

Philippians - Chapter 3 Review

Holly Hills Bible Church - Aug 11,
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“Finally my brethren rejoice in the Lord.”

Are we to rejoice because everything is just sailing along smoothly in our lives? (success, pleasure, prosperity, recognition)

3:7 But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted loss for the sake of Christ.

Our “rejoicing” is always to be in fellowship with the Lord and not in anything else.

Why does Paul say that this reminder to rejoice in the Lord is a “safeguard?”

ἀσφαλής “safeguard” - without wavering, without failing

Paul is wanting to safeguard the Philipians against their own natural tendency.

What is our own natural tendency when it comes to rejoicing?

What sort of things do we typically rejoice in?

- Possessions...
- Status, position, recognition, dignity, freedom...

Everything we naturally rejoice in is rooted in SELF.

In chapter 3 Paul shows a contrast between:

- **2 kinds of circumcision**
- **2 kinds of righteousness**
- **2 kinds of gain**
- **2 kinds of walk**

The 2 kinds of circumcision

Katatomé vs *peritomé*

“*false circumcision*” vs “*true circumcision*”

“*mutilation*” vs “*circumcision*”

- *katatomé*; noun from *katatémnō* (n.f.), to cut through or off. A cutting away, mangling. (butchering)
- *peritomé*; noun from *peritémnō*, to cut around, circumcise.

Who is Paul referring to as the “mutilation”?

The Judaizers. Those who want to put the Church under the law of Moses.

How would we identify these people in the North American Church of today?

Those who hold to reformed/covenant theology.

Why is legal teaching so dangerous?

Law keeps the believer from depending on Christ to do the living through them by faith.

How does Paul contrast the “circumcision” with the “mutilators”? (verse 3)

- Those who worship in the Spirit of God
- And glory in Christ Jesus
- And put no confidence in the flesh.

What else do we find out about the legalists in verses 18 and 19?

- Enemies of the cross
- Their end (τέλος) is destruction
- Their god is their appetite (κοιλία - belly)
- Their glory is in their shame
- They set their minds on earthly things

Colossians 2:11-12 (NASB)

¹¹ 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; ¹² having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.

The 2 kinds of righteousness

- A righteousness of my own derived from Law.
- The righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith.

What is the fundamental difference between these two kinds of righteousness?

SOURCE - One is sourced in self, the other is sourced in Christ

MEANS - One comes through works of the law, the other comes through faith alone

The 2 kinds of gain

Verse 7- “whatever things were gain to me I have counted as loss...”

Verse 8- “...that I may gain Christ.”

How could we describe these two gains?

What does it mean to gain Christ?

The 2 kinds of walk

¹⁷ Brethren, join in following my example, and observe those who walk according to the pattern you have in us.

¹⁸ For many walk, of whom I often told you, and now tell you even weeping, *that they are* enemies of the cross of Christ,

**And there are only 2 ways to conduct ourselves, not 101.
What are they?**

LAW or GRACE

What is it that separates us from the power of the flesh to produce its rubbish works?

The cross of Christ!

Our day to day sufferings are the gradual working out of the reality of the cross of Christ in our lives.

Our greatest cause for rejoicing as believers is the fellowship of our Savior's sufferings.

N.B.H.H. 8-5

“A life of patience intervenes between the day of illumination and the day of glorification. I am not to count on a path of pleasure – a path of ease – a path of prosperity – on being more distinguished tomorrow than today; but I am to count on a path of patience. And is not there glory in that? Yes, there is companionship with the Lord Jesus Christ.” J.G. Bellett

In regard to the external Cross, the obvious fact is that “Christ died for our sins.” As to the internal Cross, while not so obvious, it is still a fact that we are to be “always delivered unto death for Jesus’ sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh” (2 Cor. 4:11).

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