



Philippians

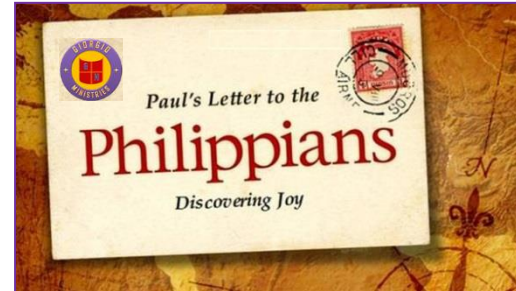
Joy In Christ

Lesson 09

Danger of Legalism

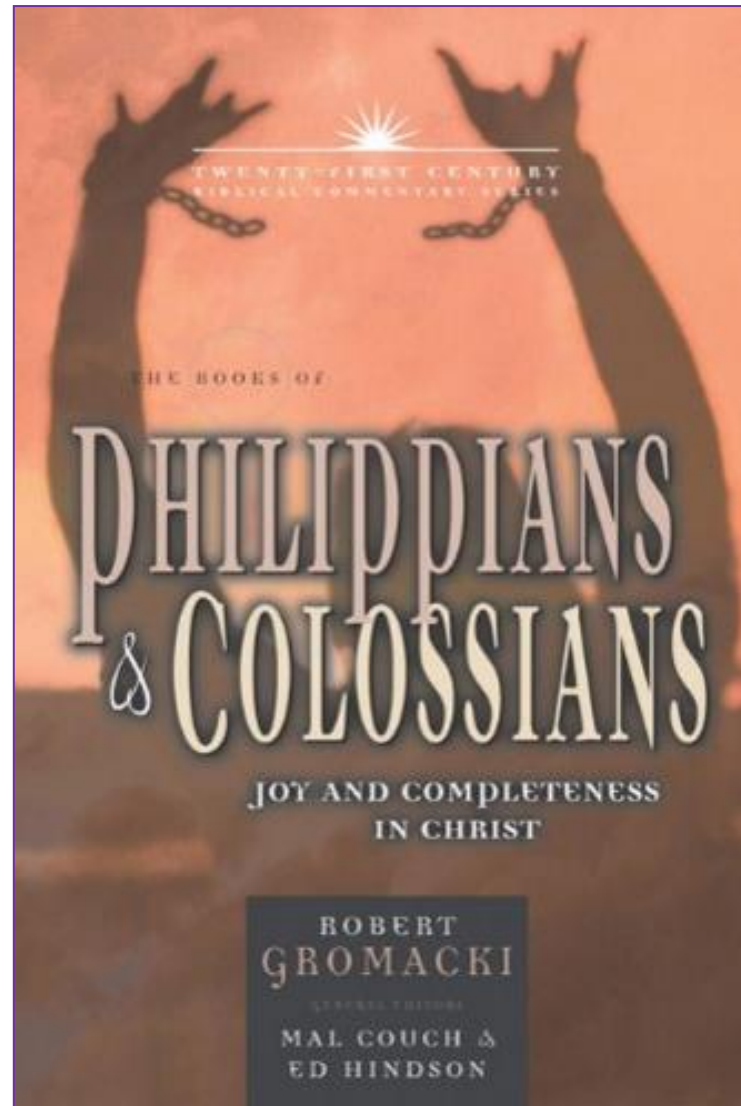
Philippians 3:1-6

Philip Giorgio



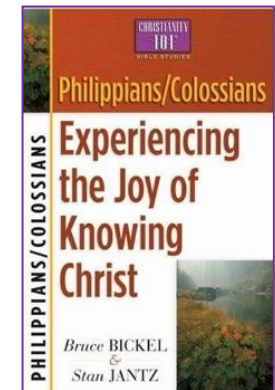
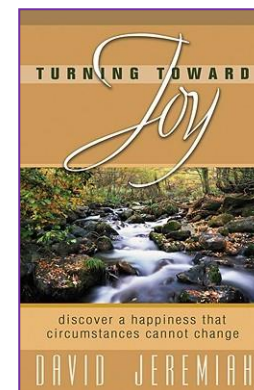
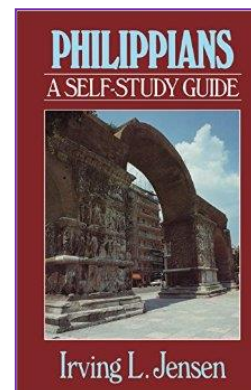
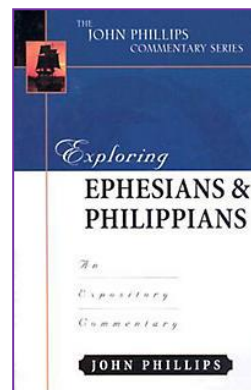
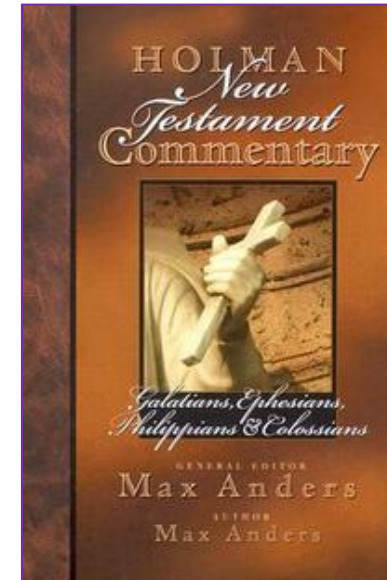
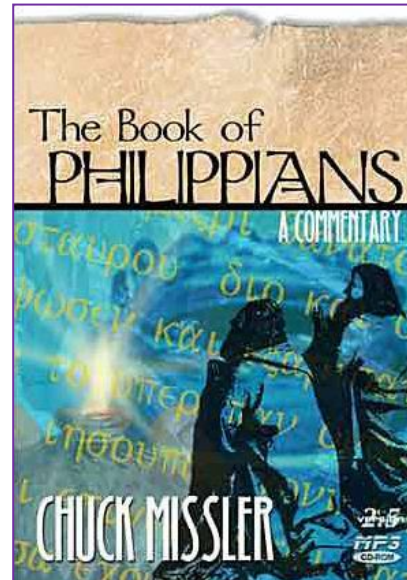


