

Philippians 3

1. What does it mean to rejoice in the Lord? Deut 12:18 1Chron 16:31-34
Why do we need to be reminded of godly things? 2Peter 1:12-15

2,3 A warning against Jews that claim to know Christ yet insist on obeying the letter of the Law. Do we have something similar today? The Philippians were probably almost all Gentile. When Paul first came there was only a small meeting of Jewish women in the open air. Some of them must have been converts to Judaism. The Judaizers insisted that Gentile converts be circumcised - thus mutilators of the flesh. Verse 3 says we are the true circumcision. What does that mean? What is the contrast implied when it says we worship God in the Spirit, and glory in Christ Jesus? John 4:23,24 Ro 7:6-10

4-6 Paul goes into an exhortation of his past and shows that going that route of obedience to the Old Testament law and things man can look to, to show he is righteously keeping the Law, got him nowhere. He did everything a man could do according to the Law, but where did it get him? Murdering God's chosen vessels like his forefathers. Acts 22:3-5

7 All that he considered of value in the past, he now gives up and lets go of for Jesus. He can't hang on to both trust in self and trust in Jesus. It has to be one or the other. Genesis 19:17 Matthew 13:44-46

8,9 Nothing compares to knowing Jesus as Lord - things and performance only get in the way- they are worthless, and I leave all those things in the trash where they belong, so I can go on in Christ. His only hope is that God would see him in Jesus, not with some performance that falls way short, but the very righteousness of Christ that comes from God through faith in what He did for me. The Jewish Christians tended to cling to obeying the Law as of some merit that they could earn. What things do we tend to cling to as giving us some righteousness of our own? How can we leave those things in the trash where they belong? Acts 20:24

10,11 I WANT ... fill in the blank and you will see where your heart lies. Is it some earthly pleasure or possession? Is it some recognition or position? Is it something to boast in? or is it knowing Christ - the power of new life, His life in me, sharing in rejection by the world and the consequential suffering? Is it dying to self in obedience to the Father as Jesus did? And through that faith and new life to wondrously be a part of the resurrection when our bodies are changed and we come face to face with Him for eternity? Is that your desire? Nothing else compares. In fact anything else is a lie, a poor substitute. Ps 27:4 Rom 6:4-11