

## GSM

### Philippians 3:1-5

#### I. Philippians 3:1

##### A. **Finally**- Gr. **loipon**- *for the rest*

1. This is the same as "in closing" - He is only half way done with the message! This should bring us comfort as preachers because Paul was long winded at times also

2. **Acts 20:9**- Paul was long preaching and put a young man to sleep and he fell from the third story and died. The rule is if someone dies from your preaching you got to raise them from the dead!

##### B. **rejoice in the Lord**

1. Paul is about to deal with the problem of legalism and legalists

2. Nothing will rob your joy any quicker than legalism- trying to keep rules of right and wrong to be more like God will put you under an oppressive load of duty, guilt, and condemnation.

3. We are to rejoice in the Lord- We can truly rejoice in grace and the gospel- good news- This is based in what the Lord has done and not us. We rejoice in the merits of the Lord Jesus that we share before the Father

4. we have joy from the union with the Lord- We are to draw upon the Lord's joy in us. Joy is a fruit of the Spirit of Christ within us

a. **John 15:11**- Joy is produced from abiding in Christ and drawing from Him

##### C. **write the same things**

1. As a minister do not be reticent to say and teach the same things over again. Many people are slow to learn and comprehend, especially concerning our identification with the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. We only hear a percentage of what was spoken to us the first time and comprehend even less.

2. Paul repeats the phrase "rejoice in the Lord" **three** times in this letter which gives illustration to this point.

a. This tells us that rejoicing in the Lord is a choice

b. This tells us that we can forget to rejoice in the Lord- we can focus on situations or we can focus on the Lord and His grace. We can always find cause to rejoice in the Lord! The finished

work of Christ and His promises never change over time and in different situations so we can rejoice in Him at all times!

**D. tedious to me-** Gr. **okneros-** *means to become weary and tired of waiting; to be irked due to waiting*

1. Again the renewing of the mind is a slow process as is fruit bearing

2. We all need to hear the same thing over and over again. This is how we learn. Look at kids- we have to tell them and tell them the same things before they get it. Kids often will roll their eyes and say, "You said that before"- But they still don't get it. One way you know if someone does not get a revelation is when they say, I have heard that before. If something is working in their life they will be happy to hear about it again. They will light up not shut down!

3. Many preachers get irked and tired of waiting for people to catch up to what they see in the Word. We must be patient with people and be willing to wait for them and go over the same things again and again with them and not get irked if they don't catch it right away or seem as excited as you are about what God has shown you in the Word. God does not get irked with us waiting for us to catch on to what He is wanting us to understand. He just keeps repeating it over and over.

**E. but for you it is safe-** Gr. **asphales-** *to make certain or established*

1. This word means to know something to the point we are certain of it. Hearing the same thing over again helps us know something for sure or certain. It establishes us in the truth

a. **Acts 21:34-** know for certain

b. **Acts 22:30-** know for certain

2. This word was used of an anchor being set that keeps a ship established and secure

a. **Hebrews 6:19**

3. repeating the same thing will cause it to be established in the people's minds and hearts

4. A minister is just that, a minister. We are here to serve others so we need to do what it takes to get the Word established in them

## **II. Philippians 3:2- Three things God says about legalists**

**A. Beware of dogs-** Gr. **kuon-** *wild dogs*

1. Paul calls the legalistic Jews who tried to bring his converts under the Law dogs.
2. Dogs were unclean. This was a huge insult in the Jewish world. Dogs and pigs were as low as you could go in calling someone something. God sees those who approach God by the Law as unclean!
3. Wild dogs would feed in the garbage and be vicious and attack all that were strangers to them- This is like legalists- they are mean and nasty and feed off the things of the flesh
4. Jewish legalists called the gentiles dogs. God sees legalists as the dogs!
5. What God says about dogs:
  - a. **Holy things are not given to dogs- Matthew 7:6-** Holiness is a gift from God through the cross but legalists can't and won't receive it! God does not give to dogs or swine. Legalism will never produce holiness. Holiness is given as a gift from the Lord.
  - b. **Dogs will not enter into the Heavenly kingdom- Rev. 22:15-** Those who approach God by the Law will not receive eternal life or have a part in the Holy City of God.

**B. Beware of evil workers**

1. The legalists boasted in good works. God calls them evil workers!
2. There is nothing good that comes out of the flesh- even the good of the flesh is rooted in evil
3. The only way we can truly work good is by placing faith in Christ to manifest His life in and through us by grace

**C. Beware of the concision-** Gr. *katatome-* *to mutilate or butcher*

1. This was a word play- **peritome-** *circumcision/ katatome-* *to butcher*
2. The legalists were teaching the gentiles that Paul got saved that they needed to be circumcised to be saved. Paul called them **butchers**. Legalistic preachers today are nothing but butchers of the Word of God and of the Gospel! You are called to be a minister of the New Covenant of grace, not a minister of the Law. Many ministers today butcher people's faith and walk with the Lord with legalism. Don't be a butcher!
3. true circumcision is of the heart- the new birth

### III. Philippians 3:3

#### A. **For we are the circumcision-** Gr. **peritome**

1. The true circumcision- a gentile or jew that is born again

#### B. **which worship God** - Gr. **latreuo-** *give sacred service*

#### C. **in the spirit-** lit. **by the Spirit/spirit**

1. serving God is done by trusting in Christ in us to perform for us.

The Holy Spirit manifests Christ in and through us

2. Legalists try to serve God their works for Him to accept

#### D. **and rejoice in the Lord Jesus**

1. **rejoice-** Gr. **kauchaomai-** *to boast-* The person who does the work gets the praise. God has done all the work and the works of faith we do are empowered by Christ within us.

2. The legalists boasted in themselves because they did all the work

E. **no confidence in the flesh-** Gr. **peitho-** *reliance upon-* authentic Christianity is placing no reliance upon the flesh to produce for God. It is reliance upon Christ to work in and through us!

### IV. Philippians 3:4-6

A. Paul could place more confidence in his flesh than anybody else

B. Paul used to boast in four areas which people in the flesh boast of today- His birth, His education, His social standing, and His achievements

1. **He was privileged in birth-** of the stock of Israel- God's chosen people, of the tribe of Benjamin- the tribe of the first king of Israel and the faithful tribe to God when Israel split off.

2. **He had privileged education-** Hebrew of the Hebrews- He was not Hellenized. He knew original Hebrew. He had to study for this

3. **He had privileged social status-** He was a Pharisee- The sect most admired by the public- However, one was accepted into this sect because of His birth, and education.

3. **He had boasted in His achievements-** He had greater zeal than all his contemporaries and persecuted the church. He performed the outward commands of the Law, but not the inward! He was blameless to outwardly to others, but not God!

a. **Romans 7:7-8-** He coveted inwardly- He inwardly broke the Law. This was the catch all commandment!

4. He seemed to forget that he did not choose where and to whom he was born. This was given to him. He forgot that he did not educate himself. He was given papers and approval to persecute the church. All these were given to him. Legalists are always boasting as if all the good things in their life originate in them.

a. **1 Cor. 4:7- All good things originate in God!**

C. If legalists really looked at things rightly they would see that underlying our lives is the foundation of grace- or gifts from God

1. **John 3:27**