Textbook

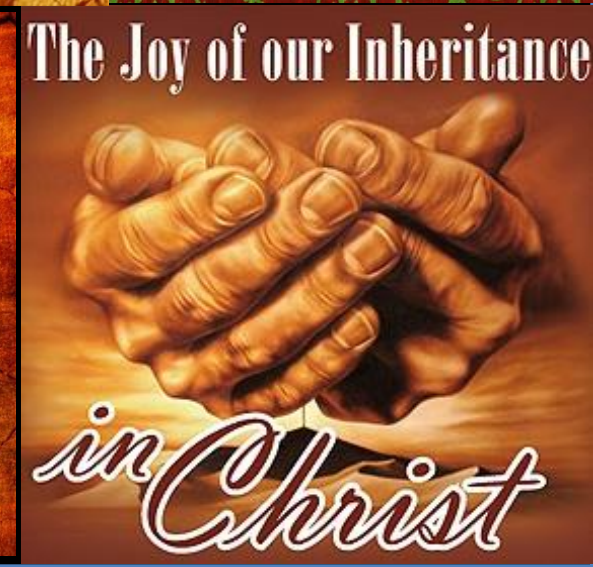
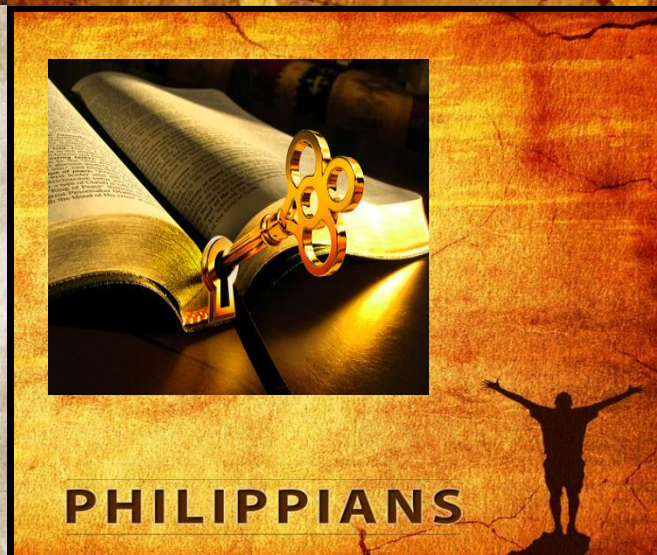
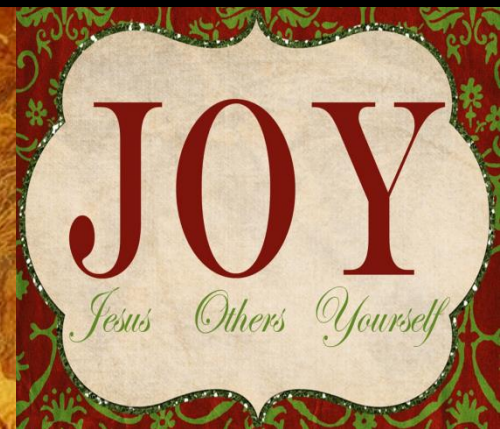
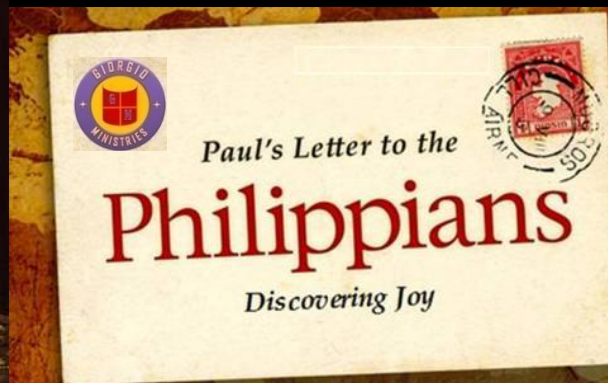
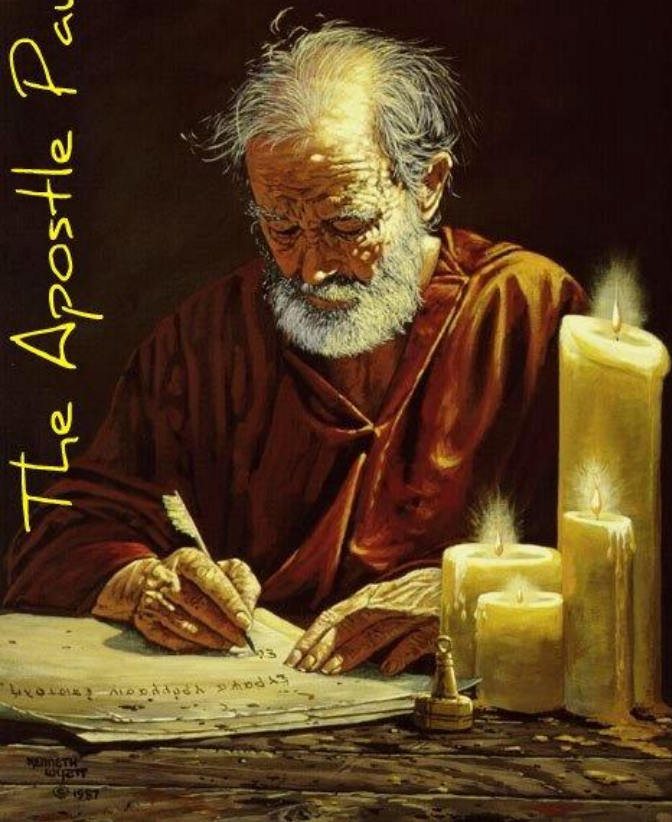




