

Philippians 3:2
Rejoice and Beware pt.2
Rootwork

1. **(Everyday)** Before you begin your study time - spend time in prayer! Go through your “yesterday” and ask the Lord to reveal your heart! Prepare your heart and surrender your will to the Spirit of God! Allow Him to have full access by not withholding anything He wants to do in and then do through you!! Make a conscious effort to bow your will and your obedience to the Lord before you even dive in! This prepares your heart to hear and to heed everything He speaks to you!

2. **(Everyday)** Then spend time in adoration and worship after you have cleansed your heart and before you dive into the scriptures!! Proclaiming who God is and adoring Him lifts our eyes up and keeps our focus on what really matters...putting God in His rightful place and putting us in ours! Remember, the enemy is going to try to keep you from being in the Word, he hates when we worship our God- Worship breaks his bondages over believers, so submit to God, resist him and he will flee!!

3. If you were at the “Digging Deeper Workshop” and you would like to structure these scriptures, Copy and paste Philippians 3 into a word/ pages document or write it out verse by verse, following the structuring handouts you received!(if you have not done so already) If you were not there and want to watch it, search “Digging Deeper” on our website or app and watch it for tools to help you in your study time!

4. **(Everyday)** After you finish your Rootwork every day, be sure to spend time in prayer (ACTS) going through what you have learned and received from the Word of God! This is also in your “Digging Deeper” handout!
5. Read verses 1-3 of Philippians chapter 3, and as you review verse 1, look up Habakkuk 3:17-18 and record what you learn about rejoicing in the Lord!
6. How are you applying this truth to your life today?
7. Now, as we lead into verse 2, take note of the tone change of Paul. He turns from an exhortation to rejoice to a stern warning to beware! Have you ever personally experienced a warning of such kind? Maybe you had to give a warning—if so, explain. How did you/they take it? Did you/they understand the danger and the love behind the warning?
8. Now look at verses 2 and 3 together. Do you see how they contrast? This gives us insight into who Paul is warning them about—those who were requiring a false circumcision. Look up as many words as you can (in your Blue Letter Bible app) to give you further insight. Pay special attention to the meaning of both circumcision definitions. Record what you find!
9. This group of people were particularly focused on circumcision. Read Genesis 17:1-14 and record what God told Abraham about circumcision and why He required it! What was it centered around? What did it signify?

10. So these men, these Judaizers, would travel around after Paul would plant churches and tell them the gospel was necessary, but so was circumcision in order to be saved! Paul was dealing with this for quite a while, and it was a huge stumbling block to the new believers. Look up the following verses and record what you learn about these Judaizers: (if you want to, do a search on them and look at as much information on them as you can—you will see just how much of a problem this became.)

- Acts 15
- Galatians 1:1-10
- Galatians 2:11-21
- Galatians 5:1-12
- Galatians 6:12-15
- Titus 1:10-16

11. Now let's look at some verses that give a right perspective about circumcision and how God intended for us to view this—not as a means of salvation, but as a picture of consecration. Record your thoughts on each verse: (again, feel free to deep dive into as many verses as you can find)

- Romans 11:6
- Romans 2:28-29
- Jeremiah 4:4
- Colossians 2:9-11

12. In Bible study we talked about how their glory was in self, and the only way to measure righteousness in self is by measuring their works. See, we can easily look at the problem Paul was faced with at this time and think that it has nothing to do with us, but we could not be more wrong. Yes, we don't have to be concerned about circumcision (thank God 😊), but we do have to be concerned about legalism—adding to Jesus in any way. How have you experienced this in your own life or in the Christian culture around you? Explain.
13. We also discussed the difference between legalism and holiness, legalism and obedience. What is the difference?
14. Now let's look at where this legalism can manifest in our lives: perfectionism, planning and controlling everything, being so tightly wound up, making sure that everything is perfect. We try to make sure we do everything perfectly, and if we can't do it perfectly then we do not do it at all, because if we fail, that failure reveals that we cannot be righteous on our own! Righteousness is not defined by your performance—it is only defined by HIS! This striving, this perfectionism, this condemnation when you don't measure up...this, my friend, is self-righteousness, and that undermines the cross of Jesus Christ!

