

## ***Beware and Rejoice*** **Philippians 3:1-11**

If we could rate our joy & rejoicing this morning & put it on a scale 1-10 how high or low would yours be & if it's low what factors are stealing that joy and rejoicing--circumstances, situations, problems, people or maybe just things, possessions or lack of. This is what Paul deals w/ in Ch 3 things that rob our joy & rejoicing; 16 times in his letter of joy and rejoicing.

***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.***

When Holy Spirit seals us He marks our lives w/ Joy & rejoicing. Paul is in Mamartine prison w/ this exhortation. There are many circumstances I don't have joy in. *CS Lewis in 'The Problem w/ Pain' "Life carries w/ it more pain than pleasure'* Yet, God is greater, so we rejoice in **Him**. Circumstances can bring us down, hurtful, painful, stressful things. But God is bigger than anything that comes our way & will handle it--so in this we rejoice.

There is a truth to rejoicing in difficult times. But only true if focus is on object of rejoicing, *'in the Lord'*. **Otherwise** its worlds glass half full, think positive, focus on the good belief. We are to focus on a person, Jesus who is sovereign & has all my problems & troubles in His hands. Action has corresponding reaction. Do it & you'll feel it. Focus on Him not you.

**Spurgeon** writes that "Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord." But never do it finally, never come to an end of it. Rejoice in the Lord, and yet again rejoice, and yet again rejoice; and as long as you live, rejoice in the Lord

Greek Stoics in **Acts 17:18** had no room for joy, which they regarded as a false judgment of reality. If you felt joyful, you must be ignorant of the facts!

Paul writes to them what he taught them when he was w/ them. His letter put in remembrance of what he said. Long after Paul church still remember

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We need a constant reminder that God is in charge, we can easily forget & lose focus. God is near, He's in control, I can trust Him, He will work things out to His glory & my good, so I can rejoice in the Lord.

*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, 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:*

*Safeguard* for church because of strange doctrines & questionable teachers *Is 56:10 false prophets called dumb dogs*, scavenger dogs in packs-mean, attacking, like some today. They familiar w/ word but corrupt it

Evil workers draw away from work of Christ to themselves...fanatical, unbalance, quarrelsome & contentious—Pharisees were the circumcised as was Paul legalists *strain gnat*...Here *false circumcision* Jews claim to be Christian & put people under law for salvation. Gentiles need circumcision to be saved. Cut mutilate body like pagans in frenzied rituals 1Ki 18:28

We true circumcision of heart...*Jesus is enough* no ritual or laws will save

:3...**3 traits** **1** spiritual worship not mans legalism-ordinances, washings, rituals, diets, ceremonies, keeping days & months-relationship not religion.

**2** Glory in Christ not outward religion such as denominations, doctrines, forms & formulas. **3** No fleshly confidence to point to--accomplishments-'*we have Ab as father*...external laws Salvation is not faith in Jesus Christ plus.

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

Paul uses himself as what not to trust in...from worldly point of view

impressive & tempting to trust in. :3 *No confidence in flesh* if one has, I far

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more—Paul's accomplishments—kept law as it interpreted *R.Y.R. I've done all* – look down on other *publican*—superior—Road Damascus encounter-Jesus—hard kick goads

**1** not proselyte but natural born, native Israelite **2** Benjamin first king of Israel, Temple, Fathers favorite, stood w/ Judah when kingdom divided 10 split. **3** Heb of Heb M/F pure Heb blood, no Gentiles in family tree. **4** Circum 8<sup>th</sup> day true to Law Ab Gen 17 Lev 12:3 sign of covenant people in flesh. **5** Pharisee-Gamaliel, strict, prestigious. **6** Persecutor of anything contrary to strict Judaism-**zeal highest virtue** to Jewish religion. On trial Caesarea before Agrippa Acts 26:9 *'do many things hostile to name Jesus.* **7** Outward law keeping flawless.

*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 in order 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,*

*Knowing* experientially--gain/loss-accounting terms, business terminology, describing Paul's spiritual condition—his spiritual credentials--great things in Judaism but he puts in **loss column** when he came to Christ-*count as dung*, manure-his past-trash compared to Christ. Can't improve on Gods imparted R based on faith. *Oh foolish Galatians*

Not legal Righteousness but imparted, not my own, self-righteous by what I do-ceremonies, rituals, works, law keeping but by faith in Christ-*it is finished*

*10 that I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; 11 in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.*

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Paul put sanctification on same level as salvation, grace thru faith—God's work to conform is just like His work to save—*know* experientially by power of Christ death, burial, resurrection—deal w/ sin same as w/ pardon.

Deepest knowledge of God is fellowship of suffering.

Hope of resurrection carried Paul thru hard times...*absent body present w/ Lord*. Immediately when leave this life enter next w/ Jesus. Unbelievers in holding compartment--*torment* Lk 16 awaiting Great white throne Rev 20

People talk how God moved in past, a good thing, but must take past experiences into present situations to be valid otherwise we are just living in the past-*oldies but goodies*-Paul did and so should we, bring past experiences into work of spirit today. Paul spoke of rituals and said they have no value unless you are changed by Jesus Christ...*For neither is circumcision anything, nor uncircumcision, but a new creation. Gal 6:15* changed life....Same w/ baptism outward sign of inward work or go down dry sinner & come up wet sinner.