References



The Apostle Paul





Course Outline

Course Outline - Lessons

■ Philippians: Joy In Christ

- Lesson 01: Introduction [PHILIPPIANS]
- Lesson 02: The Prayer..... [PHILIPPIANS 1:1-11]
- Lesson 03: Opportunity of Obstacles [PHILIPPIANS 1:12-19]
- Lesson 04: Blessings of Life and Death [PHILIPPIANS 1:20-26]
- Lesson 05: Challenge to the Church [PHILIPPIANS 1:27-2:4]
- Lesson 06: Humiliation and Exaltation [PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11]
- Lesson 07: Marks of Humble Service [PHILIPPIANS 2:12-16]
- Lesson 08: Three Examples of Humility [PHILIPPIANS 2:17-30]
- Lesson 09: Danger of Legalism [PHILIPPIANS 3:1-6]
- Lesson 10: The Joy of Salvation [PHILIPPIANS 3:7-14]
- Lesson 11: The Joy of Maturity [PHILIPPIANS 3:15-21]
- Lesson 12: The Joy of Peace [PHILIPPIANS 4:1-9]
- Lesson 13: The Joy of Contentment [PHILIPPIANS 4:10-23]

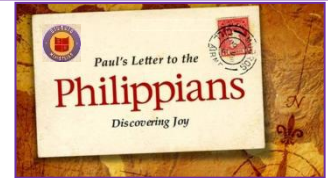


Lesson Outline

Lesson 09 - Outline

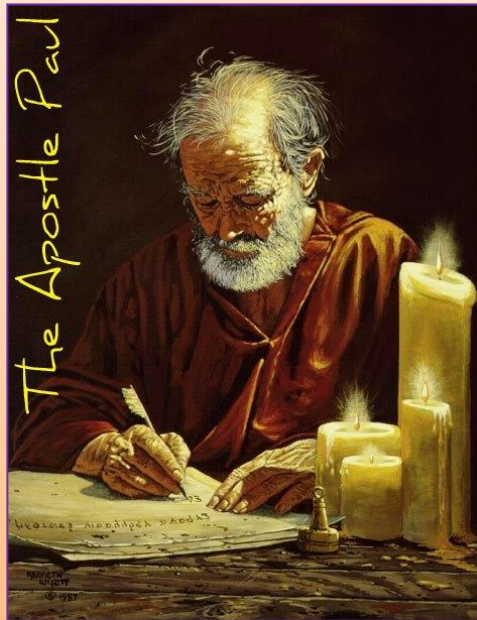
■ Philippians: Joy In Christ

• Lesson 09: Danger of Legalism



• STRUCTURE

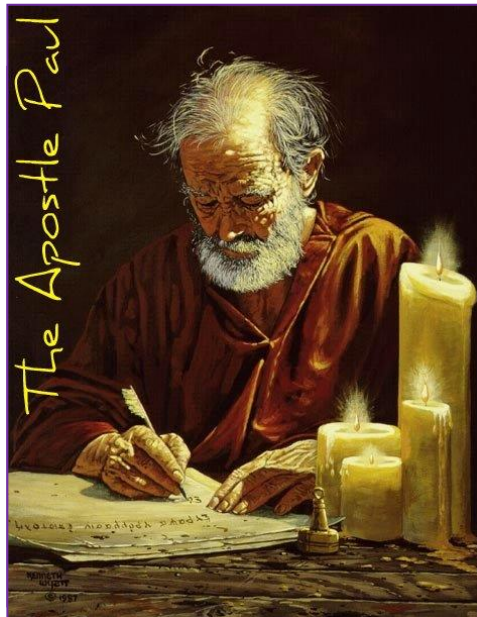
- ➔ » Lesson Preview Introduction
- » Legalism: In Circumcision Philippians 3:1-3
- » Legalism: In Confidence Philippians 3:4-6



