

Philippians: Chapter 3

- V. 1 – “Finally, my brethren (SC: means “brothers of me”; **so don’t take that lightly**) rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things again is no trouble for me, and it’s a safeguard for you.”
 - SC: So here’s a cool thing: “Write the same things” (circle that). In other words: **Repetition is a safeguard**. Kinda obvious, it’s staring you right there in the face. So you circle both of those and you put them together. When people get irritated by something being repeated, just spout out the principle.
- V. 2 – “Beware of: 1) the dogs; 2) the evil workers; 3) the false circumcision”
 - SC: Three “beware’s” – why? Remember lists / patterns. Why three “beware’s”?
 - And is he talking about actual “dogs”? No that’s what he’s labeling these adversaries. So he’s calling adversaries “dogs” and “evil workers”.
 - Member Question: Is “circumcision” here also meant to be figurative.
 - SC: Right. **“False theology” is a good way to look at it.** The word over in the right margin says “mutilation” so that doesn’t have to be circumcision. It can be that you’re supposed to mutilate your body somehow to gain God’s favor, instead of just giving your heart and life to Jesus as your Lord and savior.
 - And people would mutilate their bodies. Go look at African tribes and how those people mutilate their bodies and follow their Gods. That’s what this is talking about.
- V. 3 – “...for we are the true circumcision”
 - SC: The Greek word for “circumcision” is “peritome” – what does that mean?
 - “Peritome” – circumcised ([link to word definition](#))
 - the act or rite of circumcision, “they of the circumcision” is a term used of the Jews
 - of Christians gathered from among the Jews
 - the state of circumcision
 - metaph.
 - of Christians separated from the unclean multitude and truly consecrated to God
 - the extinction of passions and the removal of spiritual impurity
 - “...who worship in the Spirit of God and the glory of Christ and put no confidence (**no dependency**) in the flesh.”
- V. 4 – “...although I myself might have confidence in the flesh. If anyone else has a mind to put confidence in the flesh, I far more: [talking about himself now]
 - V. 5 – “circumcised on the 8th day, of the nation of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews as to the Law, a Pharisee;”

- SC: In other words, he is saying, “If you want to talk about your credentials, weigh them against mine.”
 - V. 6 – “as to seal, a persecutor of the church; as to the righteousness which is in the Law, found blameless”
 - SC: So there he’s spouting his credentials in vv. 4-6. **Paul’s fleshly credentials.**
- V. 7 – SC: But look at what he says about his fleshly credentials.
 - “But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ.”
 - SC: That’s a verse to memorize. I memorized that 35 years ago.
- V. 8 – “More than that, I count all things to be loss in the view of the surpassing value of **knowing (SC: The Greek work here is gnosko – “the knowledge of Christ”; this goes back to the “ways of God vs. the acts of God”, right there; that’s what I need you to see, really important)** Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish **in order that I may gain Christ,**
 - SC: “In order that I might gain Christ” is a powerful phrase. You should memorize it.
- V. 9 – “...and I may be found **in** Him (doesn’t say “with”, “under”, or “for” Him; it says “in” Him), not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law (SC: that is, my credentials in vv. 4-6), but that which is through faith (not through credentials), the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith,...”
 - Member Question: So is **v. 7-8 just repeating what he said in 1:21 (“for me, to live is Christ and to die is gain”)**?
 - SC: Yes, sure is. Good catch. Very good catch. You’re catching patterns. That’s the way it happens.
- V. 10 – SC: So here’s a list. “...that I may know:
 1. Him
 2. the power of his resurrection
 3. the fellowship (“the participation”) of His sufferings, ...being conformed to His death.”
 - SC: You need to **memorize this verse**. You want to be conformed, you want to be Christ-like? There you go. There’s a verse somewhere that says “be conformed into His image”, line it up with this verse.
- V. 11 – “...in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.”
- V. 12 – “Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but **I press on** so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus.” **This is a cool verse.**
- V. 13 – “Brethren I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one things I do; forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead,”
- V. 14 – “**I press on** (SC: there it is again) toward the goal (objective) for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”
 - SC: So “I press on” – repetition (in verse 12 and verse 14). But you should memorize verse 14.
- SC: So you should have the courage to label someone a dog, an enemy (v. 18), an evil worker. Paul does, why don’t you?
- V. 21 – “...who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.”