit/Truth

John 4:24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in **spirit and truth.**"

- Not by ceremonies/observance to feast days that pointed to Jesus
- Now by walking in His indwelling Spirit manifested in loving one another

Matthew 9:17 [No one puts] new wine into old wineskins, or else the wineskins break, the wine is spilled, and the wineskins are ruined. But they put **new wine into new wineskins**, and both are preserved."

- Old System *could not* contain the new

Jesus explained that He did not come to repair or reform the old institutions of Judaism, but to institute a new covenant altogether. The new covenant doesn't just improve the old; it **replaces it and goes beyond it...** Jesus doesn't destroy the old [the law], but He fulfills it, just as an acorn is fulfilled when it grows into an oak tree. There is a sense in which the acorn is gone, but its purpose is fulfilled in [the greatness of the oak]. [Guzik]

- **Rejoice:** We now worship God in Spirit rather than the letter of the Law

Philippians 3:3 For we are the circumcision, who **worship God in the Spirit**, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh, ⁴ though I also might **have confidence in the flesh.**

- **If anyone could be saved** by the law it was Paul [Saul] the **Ultimate BGG**

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

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| 1. Law? | Circumcised the 8 th day as per law |
| 2. Heredity as Jew? | Born from the Tribe of Benjamin |
| 3. Knowledge of the | OT? Pharisee |
| 4. Zeal? | Persecuted new religion with all I had |
| 5. Righteous? | No one could find fault with my keeping of the written law |

If anyone could be saved by the law it was Paul

But I knew in my heart I still fell short! Later Paul would write...

Romans 3:20 ... by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the **knowledge of sin.**

- **Purpose of the Law of Moses:** To reveal our sin

Law has no power to curb sin... Actually, the Law fuels our sin nature...

Romans 7:7 What shall we say then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! On the contrary, I would not have known sin except through the law. For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, "You shall not covet." 8 **But sin, taking opportunity by the commandment, produced in me all manner of evil desire.** For apart from the law sin was dead.

The law is not bad/weak...we are

- **Don't walk on the grass?** Old man [flesh] wants to see how soft
- **Still...I was better at keeping the law than anyone else you could point to...**

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

- **Things gained?**

1. Esteem among men
2. Best seat in Jerusalem Denny's
3. Finest Robe/Hat combo money could buy

Nothing compared to the peace/joy I found in Jesus love for me

Context: Paul in prison. No status. No good seat at Denny's. No Robe/Hat combo

- I count losing my standing as nothing...

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** 9 and 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...

**Everything the world had to offer Paul considered garbage
Compared to Knowing Jesus**

- To know Christ that he might Gain Christ
- To gain Christ that he might be found **in Christ...**

**That at his last breath on earth/first breath in heaven
The Father would not see Paul but instead see the righteousness of Christ**

- Not a righteousness from keeping the Law. Flawed
- Righteousness through faith in the only One that is righteous...Jesus Christ

Imputed [credited] Righteousness/Clothed with Christ
Perfect Righteousness given by God given when we believe

- **Open the exit door for manmade religion...**

Romans 3:22 ... [there is a] righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference [doesn't matter who you are/what you did] ; 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24[We are...] justified freely by His grace through the redemption [bought by His blood] that is in Christ Jesus...

- When Jesus revealed the Light His righteousness, **it exposed Paul's as filth**
- **Knocked him off his self-righteous horse**

Acts 9:6 So he, trembling and astonished, said, **"Lord, what do You want me to do?"**

- When Paul saw Jesus, he saw himself for what he was...greatest of sinners

Isaiah 64:6 ...we are all like an unclean thing, And all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags; We all fade as a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, Have taken us away.

- Our imperfect temporal righteousness fades like a leaf in the fall blown away by wind

Imputed righteousness given to us by God when we believe is **Perfect and Eternal...**
Because it's God's righteousness applied to us

Psalms 119:142 Your righteousness is an **everlasting righteousness**

Isaiah 32:17b The work of righteousness will be peace, And the effect of righteousness, quietness and **assurance forever.**

Romans 5:21 ...sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

- Jesus clothes us His righteousness when we believe

Stop Striving to be good. Proving your good. Instead admit you're not. He is.

- **Desire as Paul to be clothed in Christ...**

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

I want to Know Jesus. Really know Jesus here and now

- | | |
|--|---------------------|
| 1. Sin-conquering power of His Resurrection | To walk like Jesus |
| 2. Sweet fellowship of His Suffering | To love like Jesus |
| 3. Sweet smelling aroma of His Humility unto death | To smell like Jesus |

To be found in Him...that I may know Him...and later be with Him forever

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

- **May attain to resurrection?**

Paul didn't doubt that he was saved, but he did long mightily for the completion of his salvation through the resurrection of his body. It was something that he had not yet attained and longed for. [Guzik]

- **So far Ch 3**

1. **Beware:** Sin sniffers are coming to steal our joy. You need to do, do, do
2. **Rejoice:** Have no confidence in what you do but what Jesus has done

- **As we look forward to being perfected...**

II. Pressing Toward the Goal

12 Not that I have already attained, or am **already perfected**

- **I am not yet complete** [redemption of body left to go v21]

12b... but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.

God created each of us with purpose. Not an accident. Not a monkey's uncle.
Not chemical reaction. ...Created by a loving God and for His purpose

Isaiah 43:7 Everyone who is called by My name, Whom **I have created for My glory; I have formed him, yes, I have made him."**

Q. What is the chief end of man?

A. Man's chief end is to glorify God, and to enjoy him forever.

- **Glorifying God with our lives:**

1. Gifts
2. Love
3. Sacrifice

Jesus spun me around/put His hands on my shoulder for a reason
I want to put my hands on His shoulders and ask Him what it is

Genesis 32:26 [Jacob wrestling Jesus] And [Jesus] said [to Jacob], "Let Me go, for the day breaks." But [Jacob] said, "I will not let You go unless You bless me!"