Lesson Preview - INTRODUCTION

- Preview ... DANGER OF LEGALISM

Paul starts with a **command** to **rejoice** and **immediately** follows with a **warning** about **false teachers**, both **Jew** and **Gentile**, who would **pervert** the **gospel message**, putting **faith** in **their flesh** and **working** for **their** salvation. To **magnify** the **futile** nature of **fleshly** position or **accomplishments**, **Paul** shows how **he** had **been** the **perfect** **fleshly** example of **righteousness**.

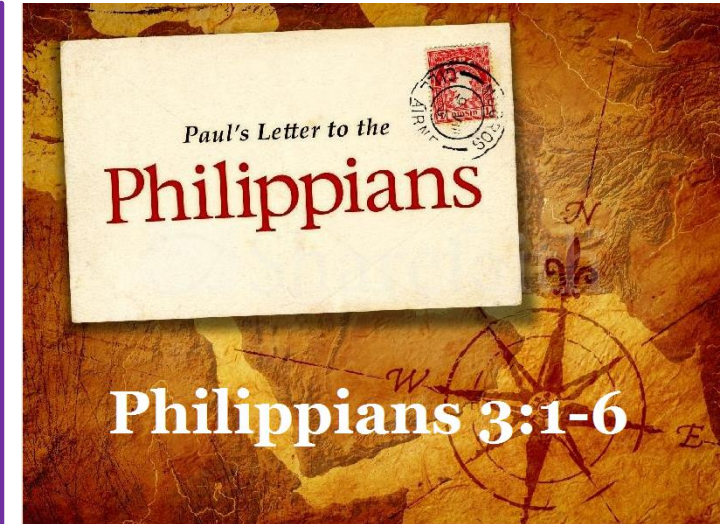


Lesson Preview - INTRODUCTION

• INTRODUCTION

In this chapter Paul discusses the three tenses of salvation against the backdrop of doctrinal error.

Paul wanted to be “**FOUND IN HIM**” (3:9 – **Justification**); his ambition was to “**KNOW HIM**” (3:10 – **Sanctification**); he wanted to “**WAIT FOR A SAVIOR**” (3:20 – **Glorification**).



Rejoice in the Lord

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.

Philippians 3:1

SALVATION

PAST	PRESENT	FUTURE
JUSTIFICATION	SANCTIFICATION	GLORIFICATION

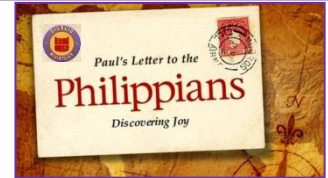
Saved from...

PENALTY of <i>SIN</i>	POWER of <i>SIN</i>	PRESENCE of <i>SIN</i>
2 Thessalonians 1:9 These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,	Hebrew 7:25 Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.	Romans 13:11 And <i>do</i> this, knowing the time, that now <i>it is</i> high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation <i>is</i> nearer than when we <i>first</i> believed.

Lesson 09 - Outline

■ Philippians: Joy In Christ

• Lesson 09: Danger of Legalism

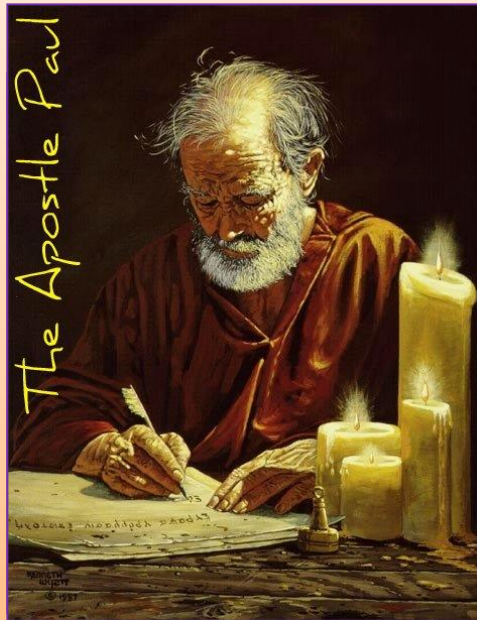


• STRUCTURE

» Lesson Preview *Introduction*

➔ » Legalism: In Circumcision *Philippians 3:1-3*

» Legalism: In Confidence *Philippians 3:4-6*



Legalism: In Circumcision - Philippians 3:1 - OBSERVATIONS

3 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,
 -- Philippians 3:1-3 ... NKJV

• Necessity of Warning

- The adverb “**FINALLY**” does not signal the end of the letter, it designates an abrupt change in subject matter.
- The opening command to “**REJOICE IN THE LORD**” sets the tone for the entire chapter.
- We are not to **REJOICE** in who we are or what we have done. We are to **REJOICE** in all that Jesus Christ is and in all that He had graciously provided through His redemptive death and resurrection.
- Such **holy joy** however, can be threatened by the onslaught of doctrinal and moral error.
- **Joy** is the birthright of all believers.

