

Home Group Helps

Philippians 3:4-11

Joy for the Journey: Rejoice in the Lord! – Part 2

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. ² Beware of the dogs, beware of the evil workers, beware of the false circumcision; ³ for we are the *true* circumcision, who worship in the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh, ⁴ although I myself might have confidence even in the flesh. If anyone else has a mind to put confidence in the flesh, I far more: ⁵ circumcised the eighth day, of the nation 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 the righteousness which is in the Law, found blameless. ⁷ But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, ⁹ and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from *the* Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which *comes* from God on the basis of 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 in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

I. Rejoice in the Lord (v.1) – 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.

II. Religious Rogues (v.2) – ² Beware of the dogs, beware of the evil workers, beware of the false circumcision;

III. Real Religious (v.3) – ³ for we are the *true* circumcision, who worship in the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh,

IV. Resumé of Rubbish (v.4-6) – ⁴ although I myself might have confidence even in the flesh. If anyone else has a mind to put confidence in the flesh, I far more: ⁵ circumcised the eighth day, of the nation 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 the righteousness which is in the Law, found blameless.

Seven Characteristics of Paul's Resumé

- **Four Characteristics Related to his Pedigree (that he did not control)**
- **Three Characteristics Related to his Achievements (that he did control)**

V. Righteousness by Faith (v.7-9) – ⁷ But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, ⁹ and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from *the* Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which *comes* from God on the basis of faith,

VI. Resurrection Hope (v.10-11) – ¹⁰ that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; ¹¹ in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

Five Qualities of the Genuine Believer's Experience

1. Launching Question(s):

- Would you have said with Paul, prior to your becoming a Christian, that you put your “confidence in the flesh?” That is, you thought that your good works could have saved you?

2. Observation Question(s):

- This text contains Paul’s testimony of his conversion. In v. 5, Paul provides four characteristics of his pedigree that he was born with – that he did not control (“circumcised the eighth day, of the nation of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews.”)
- What is it about each of these four characteristics that seems impressive?
- In our culture, what are the types of pedigree in which one might put their hope?
- Then, Paul lists three characteristics related to his achievements in life (“as to the Law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to the righteousness which is in the Law, found blameless.”)
- Again, what is it about these achievements that seems impressive?
- In our culture, what are the types of achievements in which one might put their hope?
- In v. 10-11, Paul lists five qualities of the genuine believer’s experience.
- How is it that these qualities could apply only to a true Christian?

3. Interpretation Question(s):

- In v. 7-8, Paul goes on to say that none of these things mattered in comparison to “knowing Christ.” Why is that?
- According to v. 9, where does the Christian’s righteousness come from?
- According to v. 9, how do we obtain that righteousness?

4. Reflection Question(s):

- Why is it spiritually healthy for a Christian to do as Paul and, “count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord?”
- How might this attitude help you to maintain priorities in this life?
- How might this attitude help you to be content in every circumstance?
- How might this attitude help you to “rejoice in the Lord?”

5. Application Question(s):

- Can you find the opportunity to share your testimony with someone this week?