



Philippians

Having The Mind of Christ

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Lesson 8 (Philippians 3:1-14) The Mind of Christ Regarding Righteousness

Philippians 3:1-14
(New King James Version)

1. Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. For me to write the same things to you *is* not tedious, but for you *it is* safe.
2. Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the mutilation!
3. For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh,
4. though I also might have confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so:
5. circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, *of* the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee;
6. concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.
7. But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ.
8. Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ
9. and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which *is* from the law, but that which *is* through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith;
10. that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,
11. if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.
12. Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.
13. Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing *I do*, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead,
14. I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Intro

1. The first part of 3:1 seems disconnected from the remainder of this text, but it serves as a kind of topic sentence for the section. Read verses 1-14; then explain the significance of the statement: “Rejoice in the Lord” in this context.

False Concepts of Righteousness (3:1-6)

1. Do you think Paul was a negative kind of preacher who enjoyed warning against “false teachers”? Explain why writing such warnings was not tedious for him.
2. Paul uses the word “beware” three times. Of what were they to beware? Were these three different threats or different descriptions of the same threat?

3. Identify the false teaching about which Paul warns (Acts 15:1 may help).
4. What are the characteristics of the true circumcision? Where do the characteristics of true circumcision exist?
5. Before Paul became a Christian, what things would he have boasted of as proof of his righteousness?
6. With what sect was Paul aligned in his views of the law? What were the Pharisees most concerned about in keeping the law (see Matthew 23:5, 23, 25-28)?
7. On what did they depend for their claim to righteousness (Romans 10:3-4)?
8. What did Jesus say was necessary to enter the kingdom of Heaven (Matthew 5:20)? What did He mean by this?

True Basis of Righteousness (3:7-14)

1. As a Christian, what was Paul's attitude toward those things on which he formerly depended?
 - a. Verse 7 –
 - b. Verse 8 –
2. Paul lists about seven things that he was striving for:
3. From whom did the righteousness come upon which he depended as a Christian? On what condition is righteousness obtained?
4. In view of the context, does this suggest a “relaxed, laid-back” attitude toward being saved: “Let God do it all”?
5. Did Paul consider himself perfected? Did he have salvation so secure that it could not be lost?