¹¹ “These things I have spoken to you, that My **joy** may remain in you, and *that* your **joy** may be full. --- John 15:11 ... NKJV

¹³ But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My **joy** fulfilled in themselves. --- John 17:13 ... NKJV

Legalism: In Circumcision - Philippians 3:1 - OBSERVATIONS

3 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,
-- Philippians 3:1-3 ... NKJV

• Necessity of Warning

• FOR PAUL

Faithful preachers must not only declare truth, but also expose error.

Paul knew that he had “**TO WRITE THE SAME THINGS**” he had taught them during his past visits to their city (3:18). Repetition and reinforcement are basic laws of teaching.

Such warnings were not “**TEDIOUS**” to Paul; he did not shrink from his responsibility to point out error. Paul determined to declare the **whole counsel of** God, at all costs (Acts 20:26-31).

• FOR THE CHURCH

Paul’s writing the same warning over again was a “**SAFE**” for the Philippians. This adjective comes from a verb that means **to totter** or **to reel**.

Paul wanted them to be **forewarned**, to be **alert to danger**, and to be **watchful for their souls**.

Legalism: In Circumcision - Philippians 3:2 - OBSERVATIONS

3 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,

-- Philippians 3:1-3 ... NKJV

• Nature of the Warning

The imperative "**BEWARE**" is repeated **three** times.

This verb simply means to keep looking out, to continue watching, or to persist in seeing.

The warning is addressed to **three** different groups,

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Gentiles | DOGS |
| 2. Greedy Teachers | EVIL WORKERS |
| 3. Jews | MUTILATION |

• **BEWARE OF DOGS**

The title "**DOGS**" is applied to the unsaved

- who are filthy and vulgar (Proverbs 26:11; 2 Peter 2:22),
- who mock God (Psalm 59:6)
- who are contemptible (2 Samuel 9:8)
- and for Gentiles (Matthew 15:26).

⁸ Then he bowed himself, and said, "What *is* your servant, that you should look upon such a dead **dog** as I?"

--- 2 Samuel 9:8 ... NKJV [Mephibosheth]

²⁶ But He answered and said, "It is not good to take the children's bread and throw *it* to the little **dogs**."

--- Matthew 15:26 ... NKJV [Woman of Canaan]

Legalism: In Circumcision - Philippians 3:2 - OBSERVATIONS

3 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,

-- Philippians 3:1-3 ... NKJV

• Nature of the Warning

• **BEWARE OF EVIL WORKERS**

This warning describes the conduct of the false teachers.

They were workers in that they aggressively promoted their beliefs.

They were working to gain their own salvation, and they attempted to influence others to accept legalism as an additional requirement to faith as the grounds for divine acceptance.

The Judaizers were “**EVIL**” deceitful workers and false apostles (2 Corinthians 11:13), whose work was marked by a heretical message and selfish motivations.

They were ministers of righteousness based on human pride and effort, not proclaimers of the divine righteousness that is imputed by grace through faith alone (2 Corinthians 11:15).

¹³ For such *are* **false apostles, deceitful workers**, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. ¹⁴ And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light. ¹⁵ Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into **ministers of righteousness**, whose end will be according to their works. -- 2 Corinthians 11:13-15 ... NKJV

Legalism: In Circumcision - Philippians 3:2 - OBSERVATIONS

3 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,

-- Philippians 3:1-3 ... NKJV

⁵ 'They shall not make any bald *place* on their heads, nor shall they shave the edges of their beards nor make any **cuttings in their flesh.**

--- Leviticus 21: 5 ... NKJV

• Nature of the Warning

• BEWARE OF THE MUTILATION

The term "**MUTILATION**" refers to false circumcision.

This title is in contrast to genuine circumcision. **Physical mutilations**, practiced in pagan idolatry, were prohibited by God through Moses (Leviticus 21:5; 1 Kings 18:28).

In their zeal to **physically circumcise** their converts, the Judaizers were **spiritually castrating** them.

They harmed people by their false teaching.

They proclaimed salvation by faith and works, a concept that really is a "WORKS ONLY" human religion.

They were unsaved and under the **curse** of God.

Galatians 1:6-9

⁹ As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone **preaches any other gospel** to you than what you have received, let him be **accursed.**

--- Galatians 1:9 ... NKJV

Legalism: In Circumcision - Philippians 3:3 - OBSERVATIONS

3 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,

-- Philippians 3:1-3 ... NKJV

¹¹ In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, --- Colossians 2:11 ... NKJV

• Reason for Warning

The connective “**FOR**” gives the reason for the **three** warnings. In this verse there is a contract between the **true** circumcision and the **false** circumcision.

• DEFINITION OF TRUE CIRCUMCISION

“**WE**” believers in Christ, including **circumcised** Jews, **circumcised** Gentile proselytes and **uncircumcised** Gentile converts, are the true spiritual children of Abraham.
Galatians 3:26-29

The phrase “**THE CIRCUMCISION**” is a synonym for the body of Christ, the true church, the family of God in this present age. It manifests the work of the Spirit of God within the heart of each believer at the time of regeneration (Colossians 2:11).