This is called the doctrine of human achievement, and it undermines the gospel and nullifies the fulfillment of His sufficient redemption. I want to stop here and have you think about your tendencies to add your works, your perfectionism, to Jesus and what He has already done. Record what the Lord shows you and then confess, repent, and make decisions today to intentionally rest in God's grace! Praise Him that He is enough—you can add nothing to Him or to what He has done!

15. Now, before we move on, I want to ask you to define the difference between doing all things well as unto the Lord (as we are commanded to do) and working to obtain God's favor or working to prove your worth. Record this. This will help you in understanding your motives and the fruit you produce! If your motives are not from an overflow, then you need to deal with that with the Lord! Do not move on until this is dealt with—there is sooo much freedom on the other side of this, my sisters!! Allow God to show you that you cannot keep striving for something you have already received!

16. In Bible study I shared a story about my mom and her difficulty transforming her thought process out of legalism and rituals used to measure her worth, her righteousness, and her standing with God. Have you ever struggled with that? Do you still struggle with that? Do you know, at the root of it, why you struggle with that? Think about this and ask God to reveal that to you so you can rightly view Him and His grace!

17. Read 1 Samuel 5 and record the details of what happened when Dagon was set next to the glory and presence of God! Then I want you to write out Isaiah 45:5 and keep it somewhere in view to remind yourself any time you start to add to or put anything next to God! If we ever add anything to Jesus, we are saying the cross was not enough. Oh, how we need to be so careful! Salvation is by faith alone, through grace alone, in Christ alone!

18. Look again at verse 2, look up the word "Beware" it is mentioned 3 times just in this one verse! What does it mean? What is Paul trying to say? Beware of what?

19. What is the significance of dogs? Read Matthew 7:6 and 2 Peter 2:22 and record what further information you can find about dogs in Scripture. There are more, so feel free to find them! How does this group of people resemble dogs in this context?
20. What is the second thing he calls them and why? Be sure to look up the words if you have not done so already.
21. Read Psalm 22:16-18 and compare this verse to verse 2 in Philippians. What were they both face to face with and yet missed completely? What was their concern? The flesh can make us blinded to the truth, ladies. We have to beware and be diligent to deal with our flesh! Have you ever been in a similar situation—caught up so much with the flesh and emotions that you missed the working of God and the glory of God before you? Explain.
22. What is the third thing Paul calls them? Why?
23. Now you should understand a fuller picture of the significance here. Since the Judaizers had added to the cross with circumcision as the means of salvation, in trying to return to the old covenant they ended up with no covenant at all. They had taught that those who were grafted in must bear the signs of the true circumcision! Such people, Paul insisted, were no different than pagan mutilation!

All three of these descriptions are not just name-calling; they are also a way to reveal to the Judaizers that what they are doing is the exact opposite of why Christ came. What they hate is exactly what they have become—in hopes that they stop and realize! I love how, as angry as Paul is, he is very intentional with his words. We just have to dig a little deeper to mine it out!! This reminds us to be very careful—even in events of righteous anger—to be intentional with our words. To speak truth and be honest, but for the

purpose of exposure and repentance! Oh, how we need the Spirit of God for everything!! Is there a situation in your own life where you have righteous anger and need to be more intentional with your words? Explain, and ask God to help you navigate that. Ask Him to constantly fill you with His Spirit to give you wisdom and clarity!

24. There were two subtle things that I had mentioned that we have to be so very careful of! Put these somewhere you can refer back to them easily! Remember, especially with self-righteousness, it is so very natural for us to work in order to prove or obtain...so we need constant reminders of where our eyes should be and to whom we belong!
- 1- Anyone or any religion that says you must trust in your own works to gain salvation or favor of God! (You can not work to obtain something you already have!)
 - 2- Anytime our flesh is tempted to work for or add to our salvation by self righteousness!
25. Read this quote and write out how this has been true in your own life and how: “The law tells me how crooked I am. Grace comes along and straightens me out.” – Dwight Lyman (D.L.) Moody
26. Then just rest in the beauty of God’s unfailing grace, not in your performance—it was never about our performance anyway, it was always about HIS!! Then we get to spend the rest of our time here on earth running time and time again into the arms of our loving Father, knowing that the more we love Him, the more we learn how infinitely great His love is for us! Write out a prayer response to the Lord, tell Him how grateful you are for His love and grace! We serve a good, good God!!