

PHILIPPIANS Lesson 29

Chapter 3, verses 1-7: Worship God in the Spirit, Rejoice in Christ Jesus, Have No Confidence in the Flesh

7 November 2022

Vs 1 “To write the same things to you...” The apostle Paul writes to these believers concerning some things which he had already taught them when he was with them. He is putting them in remembrance of these things, though they know them (2 Pet 1:12), to stir up their pure minds by way of remembrance (2 Pet 3:1).

- Repetition of doctrinal teaching “**Indeed is not grievous**” to the teacher. It is very beneficial to the recipients. “**For you it is safe.**”

Vs 2 “**Beware of dogs.**” This refers to a particular class of humans.

- **2 Peter 2:19-22** The “**dog**” (Prov 26:11) and the “**sow**” refers to someone who has escaped the things of the world through the shed blood of the Lord Jesus, but who has never escaped what they are by nature. These are Christians who often go back to their old carnal ways, as disgusting as those ways are.
 - They are saved but living as though they never were saved. Beware! Don’t spend time fellowshiping with these people. You will not change them, but they may change you.

“**Beware of evil workers.**” Instead of hanging out with those inclined to evil works, spend your time with someone who is serving Jesus Christ and living a clean and holy life.

“**Beware of the concision.**” This word modifies and contrasts against the word *circumcision*. We are warned here to watch out for those who have an outwardly religious FORM of a relationship with God, but who have no inward, genuine relationship with Him.

Vs 3 “**We are the circumcision...and have NO confidence in the flesh.**”

- **Colossians 2:6-12** There is a difference between walking like a Christian (vs 6-7) and being a Christian but walking like the world (vs 8).
- “**Ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands...**” (vs 11). This is not a circumcision of the flesh (a religious ritual). It is a spiritual circumcision “**made without hands.**”
 - Has the Holy Spirit truly separated your sins from your life?
 - Or do you go around boasting of and trusting your religion (circumcised the eighth day) while continuing to live a sinful life?
 - If you’re walking with Jesus Christ, He will SEPARATE you from your sins and enable you to live a godly life.

“**Worship God in the spirit.**” It’s not enough to rid your life of that which is wrong. We must also FILL our lives with that which is right. “**God is a spirit, and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.**” (John 4:4). You must establish a true relationship with the Lord, giving him the praise, honor, and glory that He deserves.

“Rejoice in Christ Jesus.” Are you enjoying a true relationship with Jesus Christ on a continual basis? Or is He just the “far away giver of eternal life?” He said, **“I’ll never leave thee nor forsake thee.”** (Heb 13:5). Are you taking advantage of that promise every day?

- Are you excited to know Christ, to read His word, to tell others about Him, and to talk to Him in prayer?

“Have no confidence in the flesh.” Jesus said, **“That which is born of the flesh is flesh”** (John 3:6). Your flesh is no better today than it was the day you got saved. It is just as capable of sin as it ever was.

- **Romans 7:16-18** **“I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing.”** Paul looked for a way to get his flesh to obey God but couldn’t find a way.
 - The only way to get victory over worldliness is to stop occupying yourself with the flesh entirely, stop wrestling with it.
 - Busy yourself with worshipping the Lord and rejoicing in Jesus Christ. That’s how you nullify the influence of the flesh.
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