

# Philippians Part 4 HANDOUT

1/7/24

**PHIL 3:1** Further, my brothers and sisters, rejoice in the Lord! It is no trouble for me to write the same things to you again, and it is a safeguard for you.

- Rejoice is a doing word, not just a feeling word.

**KEY:** Joy has much less to do with what's going on around you and much more to do with what's going on inside you.

- Joy is a byproduct of a relationship with God.

**PHIL 3:2** Watch out for those dogs, those evildoers, those mutilators of the flesh.

- Paul knows the Gospel message is at stake - if circumcision helped, then why did Jesus die?
- Paul most likely had some very legalistic Jewish people in mind and uses the very term that they would have used on them.

**KEY:** There's nothing we can add to the gift of salvation through Christ alone. It's Grace alone through Faith alone!

- The core problem of the Judaizers was pride—they boasted in their status as Jews and thought everyone had to be like them to be saved.

**PHIL 3:3-6** For it is we who are the circumcision, we who serve God by his Spirit, who boast in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh—<sup>4</sup> though I myself have reasons for such confidence.

If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: <sup>5</sup> circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; <sup>6</sup> as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless.

- Paul says, if you want to talk about bragging rights...I can brag!

**PHIL 3:7-9** But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. <sup>8</sup> What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ <sup>9</sup> and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith.

- Paul lists his credentials, and yet nothing compares to knowing who Jesus is and having a relationship with Him.
- The term garbage - in a more literal translation would mean “excrement.”
- All this is said while being chained to a prison guard - he doesn't know at this point whether he will live or die.

**QUOTE:** “When God wants to do an impossible task, he takes an impossible man, and he crushes him.”

~Alan Redpath

**PHIL 3:10-11** I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, <sup>11</sup> and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.

- But for Paul, giving up everything for Jesus is worth it.

Paul recognized the greater purpose of his life. He realized that knowing Jesus was greater than anything he could gain on earth—no social status, income bracket, or promotion could compare.

That's why we can joyfully sacrifice today. When we know Jesus and the grace he's given us, we can give our lives to him like Paul did.

**LIFE POINT:** Life is sweetest when it's given away.