13 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but **one thing I do, forgetting** those things which are behind and **reaching forward** to those things which are ahead...

- **One thing I do to press on:** I learned this 2 part "trick"

I make a conscious choice of the mind/will

1) Forget the Past and 2) Reach Forward to the Future

- Some of us are done...or act like it

Many of God's people do not believe that he can make them what he means to make them, or, at least, they act as if they did not believe that he can. They are not, apparently, conscious of what their privileges really are, and are living far below where they might live in the happy enjoyment of peace and power and usefulness. May God help us, by his gracious Spirit, to know all of Christ that we can know, and to be as much like Christ as we can be. [Spurgeon]

- Let our past drag us down...**What is Paul's past?**

Acts 7:58 [First martyr post rez] ... and they cast [Stephen] out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their clothes at the **feet of a young man named Saul**. 59 And they stoned Stephen as he was calling on God

Acts 9:1 Then Saul, **still breathing threats and murder** against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest 2 and asked letters from him to the synagogues of Damascus, so that if he found any who were of the Way, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. 3 As he journeyed, he came near Damascus, and suddenly a light shone around him from heaven.

- Paul LEARNED to Forget the Past and Reach Forward to the future

Paul: When I hear someone bringing up my past sins...I don't even turn around

- That failure, those drugs, that divorce, that abortion, whatever. Worse better to glory
- **Remember: It is not God reminding us of our past sins...**

Psalm 103:11 For as the heavens are high above the earth, So great is His mercy toward those who fear Him; 12 As far as the **east is from the west**, So far has **He removed our transgressions from us**.

**One thing I do to make sure I'm moving toward my purpose?
Forget my past. God did.**

14 **I press toward** the goal for the prize of the **upward call** of God in Christ Jesus. 15 Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind; and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you. 16 Nevertheless, to the degree that we have already attained, **let us walk by the same** rule, let us be of the **same mind**.

- Walk in the things God has revealed to you so far
- Things you do not fully understand: I trust God will show you later

SUMMARY Pressing Toward the Goal

III. Our Citizenship in Heaven

17 Brethren, join in following **my example**, and **note those who so walk**, as you have us for a **pattern**.

1 Corinthians 4:16 ...I urge you, imitate me.

1 Corinthians 11:1 Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.

Philippians 4:9 ...things which you learned and received/heard/ saw in me, **these do**

Titus 2:7 [show yourself] to be a pattern of good works; in doctrine showing integrity...

Titus 2:8 [Use...] sound speech that cannot be condemned, [that your] opponent may be ashamed

1 Peter 5:3 [Church leaders don't act as...] lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock

- Choose right proven examples as a pattern...

18 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.**

- **Enemies of the Cross of Christ:** Not legalists but the licentious

"Professors of [Christ], who get into the church, and yet lead ungodly lives, are the worst enemies that the cross of Christ has. These are the sort of men who bring tears into the minister's eyes; these are they who break his heart; they are the enemies of the cross of Christ." [Spurgeon]

- **God is their belly:** Follow Fleshly instincts

Romans 8:5 ...those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh

Colossians 3:2 Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.

- Glorifying in what should be shameful...

Jeremiah 6:15 Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? No! They were not at all ashamed; **Nor did they know how to blush.**

- **Enemies of the cross:** In the church yet citizens of earth...Don't follow them

20 For our **citizenship is in heaven**, from which we also **eagerly wait** for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ

- **Citizenship in Heaven:** Picture ID signed by Jesus for never to expire

Ephesians 2:19 [we are] ... **fellow citizens** with the saints/members of household of God

- **Eagerly wait for the Savior**

Acts 1:11 "... This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."

1 Corinthians 1:7 [We are...] eagerly waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ...

- Eagerly wait for our Savior to come from there and bring us to our home

John 14:2 In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told

you. I go to **prepare a place for you.** 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, **I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am,** there you may be also.

We wait for the upward call of Christ Jesus!

- Eagerly wait for our Savior to bring us to our rightful home

21 who will **transform our lowly body** that it may be **conformed to His glorious body**, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

- When Paul said he was not finished this is what he was waiting for...

Romans 8:23 ... we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.

- **Dressed for Eternity!** Conformed and Transformed

1 John 3:2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, **we shall be like Him**, for we shall see Him as He is.

1 Corinthians 15:43 [Our earthly body...] is sown in dishonor; it is **raised in glory**. It is sown in weakness, it is **raised in power**.⁴⁴ It is sown a natural body; it is raised a **spiritual body**. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.⁴⁵ And so it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being." The last Adam [Jesus] *became* a life-giving spirit.⁴⁶ However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural, and afterward the spiritual.⁴⁷ The first man *was* of the earth, *made* of dust; the second Man *is* the Lord from heaven.⁴⁸ *As was* the man of dust, so also *are* those *who are made* of dust; and *as is* the heavenly Man, so also *are* those *who are* heavenly.⁴⁹ And as **we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man**.⁵⁰ Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood [imperfection/sinful nature] cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption.⁵¹ Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but **we shall all be changed**—⁵² in a moment, in the **twinkling of an eye**, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be **raised incorruptible**, and we shall **be changed**.⁵³ For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must put on immortality*.

**When Jesus does come/When we hear the Upward Call...
Be Changed. Dressed for Eternity and Conformed to His Glorious Body**

Forget those things which are behind...Reach forward to those things which are ahead
Press toward the goal/purpose...wait for the upward call of God in Christ Jesus

SUMMARY Our Citizenship in Heaven