

**Eagle Ridge Lake Elsinore**  
**A Study in Philippians — June 10, 2020**  
**Philippians 3:1-11**

**Read Philippians 3:1-11**

**Verse 1**

**1** Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you is no trouble to me and is safe for you.

- The center point of the letter: Rejoice in the Lord!
  - **Psalm 35:9**, “Then my soul will rejoice in the Lord, exulting in his salvation.”
  - **Habakkuk 3:18**, “yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will take joy in the God of my salvation.”

**Verse 2**

**2** Look out for the dogs, look out for the evildoers, look out for those who mutilate the flesh.

- We can rejoice in any circumstance, but we must BEWARE and always be ready.
  - “Dogs” = our purpose as Christians is to deliver the GOOD NEWS. In essence, we are “mail carriers”.
    - Who typically is the antagonist of the mailman?
    - Dogs will typically attack when they feel threatened. When the good news encroaches upon their territory, it is seen as a threat to their ignorant way of life.
    - **Psalm 22:16**, “For dogs encompass me; a company of evildoers encircles me; they have pierced my hands and feet —”
  - “Evildoers” = those that would purposefully preach a false gospel.
    - **Galatians 1:6-9**, “I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.”
  - “Mutilators of the flesh” = *Judaizers*; must become a Jew and adhere to the Law of Moses in order to fully be a part of the church; legalism.

**Verse 3**

**3** For we are the circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh—

- Our salvation & life in Christ has nothing to do with who we are or what we can do.
  - **Romans 2:28-29**, “For no one is a Jew who is merely one outwardly, nor is circumcision outward and physical. But a Jew is one inwardly, and circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter. His praise is not from man but from God.”
  - We live, worship, and serve by the Spirit fo God in us.
  - Our actions should be dictated by the Spirit of God, who Jesus is and what He did for us...period.

### Verses 4-6

**4** though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also. If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: **5** circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; **6** as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

- Paul lists his attributes as to his “fleshly qualifications” if those were to mean anything.
  - Paul was a Jew by birth, by law, by race (tribe of Benjamin), by education, by heritage.
  - Pharisee: considered the best of the all the Jews.
  - Persecutor: followed the law at all costs, and making sure others did as well.
  - Blameless: strict observer of the law **{obedience}**
- None of these were bad, or against the law. But it’s not our sense of morality that provides us salvation and gets us a pass through the heavenly gates.
  - We must lose our sense of religion to gain Christ! **{Philippians 1:21}**
  - **Jeremiah 9:23-24**, “Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the Lord who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the Lord.”

### Verses 7-8

**7** But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. **8** Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ

- Life in & according to Christ is what we long for.
  - **Psalms 73:25**, “Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you.”

- **John 17:3**, “And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.”
- “Everything a loss” & “Rubbish” [**dirt/dung/rotten food**]
- The world’s gain is more of an offensive odor compared to the sweet aroma of knowing Jesus.
- **2 Corinthians 2:14**, “But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere.”

### Verse 9

**9** and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—

- “Faith is the very opposite of human works; it is the reception of God’s work by those who acknowledge the futility of their own efforts to attain righteousness.” (Homer A. Kent)

### Verses 10-11

**10** that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, **11** that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

- Our association with Jesus is one of complete identification.
  - We can learn about Jesus [**knowledge**]. But we will not fully love Him until we experience life in His name.
  - We don’t seek out persecution and death. We don’t celebrate the martyr. We take comfort that we pursue to be like Christ in every aspect of our lives.
  - **Romans 6:5-8**, “For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. For one who has died has been set free from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him.”

### Application

- What are you living for? What are you trying to gain? What or Who is your priority in life?
- This is a great opportunity to evaluate your life in Christ.
- Take a spiritual inventory, maybe a material one as well.

**Worship Song/Video:** ‘Death Was Arrested’ by North Point Worship

## **Discussion Questions**

1. What did God tell you?
2. What did God teach you?
3. What is God tasking you to do?
4. What are some of the things (tangibles and intangibles) that may snare us and cause to lose our Christian joy?
5. Why is sincerity not enough for salvation? How is Paul a good example of this?
6. "He is no fool to give what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose." What does this mean to you?
7. Why is the first step to salvation to admit that you need to be saved?