

Philippians Class Schedule

5/12/2024	Phil 2:14-16	No grumbling or disputing
5/19/2024	Phil 2:17-18	Poured out as an offering
5/26/2024	Phil 2:19-24	Timothy example
6/2/2024	Phil 2:25-30	Epaphroditus example
6/9/2024	Phil Chp 2	Chp 2 Review
6/16/2024	Phil 3:1-3	Beware of men of the flesh
6/23/2024	Phil 3:4-6	Paul's resume in the flesh
6/30/2024	Phil 3:7-9	Knowing Christ Jesus my Lord #1
7/7/2024	Phil 3:10-11	Knowing Christ Jesus my Lord #2
7/14/2024	Phil 3:12-16	The call of God in Christ Jesus #1

CHRISTIAN MATURITY or “*Shunning, Pursuing, and Walking*”*

Shunning All Legalism 3:1-11

1. The Warning Given 3:1-6

a. The Safeguard of Repetition 3:1

b. Beware and Put No Confidence in the Flesh 3:2-3

c. **The Example of Human Righteousness 3:4-6**

2. The Grace Perspective 3:7-11

a. His Past: Renunciation of All Personal Merit 3:7-9

b. His Present: Total Dedication to Knowledge of Christ
3:10-11

Last Week's Verses

¹ Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things *again* is no trouble to me, and it is a safeguard for you.

² Beware of the dogs, beware of the evil workers, beware of the false circumcision;

³ for we are the *true* circumcision, who worship in the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh,

Today's Verses

⁴ although I myself might have confidence even in the flesh. If anyone else has a mind to put confidence in the flesh, I far more:

⁵ circumcised the eighth day, of the nation of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the Law, a Pharisee;

⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to the righteousness which is in the Law, found blameless.

³ for we are the *true* circumcision, who worship in the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh

for

we are [*eimi*] the circumcision

the ones

worshiping by the Spirit

and

glorying in Christ Jesus

and

not having confidence in the flesh

and in Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ

Col 2:11

Gal 5:25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit.

Gal 6:14 But may it never be that I would boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴ although I myself might have confidence even in the flesh.
If anyone else has a mind to put confidence in the flesh, I
far more:

even though I [Paul] could be having confidence also in
the flesh

Interlinear

- in verse 3 Paul said he “put no confidence in the flesh”
- now in verse 4 he says in contrast he could be having
confidence also in the flesh
- could be having - *echo* - to have and hold, implying
continued possession
- the idea of the flesh is in his human merits
- Paul will next elaborate on the human merits of his
confidence:

⁴ although I myself might have confidence even in the flesh.
If anyone else has a mind to put confidence in the flesh, I
far more:

If any other person thinks to have confidence in the flesh,
I more Interlinear

If – assumed to be true

•Wuest has it “If, as is the case”

any other person [*allos*] - lit: any other person of the
same kind as Paul

•we will see the kind of person Paul was in verses 5-6

thinks - *dokeō* - to suppose, to think, to form an opinion

•Wuest has it as “presumes”

⁴ although I myself might have confidence even in the flesh.
If anyone else has a mind to put confidence in the flesh, I
far more:

to have confidence - *peithō* - to be persuaded or to be
confident

• *peitho* is in the perfect tense – past completed action
with abiding results into the present

• lit: to have come to a settled persuasion

in the flesh – in Paul's human condition

I more – *ego mallon*

• lit: I greater

I could occupy that place, and with more reason Wuest

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- He [Paul] cited seven advantages:
 - The first four being things he inherited [2 Cor 11:22]
 - The last three things he chose by conviction *Constable

1 - circumcised the eighth day

- Wuest - eight days old in circumcision
- Levi 12:1-3 Then the LORD spoke to Moses --- : When a woman gives birth and bears a male child, --- On the eighth day the flesh of his foreskin shall be circumcised.

2 - of the nation of Israel

- lit: of the race [offspring] of Israel Interlinear
- the Jews used word “Israelite” to describe themselves when they wanted to stress their special relationship to God (Luke 1:54 and 68) Barclay

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3 - of the tribe of Benjamin*

- Benjamin was the younger of the two sons born to Jacob's favorite wife, Rachel.
- Benjamin was the only son of Jacob who was born in the Promised Land.
- The tribe of Benjamin provided many noble warriors throughout Israel's history (cf. Hos. 5:8).
- Israel's first lawful king came from the tribe of Benjamin.
- Jerusalem and the temple stood within Benjamin's territory.
- This tribe alone, beside Judah, remained loyal to David's house when the monarchy divided in 931 B.C.

* Constable

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4 - a Hebrew of Hebrews*

- First used of Abram in Gen 14:13
- Means that Paul's parents brought him up as a strict Jew observing Jewish customs, unlike many Hellenistic Jews (cf. Acts 6:1).
- Specifically he learned the Hebrew language and studied the Old Testament in the original tongue, not like so many other Jews of the Diaspora who could only speak and read Aramaic (cf. Acts 22:2).

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• Next, we have Paul's zealous convictions:

- a Pharisee
- a persecutor of the church
- having become blameless

as to – *kata* –
“according to”

1st – **Paul was a Pharisee according to [norm and standard of] the Law**

- Acts 26:5b --- I lived as a Pharisee according to the strictest sect of our religion.
- Gal 1:14 and I was advancing in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries among my countrymen, being more extremely zealous for my ancestral traditions.

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2nd Paul was a persecutor of the church according to [the norm and standard] of zeal

- Gal1:13 For you have heard of my former manner of life in Judaism, how I used to persecute the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it.

- Acts 26:9b --- I had to do many things hostile to the name of Jesus of Nazareth.

- ^{10b} not only did I lock up many of the saints in prisons, --- but also when they were being put to death I cast my vote against them.

- ^{11b} I punished them often in all the synagogues, I tried to force them to blaspheme; and being furiously enraged at them, I kept pursuing --- to foreign cities.

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3rd – Paul having become blameless according to [norm and standard] of righteousness in the Law

- He said that he became blameless so far as the righteousness which is in the law was concerned. He had carried this righteousness so far as to become perfect before men.

Wuest

- Acts 24:16 I [Paul] also do my best to maintain always a blameless conscience both before God and before men.

- Paul's obedience to the Law of Moses, as it regulated external behavior, had been without blame. He was very conscientious about what the Law required and omitted no observance however trivial.

Constable

Next Week

⁷ But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ.

⁸ More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ,

⁹ and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from *the* Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which *comes* from God on the basis of faith.