

Philippians

Chapter 3:1-3

- I. **Philippians 3:1** ¹Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you, to me indeed *is* not grievous, but for you *it is* safe.
- a. Finally
 - i. This is not an indication that Paul is wrapping up his letter. It's also not a conclusion to what was said about Epaphroditus.
 - b. Rejoice in the Lord
 - i. This has been the theme. Regardless of circumstances, health, tribulation...rejoice **in the Lord**.
 - ii. In the Lord is the key.
 - c. Writing the same things
 - i. Clearly, not every word that Paul ever wrote was canonized. We know Paul visited twice and that there was correspondence sent that led to Epaphroditus coming with a gift. This correspondence most likely included what he is about the reiterate.
 - d. Not grievous
 - i. **Grievous- Greek word *okneros*-** Strongs Con. From G3635; tardy, i.e. indolent; (figuratively) irksome:—grievous, slothful.
 - 1. Only three times in the NT. The other two are translated as “slothful”. (Romans 12:11, Matthew 25:26)
 - e. For you it is safe
 - i. Some other references where the author's intent was producing an intended result.
 - ii. **Jude3** ³Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was **needful for me to**

write unto you, and exhort *you* that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.

iii. **I Corinthians 7:8**⁸For though **I made you sorry with a letter**, I do not repent, though I did repent: for I perceive that the same epistle hath made you sorry, though *it were* but for a season.

iv. **II Peter 1:13**¹³Yea, I think it meet, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you up by putting *you* in remembrance;

II. **Philippians 3:2**²Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the concision.

a. Beware

i. Verse 1 ended with “it is safe”. Now, we see the word “beware”. Paul talked about writing the “same things” in verse 1. Those three observations create a context of continual warning for the Philippians. Three things they are to beware of.

ii. Acts 16 shows mostly Roman opposition. After ten years, we see additional dangers.

b. #1- Dogs

1. Jesus used terminology regarding the Canaanite woman to describe gentiles.

a. **Matthew 15:26**²⁶But he answered and said, It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast *it* to dogs

2. Solomon to describe fools

a. **Proverbs 26:11**¹¹As a dog returneth to his vomit, *so* a fool returneth to his folly.

3. Negative examples

a. **Matt 7:6**⁶Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you

- b. **II Peter 2:22** ²²But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog *is* turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.

4. Messianic Psalm

- a. **Psalm 22:16** ¹⁶For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have inclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet.
- b. **Psalm 22:20** ²⁰Deliver my soul from the sword; my darling from the power of the dog.

5. In Revelation

- a. **Revelation 22:14-15** ¹⁴Blessed *are* they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city. ¹⁵For without *are* dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.

c. #2 Evil Workers

i. Satan influences

- 1. **II Corinthians 11:13-15** ¹³For such *are* false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. ¹⁴And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. ¹⁵Therefore *it is* no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.
- 2. **Psalm 34:16** ¹⁶The face of the LORD *is* against them that do evil, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.

3. **II Timothy 4:14** ¹⁴Alexander the coppersmith did me much evil: the Lord reward him according to his works:
4. **Galatians 1:7-9**⁷Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. ⁸But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. ⁹As we said before, so say I now again, If any *man* preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.
5. **Colossians 2:14** ¹⁴Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;
6. **Galatians 3:1**¹O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you?

d. #3 Concision

- i. Judaizers
- ii. **Concision- Greek word *katatome***- Strongs Con. from a compound of G2596 and τέμνω témnō (to cut); a cutting down (off), i.e. mutilation (ironically):—
concision.
- iii. This is the only time this word is used in the Bible
 1. **Galatians 5:12** ¹²I would they were even **cut off** which trouble you.
 - a. Cut off- stronger word meaning amputate
 2. **Acts 15:1** ¹And certain men which came down from Judaea taught the brethren, *and said*, Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved.
 3. **Acts 15:5**⁵But there rose up certain of the sect of the Pharisees which believed, saying, That it was

needful to circumcise them, and to command *them* to keep the law of Moses.

4. **Galatians 5:2** ²Behold, I Paul say unto you, that if ye be circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing.
5. **Colossians 2:4** ⁴And this I say, lest any man should beguile you with enticing words.
6. **Colossians 2:14** ¹⁴Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;
7. **I Thessalonians 2:15-16** ¹⁵Who both killed the Lord Jesus, and their own prophets, and have persecuted us; and they please not God, and are contrary to all men: ¹⁶Forbidding us to speak to the Gentiles that they might be saved, to fill up their sins alway: for the wrath is come upon them to the uttermost.

