



Philippians

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!



Philippians Chapter 3

Joy in Fellowship





The Fellowship Paul is referring to in Fellowship in Christ:

1 Corinthians 1:4-9 (NIV)

*⁴ I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. ⁵ **For in him you have been enriched in every way—with all kinds of speech and with all knowledge—** ⁶ God thus confirming our testimony about Christ among you. ⁷ Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. ⁸ He will also keep you firm to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ **God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.***

1. Corinthians 1:4-9 (Message)

*⁴⁻⁶Every time I think of you—and **I think of you often!**—I thank God for your **lives of free and open access to God, given by Jesus.** There's no end to what has happened in you—it's beyond speech, beyond knowledge. The evidence of Christ has been clearly verified in your lives.*

*⁷⁻⁹**Just think—you don't need a thing, you've got it all!** All God's gifts are right in front of you as you wait expectantly for our Master Jesus to arrive on the scene for the **Finale.** And not only that, but God himself is right alongside to keep you steady and on track until **things are all wrapped up by Jesus. God, who got you started in this spiritual adventure, shares with us the life of his Son and our Master Jesus. He will never give up on you. Never forget that.***



And then Paul tells the Philippian church

Philippians 3:1-4 (NIV)

*¹ Further, my brothers and sisters, **rejoice in the Lord! It is no trouble for me to write the same things to you again, and it is a safeguard for you.***

I Corinthians 1:9 (NIV)

God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

*² Watch out for those dogs, those evildoers, those mutilators of the flesh. ³ For it is **we who are the circumcision, we who serve God by his Spirit, who boast in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh—** ⁴ though I myself have reasons for such confidence.*

If you indeed are in FELLOWSHIP with JESUS - What is Paul saying

- Watch out for the dogs, evildoers, mutilators of the flesh?
- Who are they?



Question:

Paul says we are the circumcision?

WHY Circumcision?

This **tradition honors the covenant God** made with Abraham that his descendants will be the chosen people and Abraham as the father of nations. Circumcision represents a small sacrifice (the flesh of the foreskin) cementing this covenant. All Jewish males as descendants of Abraham are to be circumcised on the 8th day of their birth or upon converting to Judaism.

We, (Christians) are regarded as having a circumcision of the heart when, according to Paul.

- **we serve God by his Spirit.**
- **we boast in Christ Jesus.**
- **and when we put no confidence in the flesh.**

**So for us CIRCUMCISION happens when we deny ourselves.
(sacrifice of the heart)**

So when Paul says *“Watch out for those dogs, those evildoers, those mutilators of the flesh”*

Watch out for those who serve God through Tradition!



Don't serve God because of tradition – Serve Him in Spirit and in Truth.

John 4:23

*Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the **Spirit** and in **truth**, ...*

...for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks.

This is what God desires – He is not interested in the TRADITION of men.



Paul knew about this because he was at the centre of it.



Philippians 3:4-6 (NIV)

If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless.

A Pharisee?

The name *Pharisee* in its Hebrew form means ***separatists, or the separated ones***. They were also known as *Chasidim*, which means *loyal to God*, or *loved of God* - extremely ironic in view of the fact that by His time, they made themselves the most bitter, and deadly, opponents of Jesus Christ and His message.





So Paul puts it right.

Philippians 3:7-11 (NIV)

*⁷ But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the **surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord**, for whose sake I have **lost all things**. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. ¹⁰ **I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death,** ¹¹ and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.*

Some Learning points to ponder!

- How much energy do you put into **KNOWING** Jesus as Lord?
- Do **THINGS** come before Jesus?

And here is the **DRIVER** to **FELLOWSHIP** with Jesus!



Philippians 3:12-14 (NIV)

*¹² Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. ¹³ Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. **But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead,** ¹⁴ **I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.***

Paul is saying;

- I haven't arrived!
- But I know what I am committed to!

What are you committed to?

What is your ultimate goal?

And even if you fall or a circumstance tries to stop you, what do you do.

GET UP and **CONTINUE** because you are in **FELLOWSHIP** with Jesus.



Philippians 3:15-16(NIV)

¹⁵ All of us, then, who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you. ¹⁶ Only let us live up to what we have already attained.

Are you a FAN or A FOLLOWER?

FAN – If you think differently – God will make this clear to you.

FOLLOWER – Let us live up to what we have **committed** to.



The warning to the **Church in Laodicea**

¹⁴ “To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God’s creation. ¹⁵ **I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other!** ¹⁶ **So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth.**

Revelations 3:14-16



Philippians 3:17-21 (NIV)

¹⁷ Join together in following my example, brothers and sisters, and just as you have us as a model, keep your eyes on those who live as we do. ¹⁸ For, as I have often told you before and now tell you again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹ Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is set on earthly things.

²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

**THERE IS AN URGENT NEED FOR US TO BE SOLID
EXAMPLES OF OUR COMMITMENT TO JESUS**



How do they survive?

ALL have a **SINGLE PURPOSE**.

ALL **FOCUS** on one **GOAL**.

ALL **SUPPORTIVE** of each other.

ALL **FOLLOW** one leader.

ALL in **FELLOWSHIP** with **ONE LEADER**

THEY KNOW – Step out of this and you are DEAD



Describes our heart attitude towards those we are willing disciple.



Biblical truth is an essential component of Biblical discipleship. A Christian cannot be spiritually mature without Biblical understanding.

The goal for the disciple is to emulate the convictions and passion of the discipler.

Each believer is unique and needs individual attention



In Conclusion

Philippians 3 shows us the **ATTITUDE** of Paul's heart.

And this **ATTITUDE** is formulated on **KNOWING** that he is in **FELLOWSHIP** with Jesus.

- That I may gain Christ –
- I want to know Christ and the Power of His resurrection –
- I want to be found in Him –
- I want to know the fellowship of sharing in His sufferings-
- I want to press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold for me –
- I want to press on toward the goal to win the prize –

Paul knew that his citizenship was in heaven.

Therefore he wanted to live as a citizen of heaven.

Love not the world nor the things of the world, but be loyal to Him who rules ALL.



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