

Let's Be Clear

Philippians 3:1-11

I. Let's be clear about where we find Christian joy. (v.1)

Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you is no trouble to me and is safe for you. (v.1)

The word *finally* can be translated *so then* or *furthermore*.

rejoice in the Lord

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and is safe for you*

II. Let's be clear about who we can trust to teach the Bible. (vv.2-6)

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A. Paul warns the Philippians about false teachers.

Look out for the dogs, look out for the evildoers, look out for those who mutilate the flesh (v.2)

I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel—not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed (Gal.1:6-8)

Dogs





Evildoers

Those who mutilate the flesh

For we are the circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh (v.3)

⁴ though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also. If anyone else thinks he has reason for 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; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. (vv.4-6)

*Everyone to whom much was given, of him
much will be required (Luke 12:48)*

III. Let's be clear about what ultimately matters. (vv.7-8)

⁷ But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ (vv.7-8).

“Some scholars contend the Greek word for *rubbish* is actually the ordinary slang term for *dung*, or may refer to garbage thrown out to dogs. This stuff had value before Christ, but now it is to be flushed away. Christ is now the only thing that counts, and Paul put everything else away.

— R.C. Sproul

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should preach to you a gospel contrary to
the one we preached to you, let him be
accursed (Gal.1:8)*

IV. Let's be clear about how we become right with God. (vv.9-11)

⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— ¹⁰ that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. (vv.9-11)

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God declares us to be right with Him when we put our faith in Jesus Christ as our Savior and Lord.