

Rejoice in the Lord

Philippians 3:1-3

April 19, 2020

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Introduction

We see a transition in Philippians 3 in which Paul introduces a teaching that is in conflict with the gospel of Christ and a danger to the Philippian believers.

If left unchecked it would distort the gospel, hinder their joy and destroy their unity.

This opposition came from a sect that has become known as the Judaizers. The Judaizers were a group that seems to have embraced parts of the gospel (the person and work of Christ) but who also emphasized the need to keep the Law of Moses, and with that taught that Gentile Christians needed to be circumcised, in order to be saved.

Acts 15:1-2

Galatians 1:6-9; 2:1-5

After exhorting the Philippian believers to rejoice in the Lord, Paul proceeds to warn them about those who distort the gospel of Christ by focusing on outward requirements of the law and to encourage them in the salvation that comes by trusting in Christ alone.

By pointing out the difference between those opposing the gospel and those embracing the gospel by faith alone Paul also lays the foundation for the rest of the chapter where he illustrates by his own life the futility of putting confidence in the flesh for salvation and right standing before God

Transition

Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things *again* is no trouble to me, and it is a safeguard for you.

“Finally” (furthermore, now then, in addition, as for the rest

“to write the same things” (Phil. 3:18; 4:15-16)

“No trouble to me and a safeguard for you.”

1. The Command: Rejoice in the Lord. (3:1)

(Joy and rejoice in Phil. - 1:4, 18, 25; 2:2, 17-18; 3:1; 4:1, 4)

2. The Warning: Portrait of the Opposition. (3:2)

a. Beware of the dogs!

Psalm 22:16; Matt. 7:6;15:26; Luke 16:20-21

b. Beware of the evil workers!

Matthew 23:15

c. Beware of the mutilation! (false circumcision – NASB)

Gen. 15:6; 17:7-14 (Romans 4:9-12, 23-25)

Deut. 10:12-17

Jer. 9:25-26

3. The Encouragement: Portrait of the True People of God. (3:3)

We are the circumcision,

Circumcision here represents being a true heir of the promise made to Abraham (Romans 2:25-29; Galatians 3:26-29. It represents having a new heart Tit. 3:4-7

a. Who worship by the Spirit of God

John 4:23-24

Romans 8:1-4; Galatians 5:25; Ephesians 2:18-22

b. Who glory in Christ Jesus

1 Cor. 1:30-31; Eph. 2:8-9

c. Who put no confidence in the flesh

Luke 18:9-14

Paul in Phil. 3:4

Application:

Rejoice in the Lord. No matter what our circumstances are we need to rejoice in the Lord.

What is the source of our joy?

What are we trusting in for our salvation? Baptism? Good works? Praying a prayer? Or faith in Christ alone?

Pastors/elders must protect the flock from false teaching.