

PHILIPPIANS 3a REJOICE, REVERE & REPEAT

Philippians 3:1a Finally, my brethren, **rejoice in the Lord.**

- I get this turned around sometimes. I admit. A situation will resolve... A prayer will get answered... A blessing will come, and I immediately rejoice in it – The situation, the answered prayer, or the blessing... That's NOT right...
- **GUZIK** - This is a fitting theme for the whole letter. (**Rejoice IN THE LORD**) Paul shared with the Philippians the principle of being able to rejoice **in the Lord** - not in circumstances or in situations, but **in the Lord** who works all things together for good.

1b for me to write the same things to you is not tedious, but for you *it* is safe. **IE, SAFEGUARDING THEIR FAITH!**

- You and I may never suffer for the Lord like the Apostle Paul did... But whether we do or don't - HOW SHOULD WE RESPOND?
- On our worst day, we should rejoice.
- On our best day... rejoice.

2 Beware of dogs, (**Mutilators**) beware of evil workers, beware of the mutilation! (**IE, those insisting on circumcision for Gentiles**)

- Chuck Smith thinks Paul was using the description of lazy and selfish shepherds as dogs in **Isaiah 56:10-11** –
- “10 His watchmen are blind, they are all ignorant; They are all dumb dogs, they cannot bark; Sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber. 11 Yes, they are

greedy dogs Which never have enough. And they are shepherds Who cannot understand; They all look to their own way, Everyone for his own gain, From his own territory.

- Paul sounds angry, doesn't he? HE WAS! He was furious that the Judaizers had arrived in Philippi teaching that in order to be saved, you had to be Jewish. AND... in order to be Jewish, you had to be circumcised.
- Paul would be just as angry to hear that "If you are really a Christian, you will join the Baptist Church; or the Presbyterian Church; or the Lutherans or Methodists of Full Gospel, half Gospel or 2/3's Gospel" – Which one is right?
- When I checked into the hospital last year they asked me, "What denomination do you want listed on your wrist band?" I said 100's.

BEING SET APART IS SPIRITUAL

3 For we are the circumcision, (*G4061 Spiritually speaking*) who **worship** God in the Spirit, **rejoice** in Christ Jesus, and **have no confidence in the flesh**,

- NLT - For we who worship by the Spirit of God are the ones who are truly circumcised. We rely on what Christ Jesus has done for us. We put no confidence in human effort,

Three important points:

- **Worship** God in the Spirit... (IE, you must have the H.S.)
- **Rejoice** in Jesus, NOT in circumstances.
- Have **no confidence in fleshly** rituals – They will make you look good ONLY.

3

MY USELESS RESUME (Spiritually speaking)

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.

- This is equivalent to those who say, "They are a good person."

- Thank you for living a good life – the problem is that you needed salvation before you were even born. **PSALM 51:5**

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

- WHEN were those acts of religion ever loss for Christ?
- When was tithing and giving loss? When was obeying the commandments loss? When was attending, supporting, and being involved a loss for Jesus Christ?
- THEY WERE A LOSS when the REPLACED a relationship with Jesus!
- Jesus DID NOT say “No one comes to the Father except by behaving well.” He certainly could have said that..... He did not.

LOSS & FOUND

8 Yet indeed I also count all things loss (**Lost**) 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; 10 that I may know Him and the **power** of His resurrection, and the fellowship of **His sufferings**, being conformed to His death, 11 if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

- **COURSON** - Paul isn't saying he hopes he goes to heaven when he dies. That's a given. Rather, he's speaking of the resurrection life—to live life here on earth through the power of Jesus' Resurrection.
 - Listen, it must have been difficult for the religious Jews to hear the Apostle refer to their precious religious rituals as garbage, BUT... in comparison to the precious blood of Jesus – they were... they are!
- **Wiersbe** - Like most “religious” people today, Paul had enough morality to keep him out of trouble, but not enough righteousness to get him into heaven! It was not bad things that kept Paul away from Jesus — it was good things! He had to lose his “religion” to find salvation.
 - Paul is making this statement thirty years after his Damascus Road conversion AND he is still talking in the present tense! Beloved, SO SHOULD WE be talking about what God is doing NOW and not just

talk about the past glories.

STRAINING TOWARD THE GOAL

12 Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of 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,

- The Apostle did nothing without doing it 100%, have you noticed that?
- He was probably the most productive prisoner-taker in the Jewish secret service... I bet he sewed more tents than anyone else on the job.
- And now that he has found the Lord, he is all in, 100%, dedicated, committed, faithful and willing to "take one for the team."
- Paul was so thankful that he held nothing back from the Lord. **I WANT THAT TOO!**
- SO... He chooses to forget about those failures in his past... V13

FORGET ABOUT IT!

PRESS ON!

14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

TWO THINGS TO REMEMBER:

1. **Toward means forward**... Never backwards. Our failures or our accomplishments can become distractions if we dwell on them rather than forgetting them and pressing on.
2. "Forgetting" is not just failing to remember, but **CHOOSING** to move on without getting mired down with the past...
 - a. It IS NOT saying that what happened doesn't matter... It is NOT saying that it was "OK."
 - b. It simply means that from this point – I **MOVE FORWARD!** Forward toward the finish line and I do it for the Lord!

ADVANCED CHRISTIANITY

15 Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind; **(Moving forward)** and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you.

STAY TOGETHER

16 Nevertheless, to *the degree* that we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us be of the same mind.

- If you have ever walked a group of kids of any age across a street you have learned a trade secret... What is it?
 - You hold hands while you cross... OR you lock arms... Or you go hand on shoulder... You go together as one group.
 - What happens if you don't?
 - That's what happens to the Church when we get all divided up.
 - We should really all move onto the same street here in Simi Valley...
 - Until then, let's keep meeting as often as possible!

WALK THIS WAY

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

- Watch for Christians to mimic and pattern your life after. As Lynette was feeling called to ministry as a teenager she began to carefully watch the wives of the Pastors of our church.
- They made a huge impact on our ministry and probably have no idea that they did.
- I have Pastors in my life who would not recognize my name, but they made huge impacts on my life and ministry.
- NOW... here is the "Lump in the throat truth" ... YOU are making an impact in somebody's life.
 - You may not know it. You may never know it. BUT... Somebody is using you for a pattern. **BUT BEWARE...**

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. **YIKES!**

Pick your heroes carefully!

WE ARE NOTW

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

Brothers & Sisters in Christ, Listen to me... “He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.”

There is no disease that can stand up to Him... There is no failure that can foil Him... There is no betrayal that can betray Him... There is no disloyalty that can delay Him!

There is no setback that can stop Him... There is no hidden shame that can keep Him from embracing, restoring, and refurbishing you.

God didn't make His Son a Carpenter for nothing!

SO... As we worship now, Let His love wash over you and cleanse you and make you as clean as driven snow... Amen