III. **Philippians 3:3** ³For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.

a. We are the circumcision

i. **Gospel of the uncircumcision**

1. **Galatians 2:7** ⁷But contrariwise, when they saw that the gospel of the uncircumcision was committed unto me, as *the gospel* of the circumcision *was* unto Peter;

ii. **Circumcision for Israel (made by hands, separated unto God)**

1. **Genesis 17:14** ¹⁴And the uncircumcised man child whose flesh of his foreskin is not circumcised, that soul shall be cut off from his people; he hath broken my covenant.
2. **Romans 4:11** ¹¹And he received the sign of circumcision, a seal of the righteousness of the faith which *he had yet* being uncircumcised: that

he might be the father of all them that believe,
though they be not circumcised; that
righteousness might be imputed unto them also:

3. Outward expression of inward (New Covenant)

a. **Israel broke inner circumcision**

b. **Deuteronomy 30:6** ⁶And the LORD thy God will circumcise thine heart, and the heart of thy seed, to love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, that thou mayest live.

c. **Romans 2:25-29** ²⁵For circumcision verily profiteth, if thou keep the law: but if thou be a breaker of the law, thy circumcision is made uncircumcision. ²⁶Therefore if the uncircumcision keep the righteousness of the law, shall not his uncircumcision be counted for circumcision? ²⁷And shall not uncircumcision which is by nature, if it fulfil the law, judge thee, who by the letter and circumcision dost transgress the law? ²⁸For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither *is that* circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: ²⁹But he *is* a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision *is that* of the heart, in the spirit, *and* not in the letter; whose praise *is* not of men, but of God.

4. Body of Christ

a. **Romans 15:27** ²⁷It hath pleased them verily; and their debtors they are. For if the Gentiles have been made partakers of their spiritual things, their duty is also to minister unto them in carnal things.

b. **I Corinthians 12:13** ¹³For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we

be Jews or Gentiles, whether *we be* bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

- c. **Colossians 2:11-12** ¹¹In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ: ¹²Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with *him* through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.

5. It couldn't sanctify us today

- a. **Romans 15:16** ¹⁶That I should be the minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, that the offering up of the Gentiles might be acceptable, being sanctified by the Holy Ghost.

iii. Worship God in the Spirit

1. Samaritan woman

- a. **John 4:24** ²⁴God *is* a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship *him* in spirit and in truth.
- b. **Romans 12:1** ¹I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service.

i. Reasonable Service gives the idea of worship

- c. **I Corinthians 2:4-5** ⁴And my speech and my preaching *was* not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power: ⁵That your faith

should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.

i. For us today, we are to be led of, walking in and filled with the Spirit and not our own strength.

iv. Rejoice in Christ Jesus

1. This theme continues throughout this epistle. This word is a different greek word that is only translated rejoice once in this epistle. It's the word *kaochaomai*. It's usually translated glory or boasting. Considering the next verse, it makes sense why this form of rejoice denotes glory or boasting.

v. No confidence in the flesh

1. **Galatians 3:2-3**¹O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you? ²This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? ³Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?
2. **Romans 7:18** ¹⁸For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but *how* to perform that which is good I find not.
3. **Romans 8:8** ⁸So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.
4. **Romans 6:3-4** ³Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? ⁴Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. ⁵For if we have been planted together in the

likeness of his death, we shall be also *in the likeness* of *his* resurrection: ⁶Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with *him*, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

5. Our confidence is in the Lord

- a. **II Thessalonians 3:4** ⁴And we have **confidence in the Lord** touching you, that ye both do and will do the things which we command you.
- b. **Ephesians 2:8-9** ⁸For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is* the gift of God: ⁹Not of works, lest any man should boast.
- c. **Titus 3:5** ⁵Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

6. Our flesh is at war

- a. **Galatians 5:16-17** ¹⁶*This* I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. ¹⁷For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

7. Compare with Philippians 1:6

- a. **Same greek word (peitho)**
- b. **Philippians 1:6** ⁶Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform *it* until the day of Jesus Christ:
 - i. **See the contrast of what to be confident in and what not.**