

Philippians Chapter Three

Rejoice: this is considered the rejoice epistle: Phil 1:4 (making request with joy); Phil 1:18 (.. Christ is preached; and I therein do rejoice, yea, and will rejoice); Phil 1:25 (I will continue with you for your furtherance and joy of faith); 1:26 (that your rejoicing may be abundant in Jesus Christ for me....); Phil 2:2 (fulfill ye my joy, that ye be likeminded....); Phil 2:16-18 (Holding forth the word of life that I may rejoice in the day of Christ...;.....if I be offeredI joy and rejoice; for the same cause do ye joy and rejoice with me.; Phil 2:28,29 (...that when ye see him again ye may rejoice; receive him in the Lord with all gladness. Phil. 3:1 (Finally brethren, rejoice in the Lord); Phil 3:3 (we rejoice in Christ Jesus); Phil. 4:4 (Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice.) Phil 4:10 (I rejoiced in the Lord greatly....at last your care of me hath flourished again. All this talk of joy from a man who had been mobbed, beaten, imprisoned....for thirty years or so. God is truly our joy inside tears.

v. 3:1 – Paul starts with the exhortation to rejoice in the Lord. This is the first time in the epistle that he says rejoice in the Lord, or because of what the Lord has done. Although he has told them this before, it's good for them that he is emphasizing this. You have a reason to rejoice in the Lord; your salvation is in the Lord; your acceptance is in the Lord.

v.3:2 – Beware of dogs, evil doers, the concision, who would try to shut down your rejoicing because they want you to be circumcised and obey the law as a condition of your salvation. 3:3- we in Christ are the true circumcision, circumcised in our hearts (Deut: 30:6; Rom. 2:29; Col 2:11). So we have no confidence in anything we do to our flesh or do in the flesh to achieve acceptance and salvation. On the contrary, rejoice in the Lord who is our salvation by faith.

v. 3;5,6 – However, if anyone thought that he could be saved by what he has done in the flesh, Paul certainly had done even more. Circumcised the 8th day (according to the Law), stock of Israel (pure), tribe of Benjamin, Pharisee, persecuting the church (perceived to be heretics), diligently adhering to the law (blameless).

v.3:7-11 – Yet Paul reevaluated his pedigree as less than nothing (dung) for the more excellent knowledge of Christ. He just wanted the Lord, and be one with him (found in him) not in his own righteousness which is of the law (and insufficient to make him accepted) but in the righteousness which is of God by faith in Christ Jesus. 10) to know him and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship (sharing) of his sufferings, and continually molded into the form of Christ's death, until the final resurrection in which we are complete in Christ—If by any means = whatever it takes – imprisonment, suffering, death. We shall be like Him.

v. 3:12 – Paul says: I haven't gotten there yet, not perfect yet, but I'm pressing toward that end, so that I may grab a hold of that which Christ grabbed a hold of me. Christ grabbed me so that I could grab eternal life. 3:13 – I haven't gotten there yet, but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind (what I thought would save me), and reaching forth unto those things which are before (the truth of the gospel of Christ and the promise of salvation), I press toward the mark for the prize (eternal life) of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. 3:15) lets all have that attitude. If we have some other idea, God will reveal the right thing to us.