In the flesh, the presence of absence of **physical circumcision** distinguished between the Jew and the Gentile (Ephesians 2:11), but **spiritual circumcision** involves the heart and the spirit (Romans 2:28-29).

True circumcision removes the sin of the heart, not the skin of the flesh (Jeremiah 4:4).

Legalism: In Circumcision - Philippians 3:3 - OBSERVATIONS

3 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,**

-- Philippians 3:1-3 ... NKJV

²⁴ God *is* Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth."

-- John 4:24 ... NKJV

• Reason for Warning

• EXPLANATION OF TRUE CIRCUMCISION

First, genuine believers "WORSHIP GOD IN THE SPIRIT". Constant worship is part of their daily behavior. Jesus Christ declared that God is a spirit and that people must worship Him in spirit and truth (John 4:24). Believers worship God the Father in their human spirit by the indwelling Holy Spirit.

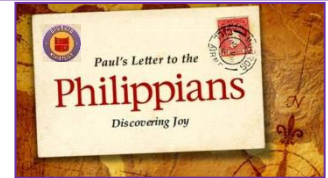
Second, genuine believers "REJOICE IN CHRIST JESUS". All saved people glory continually in the finished redemptive work that the God-man accomplished through His death and resurrection (Galatians 6:14). To **"REJOICE IN CHRIST JESUS"** also means to admit that he is Jehovah God (Jeremiah 9:23-24; 1 Corinthians 1:29-31).

Third, genuine believers "HAVE NO CONFIDENCE IN THE FLESH". When people have such confidence, they think they are good enough in themselves and that they have sufficient ability to do whatever it takes to gain entrance into heaven. Self-abasement is absolutely necessary to gain divine exaltation, a truth seen in the parable of the publican and the Pharisee (Luke 18:9-14).

Lesson 09 - Outline

■ Philippians: Joy In Christ

• Lesson 09: Danger of Legalism

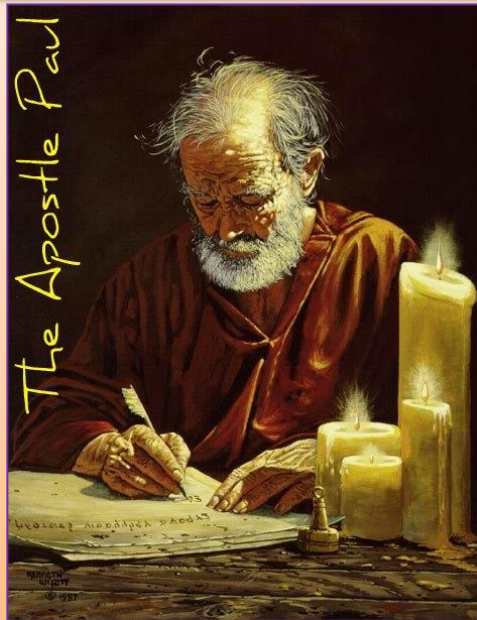


• STRUCTURE

» Lesson Preview *Introduction*

» Legalism: In Circumcision *Philippians 3:1-3*

➔ » Legalism: In Confidence *Philippians 3:4-6*



Legalism: In Confidence - Philippians 3:4 - OBSERVATIONS

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.

--- Philippians 3:4-6 ... NKJV

• Comparison of Confidence

- The mention of “**CONFIDENCE**” in verse 3 serves as a transition for the **first** contrast to the **second**.
- On what basis can **CONFIDENCE** be established?
- Paul presents criteria for spiritual excellence.
 - **Human righteousness** – at its best – is still **inadequate** to **qualify** for the destiny God has in mind for us.
- Paul never altered his message, but he did change his methods on order to minister to different groups.
1 Corinthians 9:19-23.
- He reluctantly involved himself in boasting to disprove the false allegations against him.
2 Corinthians 11:1-12:11
- To portray graphically the folly of self-confidence, he now used himself as an example.

Legalism: In Confidence - Philippians 3:4 - OBSERVATIONS

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.

--- Philippians 3:4-6 ... NKJV

• Comparison of Confidence

- Paul presents **two** claims.

1. He asserts that he could have confidence.

- The phrase "**I MORE SO**" links him with the **Judaizers** who built their ministries on self-confidence.
- The phrase "**IN THE FLESH**" makes it clear that this was a confidence based on human standards, not on divine and biblical evaluations.

2. Paul then charged that he could have more confidence than anyone else in the world.

- He did not just match the **Judaizers** or any other self-righteous group; he surpassed them.
- This boast did not originate from any pride on his part.
- He actually used this evaluation of his past as an argument to show the fallacy of such egomania.

Legalism: In Confidence - Philippians 3:5-6 - OBSERVATIONS

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.

