

Dec 2, 2018 **OUR CONFIDENCE IS IN CHRIST ALONE**

**Philippians 3**

(Now let's engage in another new element: "Mission Moment")

Chapter 3 of Paul's letter to his beloved friends in Philippi addresses 5 Critical Issues. But these present 2 problems for us:

1) *What title could combine all these issues under one heading?*  
2) *Everyone knows that 5 issues are way too many to preach in one sermon!* Praise God – for He has gone ahead of us to solve each of these problems! The title is... And, by utilizing Jeremy, Joel, Adina, & the kids, God has already helped us understand one of these critical issues: our privilege & responsibility in sharing Jesus and His gospel with others because of His great compassion for all of us, and ours for Him. So that leaves only 4 issues; and if we spend 5 minutes on each one, then the sermon should last only 20 minutes! *Who doesn't love that?* Listen fast!

**I) READ: 3:3 – Spiritual circumcision by the Holy Spirit**

- Every Spiritual truth has a physical expression
- Physical circumcision = OT sign of God's promise
- Abe "helped" God produce a son of flesh = Ishmael
- God produced a son of promise miraculously = Isaac

This is a lesson in self-reliance vs. "God-reliance" for all you want/need! Only God provides perfect gifts for His children – and *He doesn't need help from us to do it!* Abe's circumcised body reminded him that God's responsible to fulfill His promise

**II) READ: 3:3-9 – No Confidence in flesh (ability/pedigree)**

- True circumcision = heart by Spirit, not body by knife
- Spirit circumcises the heart (cuts away self-dependence)
- Believer's new heart is "of" God; learns to trust/depend

Like water baptism, bodily circumcision is only a symbol of the spiritual reality of believers' new heart that trusts God, not self!

**III) READ: 3:10-11 – Knowing Christ's Resurrection Power**

- Salvation IS Resurrection Power: only way to know C.
- Resurrection Power is the power of God working in us
- Best experienced in uncontrollable, unfair accus/suffers!

- Even Jesus learned obedience thru suffering (**Heb 5:8**)
- The Believer who has suffered is finished with sin (**IP 4**)
- The less problem-solving we do...the more God can do!

**IV) READ: 3:12-14 – Pressing on to reach the Prize**

- Involves fundamental truths of being New Creations
- You are/do what you think: so righteousness, not sin
- Forgetting your past (ongoing choice) – cut ties w/ sin
- Looking toward your future – build bridges to truth
- Press on daily for the prize of knowing Jesus better

Paul says that everything he used to wave around as evidence of his greatness/worth he considers poop relative to the incomparable privilege of knowing Jesus personally. Paul trashed it all so he could embrace Jesus fully and be fully embraced by Him!

**V) READ: 3:17-21 – Compassion compels us to share Christ**

To recap: we must tell others @ our great God who loves them and proved it by coming to get us, dying in our place on a cross, making a way back to God thru faith, & giving us a future & hope eternally with Him. We must help them unwrap God's Christmas gift of Jesus...**and now's the best time to do so!**

- We must not simply try to "better" their earthly experience
- We must enlighten them @ their choice of eternal destinies

**Love does not merely aim to improve an earthly existence;  
It strives to convey the truth of God so others may believe!**

**INVITATION: This week, remember 3 things:**

- 1) Uncontrollable/Unfair trials *are meant* to connect us w/ Jesus
- 2) Problems give us the best chance to experience God's power!
- 3) Loving others means helping them unwrap God's gift, Jesus!

**This year, our emphasis in missions will be  
moving from money to manpower, from  
giving to going**

*Words may "open you up;" but only Spirit can meet you inside!*

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE:

- 1) Duncan – “Welcome” to members & guests
- 2) Introduce Jeremy/Sam to explain new Children’s curriculum, “252 Kids.” Explanation with Power point presentation
- 3) Join them and ask Questions:
  - Can we capitalize on 252 Kids in Family Worship Services?
  - What might a Children’s Message look like using 252 Kids?  
(Call children up)
- 4) JD does 252 message: *Greatest Gift that nobody opened?*
- 5) I engage with **Phil. 3:18-20** about Paul’s compassion for those who aren’t Believers in Jesus...yet!
  - \*Will our compassion for Jesus compel us to help others open the greatest gift the world has ever known?**
- 6) Children Sing:

## PHILIPPIANS 3 (NLT)

### ***No Confidence in the Flesh***

1) Whatever happens, my dear brothers and sisters, rejoice in the Lord. I never get tired of telling you these things, and I do it to safeguard your faith. 2) Watch out for those dogs, those people who do evil, those mutilators who say you must be circumcised to be saved. 3) For we who worship by the Spirit of God are the ones who are truly circumcised. We rely on what Christ Jesus has done for us. We put no confidence in human effort, 4) though I could have confidence in my own effort if anyone could. Indeed, if others have reason for confidence in their own efforts, I have even more! 5) I was circumcised when I was eight days old. I am a pure-blooded citizen of Israel and a member of the tribe of Benjamin—a real Hebrew if there ever was one! I was a member of the Pharisees, who demand the strictest obedience to the Jewish law. 6) I was so zealous that I harshly persecuted the church. And as for righteousness, I obeyed the law without fault.

7) I once thought these things were valuable, but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done. 8) Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ 9) and become one with him. I no longer count on my own righteousness through obeying the law; rather, I become righteous through faith in

Christ. For God’s way of making us right with himself depends on faith. 10) I want to know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised him from the dead. I want to suffer with him, sharing in his death, 11) so that one way or another, I will experience the resurrection from the dead!

### ***Pressing toward the Goal***

12) I don’t mean to say that I have already achieved (*obtained, received – Gk verb=lambano means to accept with initiative what is offered/available!*) these things or that I have already reached perfection. But I press on to possess (*middle voice = passive*) that perfection (*completed, finished, mature, full measure of the stature of Christ*) for which Christ Jesus first possessed me. 13) No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, 14) I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us. 15) Let all who are spiritually mature agree on these things. If you disagree on some point, I believe God will make it plain to you. 16) But we must hold on to the progress we have already made.

17) Dear brothers and sisters, pattern your lives after mine, and learn from those who follow our example. 18) For I have told you often before, and I say it again with tears in my eyes, that there are many whose conduct shows they are really enemies of the cross of Christ. 19) They are headed for destruction. Their god is their appetite, they brag about shameful things, and they think only about this life here on earth. 20) But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Savior. 21) He will take our weak mortal bodies and change them into glorious bodies like his own, using the same power with which he will bring everything under his control.

## Hebrews 5:8 (NLT)

***Even though Jesus was God's Son, he learned obedience from the things he suffered.***

## 1Peter 4:1,2 (NLT)

***1) So then, since Christ suffered physical pain, you must arm yourselves with the same attitude he had, and be ready to suffer, too. For if you have suffered physically for Christ, you have finished with sin. 2) You won't spend the rest of your lives chasing your own desires, but you will be anxious to do the will of God.***