

*THE REAL DEAL*

*Philippians 3:1-3*



*Phil 3:1-3 - 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. 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...*

*v 2 = Judaizers*



*Deut 10:16 - So circumcise your heart, and stiffen your neck no longer.*

*Jer 4:4 - Circumcise yourselves to the LORD And remove the foreskins of your heart...*

## *2...beware of the false circumcision*

‘circumcision’ is *peritome*

‘concision’ is *katatome* = ‘mutilation’

*Gal 5:2 - if you receive circumcision, Christ will be of no benefit to you.*



***Rom 2:28-29 – 28** For he is not a Jew who is one outwardly, nor is circumcision that which is outward in the flesh. **29** But he is a Jew who is one inwardly; and circumcision is that which is of the heart, by the Spirit...*

***Col 2:11-12 -** and in Him you were also circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ...*



Two criteria for defining a true believer and examining your spiritual state:..

## I. EXAMINE THE NATURE OF YOUR WORSHIP

*3... we are the true circumcision, who worship in the Spirit of God.*



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## **I. EXAMINE THE NATURE OF YOUR WORSHIP**

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**RICHARD RAMESH** – *We concentrate glory, honor, and power on ourselves. We prefer to sit on the throne of our lives and think we live forever and ever....Like Eve of old, we are enchanted with deification...fascinated by self-sovereignty....I have independent ownership of my life.*



Two criteria for defining a true believer and examining your spiritual state...

## I. EXAMINE THE NATURE OF YOUR WORSHIP

*3... we are the true circumcision, who worship in the Spirit of God.*

*John 4:23 - ...true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth...*



I. EXAMINE THE NATURE OF YOUR WORSHIP

II. EXAMINE THE NATURE OF YOUR TRUST

A. STATED POSITIVELY

*3...and glory in Christ Jesus*

*glory = boast = TRUSTING*

*Jer 9:23-24 - Thus says the Lord, "Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom, and let not the mighty man boast of his might, let not a rich man boast of his riches; 24 but let him who boasts boast of this, that he understands and knows Me..."*



## II. EXAMINE THE NATURE OF YOUR TRUST

The true believer RELIES on and RESTS in Christ's *person* and His *work*.

*2 Cor 5:21 - He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

*Gal 2:20 - Christ lives in me...and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and delivered Himself up for me.*

*Gal 6:14, Paul puts it this way – ...may it never be that I would boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.*



## II. EXAMINE THE NATURE OF YOUR TRUST

*1 Cor 2:2 - For I determined not to know anything among you but Jesus Christ, and Him Crucified.*

Edward Mote (1834)

*My hope is built on nothing less  
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,  
But wholly lean on Jesus' name.  
On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand;  
All other ground is sinking sand.*



## II. EXAMINE THE NATURE OF YOUR TRUST

### B. STATED NEGATIVELY

*3...and put no confidence in the flesh*

The believer no longer lives *IN the flesh* (Rom 7 & 8; Gal 5).

But the *flesh* remains as a *principle of sin* that we battle.

*Rom 7:18, 21 - 18 For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh... 21 I find then the principle that evil is present in me...*

Sins are called *works of the flesh* or *desires of the flesh* – Gal 5:16, 19.



*1 Cor 1:26–29 – 26 For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble; 27 but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to shame the things which are strong, 28 and the base things of the world and the despised God has chosen, the things that are not, so that He may nullify the things that are, 29 so that no man may boast before God.*



## Two implications:

**IMPLICATION #1 – Something for us as a church.**

**IMPLICATION #2 – Something for us as individuals.**

*Luke 19:10 - For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.*

*John 10:10 - ...I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.*



*John 14:6 - Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me."*