

## Rejoice in Christ's Righteousness (Phil. 3:1-11)

*Picks up after 2:18*

### I. Rejoice in Your Position in Christ (1-3)

#### A. Recognize Your Joy in Christ (1)

##### 1. Rejoice in the Lord (a command)

- a. In who He is
- b. In what He has done
- c. In our union with Him
  - i. He is the only source of joy
  - ii. Every other source is idolatry

##### 2. Rejoicing in the Lord is your Protection

- a. It is a safeguard (ασφαλεις)
  - i. A matter of protection
  - ii. Literally: "it will be safer"
- b. It is a defense against world, flesh, devil
- c. It is a defense against Religion

#### B. Recognize Your Position in Christ (2-3)

##### 1. Beware of those Who are Only Religious (2)

- a. Dogs – Jews called the Gentiles Dogs often
  - Here Paul seems to be thinking of religious Jews as dogs – "outside the people of God"
- b. Evil Workers – anyone who thinks their works merit righteousness
- c. False Circumcision – those who claim righteousness based on their religious identity
  - Paul calls Jews without Christ a false circumcision
  - literally "those who mutilate the flesh"

##### 2. Be Reminded of the True People of God (3)

- a. The Church is the True circumcision
  - i. He says, "we" – emphatic position in GR:
  - ii. He is writing to a Gentile city
  - iii. His readers would be mostly Gentiles
- b. The Church Worships God in Spirit
  - i. "is worshipping" Present active participle
  - ii. John 4 – no need of a Temple
- c. The church Boasts in Jesus
  - i. His work our only worth
  - ii. We add nothing
- d. The Church does not trust in the flesh
  - i. πεποιθοτες – trusting – Present active participation
  - ii. They do not trust in their work or ability

#### C. This is the Source of Our Joy

### II. Reject Righteousness From Religion (4-8)

#### A. Paul Has Reason to Boast in Religious Works (4-6)

##### 1. He has more right than others (4)

- a. He is a True faithful Israelite (5-6)
  - i. Born into Israel
    - circumcised on 8<sup>th</sup> day
    - not a proselyte
    - bred from Israel
  - ii. Faithful to Israel
    - from the tribe of Benjamin
    - (one of 2 (Judah and Ben.) that didn't split with northern Israel – faithful to David's line)
    - a Hebrew of Hebrews
    - (even in Gentile lands)
    - (Roman citizen, school in Tarsus)
- b. He is Faithful to Israel's Law (5b-6)
  - i. He is a Pharisee According to the Law
    - most zealous, conservative
    - lived the law
  - ii. He had more zeal than all others
    - persecuted the church
    - thought he was doing God's will
  - iii. He was above accusation
    - "blameless"
    - no fault could be found outwardly
    - religion was impeccable.

#### B. Paul Considered His Work Worthless (7)

- 1. Everything of Benefit is Loss (works)
  - a. Whatever could be added to his account
  - b. Whatever thought to be good
  - c. Whatever he might claim as credit
  - d. These things are actually evil
  - e. These things move him further from God
  - f. These things subtract from his account

#### C. Paul Considered All Things Worthless (8)

- 1. All things are Liabilities
  - a. Everything takes away from account (nothing adds)
  - b. Everything is worthless without Christ
- 2. All things are Dung (σκθβαλα)
  - a. Not only worthless but defiling
  - b. Disgusting
- 3. All things are released for Christ
  - a. All other works must be sacrificed
  - b. Cannot have Christ plus anything

### III. Rejoice in Christ's Righteousness (9-11)

#### A. He Desires to Have no Righteousness other than Jesus (9)

- 1. He must be found "in Christ"
  - a. not because of his own righteousness
  - b. not because of any obedience of law

- c. He had none / we have none
- 2. He is righteous because of Christ's faithfulness
  - a. Faith of Christ
  - b. Faith in Christ or Christ's obedience
- B. He Desires the Righteousness that Transforms (Relationship)
  - 1. The goal is to know him
  - 2. The goal is to be transformed by him
    - a. Share in his sufferings (die with him)
    - b. Share in power of resurrection
      - Be resurrected in Spirit
      - Be resurrected in eternity