



Philippians 3

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Philippians 3:1-6

We see Paul's heart of a pastor even though he is not only away from the Philippians, but he is incarcerated away from them, and yet his heart to protect and equip them does not diminish. Paul encourages the Philippians considering the Judaizes, that it is we as Christians who are the true circumcision because circumcision is a matter of the heart and cannot be fulfilled in the flesh, and that it's about what the Lord desires. For us to allow Him to do an inward work in our heart and replace things that shouldn't be there. There are things which need to be taken out and new things put in.

Paul continues by telling the Philippians that there are going to be things that the Christian is going to have to lay aside which they had obtained in the flesh, and that our righteousness is dependent upon our heart of humility that it's not by our flesh which we can obtain anything which is lasting.

There are 3 important views of righteousness which the Christian must have, that we are not as righteous as we think we are, that God is more righteous than we often think He is, and we need to have a righteous view of others.

And we can do this because we do not ignore the warning of verse 2, to be aware of legalism and becoming a pharisee, that we are righteous by our own standards, or we may obtain righteousness by some act of our own.

Study Questions:

What "same things" is Paul referring to in verse 1?

What does Paul repeat 3 times in verse 2?

Why do authors in the Bible repeat things?

What does beware mean?

Who do dogs refer to?

Why does Paul call them dogs?

What is the true circumcision in life of a believer?

What is the false circumcision?

Why is this so dangerous?

What is the key difference between the two?

What is the confidence of the flesh?

What list does Paul give in verse 4-6?

Is Paul boasting?

What is Paul's point in giving this list?

How many things did Paul gain in his flesh?

Philippians 3:7-11

Paul encourages us that all things are lost for the knowledge of Christ, and that we shouldn't hold fast to what the world says is our identity, and we shouldn't be threatened to be called to lay down what the world says our value and identity is found in.

There are principles which governed Paul's life and should govern our lives as well, 2 Timothy 3:16, which is precluded by principles the world holds to. And Paul says what Scripture is good for and that it's scripture which should govern our life. God's Word is profitable and beneficial and instructs us in righteousness, so that the man of God can be complete.

Study Questions:

When did Paul count the things he gained in His flesh as a loss?

What things does Paul count as a loss for the knowledge of Christ?

What did Paul lose for accepting Christ?

What did Paul gain for losing what He lost because Christ was truly his Lord?

How many things did Paul gain in the Spirit?

What is our righteousness from?

Are we able to follow the law to become righteous?

How are we made righteous?

What is unrighteous behavior?

Philippians 3:12-14

These principles are that we should press on for the reason which we were laid hold to by God, and that we press toward this goal.

1. We lay hold of God's calling, and to do that we need to realize that we don't belong to ourselves; we've been redeemed, which is a banking term that means we've be purchased at a price and in Peter's epistle were told that price was the Blood of Jesus. We realize our life isn't our own then we're willing to offer it to Jesus and ask Him how He wants us to live, and not the other way around.

2. And that there are somethings which we need to forget which will keep us from laying hold of the calling we have been called for in this life. There are three things we're called to forget which are behind us that keep us from this the first being our failure, guilt, and value systems we had before; and the second being forgetting the success and prizes which we had before. In order to move forward we have to live forward, no longer living in the past.

Study Questions:

How are we perfected?

When are we perfected?

What can we do to allow the Lord to work more effectively in our life?

What are we to lay hold of?

What should we forget?

What should we reach forward for?

What do we reach forward for?

Philippians 3:15-4:1

Paul says that by Pressing On it will help us to grow and develop spiritually in the things of Christ. There are two areas Paul encourages the Philippians here which they need continue growing in. The first being their Spiritual Maturity, and we do this how Paul encouraged the Galatians in chapter 6, it's those more mature in the faith helping those who are younger in the faith by lifting the burdens for a period until they have grown to be able to carry it for themselves. 1 John 2 tells us that these are little children, fathers, and young men in the Faith. Second Paul writes that we need to mature spiritually so that we can Standing Fast in the Lord and the rule by which we measure and grow according to so that we can stand fast is by the Word of God.

Paul says that the children, fathers, and young men in the faith you must also scope out and look out for those who are doing this and growing and maturing spiritually and standing fast in the trials of life get close to them and allow them to leave a positive impression on our life.

Study Questions:

What direction does Paul say pressing on takes us to?

How does Spiritual Maturity happen in the life of a Believer?

What mind is Paul talking about?

What is one of the things the Holy Spirit does in our lives?

What degree is Paul talking about?

What rule are we supposed to walk by?

What is our "same mind" supposed to be about?

What does it mean to follow another's example?

What does note mean?

Who should we search for? What should we do when we spot them?

What does pattern mean?

Who should we not let leave an impression upon our lives?

Are there those within the Church who do these things?

How do we respond to them?

What does citizenship mean?

What does it mean to wait for someone?

Who are we waiting for?

Where should our focus be?

What will Jesus do when He returns for His Church?

What is a mature believer then capable of doing?

How does standing fast profit a believer?