--- Philippians 3:4-6 ... NKJV

• Comparison of Confidence

- Before Paul became a Christian, his life was a spiritual paradox.
 - He was at the same time both **one of the best men** and **one of the worst men** who had ever lived.
 - He hated Christ and His followers; he became a **blasphemer** and a **persecutor** (1 Timothy 1:13).
- Here he presents **seven** points on **human merit**.
- The **first four** were a result of his **genetic inheritance**, and the **last three** were a reflection of his **personal choices**.
- All **seven** are rooted in **pride** - the **pride** of race, family, patriotism, orthodoxy, **zeal** and **self-righteousness**.

¹³ although I was formerly a **blasphemer**, a **persecutor**, and an **insolent man**; but I obtained mercy because I did *it* ignorantly in unbelief. --- 1 Timothy 1:13 ... NKJV

Legalism: In Confidence - Philippians 3:5-6 - OBSERVATIONS

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.

--- Philippians 3:4-6 ... NKJV

• Comparison of Confidence

1. CIRCUMCISION

Circumcision was a sign of faith in the fulfillment of the Abrahamic covenant (Genesis 17:1-14).

When the rite was first instituted, Abraham was **99** and Ishmael was **13** (Genesis 17:24-25). From that point on, a Jewish male child had to be circumcised on the **8th day** after his birth (Genesis 17:12; Leviticus 12:3). In conformity to the law, Jesus was circumcised on the **8th day** (Luke 2:21), and so was Paul.

2. STOCK OF ISRAEL

Paul could trace his genealogical ancestry to the patriarchs. The term "**ISRAEL**" came to be seen as the covenant name of the elect nation (Romans 11:1).

3. TRIBE OF BENJAMIN

Benjamin was the last of the **12** sons of Jacob. His mother Rachael died as she gave birth to him (Genesis 35:16-18). This tribe gave Israel its **1st** King, Saul. It is very plausible that Paul's parents named him after this royal member of the tribe.

Legalism: In Confidence - Philippians 3:5-6 - OBSERVATIONS

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.

--- Philippians 3:4-6 ... NKJV

• Comparison of Confidence

4. HEBREW OF HEBREWS

Paul was a **Hebrew** son born to **Hebrew** parents. He learned the **Hebrew** language and orthodox customs at an early age in his hometown of Tarsus and later received his rabbinical education in **Hebrew** at Jerusalem under the respected Gamaliel (Acts 22:2-3). Although he grew up in a Gentile city and learned both Greek and Aramaic, he did not become Hellenized as so many Jews had done (Acts 6:1).

5. PHARISEE

After Paul's three journeys as a Christian missionary, he still confessed that he was a **PHARISEE** (Acts 23:6). He contrasted himself with the other dominant Jewish sect, the **Sadducees**, who denied the existence of angels, the reality of the spirit, and the physical resurrection of the dead (Acts 23:8). **Phariseeism** was the strictest sect within Judaism (Acts 26:5). Paul was not only a member of this legalistic, orthodox group, but he was also its most zealous member (Galatians 1:14).

Legalism: In Confidence - Philippians 3:5-6 - OBSERVATIONS

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.

--- Philippians 3:4-6 ... NKJV

• Comparison of Confidence

6. ZEALOUS

In his **ZEAL** for legalistic **Phariseeism**, Paul had persecuted the church.

He honestly thought that the killing of Christians was a noble and meritorious service for God (John 16:2).

He was responsible for the martyrdom of Stephen (Acts 8:1), for forcing the apostles out of Jerusalem (Acts 8:1), and for imprisoning believers both in Jerusalem and in Damascus (Acts 8:3; 9:21).

Believers were terrified by him (Acts 9:26).

Paul's **ZEAL** and sincerity could never be questioned, however, he was sincerely wrong.

He was reckoned within the spiritual blindness of the nation Israel (Romans 10:2-3).

Legalism: In Confidence - Philippians 3:5-6 - OBSERVATIONS

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**.

--- Philippians 3:4-6 ... NKJV

• Comparison of Confidence

7. **BLAMELESS**

Legal righteousness can only be achieved by meticulous conformity to all of the positive and negative commandments.

It can only be granted to those who deserve it.

Paul asserted that he had become "**BLAMELESS**".

He loved God and tried to serve Him to the best of his ability.

No one could accuse him of being slothful in his attempts to keep the law.

