

Philippians 3

Exhortations for Living the Christian Life

Salvation comes by faith in Christ alone.

“For by grace you have been saved, through faith, and not of yourselves, it is a gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast.”

Ephesians 2:8-9

Greek words Paul uses for the Judaizers

- *Kunas*—dogs, scavenging dogs that ran in packs
- *Kakous ergatas*—evil workers, preaching a false gospel
- *Katatome*—cutting down, mutilation of the body associated with pagan worship

Circumcision of the Heart

By using the Greek word for circumcision (*peritome*), the word normally used for circumcision, Paul makes a contrast between a pure heart dedicated to God and an outward, physical sign of being set apart to God—an internal spiritual transformation versus an external physical ritual.

Romans 2:29

“A Jew is one inwardly, and circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter [law].”

3 Distinctive Qualities of the True Circumcision

- They worship in or by the Spirit of God.
- They boast in Christ and what He has done for them.
- They put no confidence in human effort.

The Power of His Resurrection

Romans 6:3-5—“Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? Therefore, we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, in order that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall be also in the likeness of His resurrection.”

The Fellowship of Christ's Suffering

- “Everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution” (2 Tim. 2:12, NLT).
- Believers do not “be surprised at the fiery trials you are going through, as if something strange is happening to you. Instead, be very glad—for these trials make you partners with Christ in His suffering, so that you will have the wonderful joy of seeing His glory revealed to the world” (1 Peter 4:12-13).

Bad Examples to Follow

“You were called to freedom brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity to indulge in the flesh” (Galatians 5:13a, NASB).

Bad Examples to Follow

Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me. For whoever wishes to save his life shall lose it; but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel’s shall save it” (Mark 8:34-35, NASB).

Things to Remember from Chapter 3

- Rejoice in the Lord! It’s a command.
- Beware of those who teach that you can have salvation any other way than through Christ alone or teach that you must add works to faith in Christ.
- Do we really regard all things as loss compared to the surpassing value of knowing Christ?

Things to Remember from Chapter 3

- Strive toward the goal of knowing Christ and becoming more like Him.
- Forget the things behind. Are there things in your past that hinder your spiritual growth?
- Let us live as representatives of our true homeland in this foreign land while we wait for the return of our glorious King, Jesus.