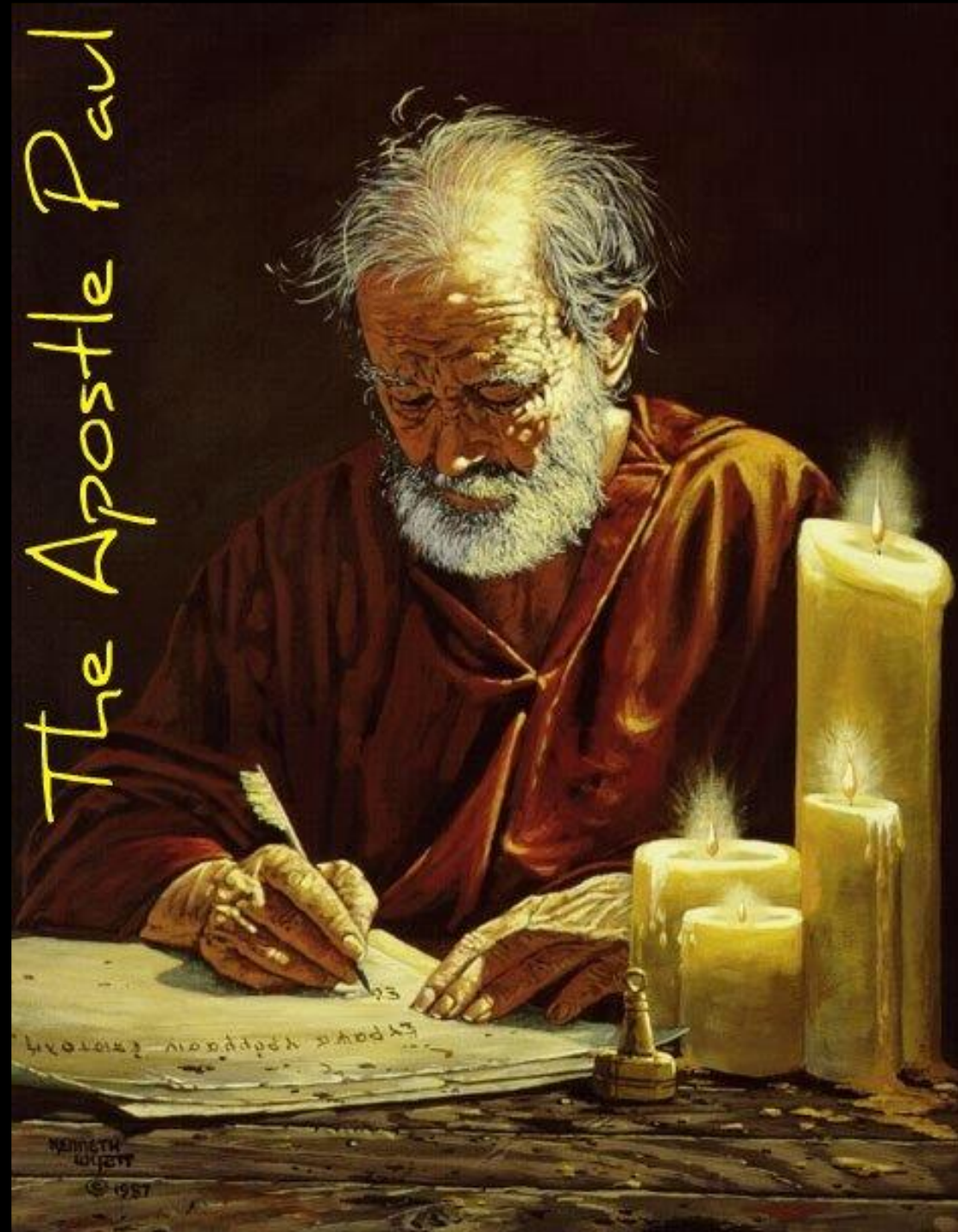
He was not perfect. In fact, he sinned, but he doubtless offered a proper sacrifice for his atonement.

It would seem that Paul is boasting, in the flesh.

But actually, he is demonstrating precisely what needs to be avoided!

Next Lesson Preview

⁷ But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ. --- Philippians 3:7 ... NKJV



The Apostle Paul

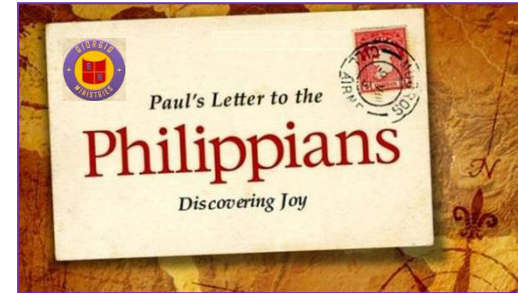
Philippians

"Joy In Christ"

End of Lesson



Instructor: Philip Giorgio
www.GiorgioMinistries.com



Philippians: Joy In Christ

Lesson 10: The Joy of Salvation

[Philippians 3:7-14]

Next Lesson

Next Lesson

■ Philippians: Joy In Christ

- Lesson 01: Introduction [PHILIPPIANS]
- Lesson 02: The Prayer..... [PHILIPPIANS 1:1-11]
- Lesson 03: Opportunity of Obstacles [PHILIPPIANS 1:12-19]
- Lesson 04: Blessings of Life and Death [PHILIPPIANS 1:20-26]
- Lesson 05: Challenge to the Church [PHILIPPIANS 1:27-2:4]
- Lesson 06: Humiliation and Exaltation [PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11]
- Lesson 07: Marks of Humble Service [PHILIPPIANS 2:12-16]
- Lesson 08: Three Examples of Humility [PHILIPPIANS 2:17-30]
- Lesson 09: Danger of Legalism [PHILIPPIANS 3:1-6]
- Lesson 10: The Joy of Salvation [PHILIPPIANS 3:7-14]
- Lesson 11: The Joy of Maturity [PHILIPPIANS 3:15-21]
- Lesson 12: The Joy of Peace [PHILIPPIANS 4:1-9]
- Lesson 13: The Joy of Contentment [PHILIPPIANS 4:10-23]

