

15 Philippians 3:1-6

No Confidence in the Flesh

1. Phil 3:1

- a. *"Rejoice in the Lord"* – Not in the circumstances, flesh, works, world
- b. *"same things"* – He has mentioned this multiple times – Phil 1:4, 18, 25,26, 2:2, 17, 28
- c. *"not grievous"* – it is not grievous to him that they learn to rejoice
 - i. They must choose what to rejoice in – where to find their joy
- d. *"it is safe"* – saves them from distress, despair, destruction – 2 Cor 4:8

2. Phil 3:3

- a. *"Beware"* – Paul issues warnings. Not only about what is right, but avoiding wrong
- b. *"dogs"* – Dogs return to their vomit – 2 Pet 2:22 Prov 26:11, Gal 3:1-3, Phil 3:18-19
- c. *"evil workers"* – Evil workers of doctrine – 2Co 11:11-14, Gal 1:6, 1Ti 1:7, Ti 3:5
- d. Paul's ministry was opposed by fleshly religious men – 1Th 2:15-16, Col 2:4,18,
- e. *"concision"* – the 'cut off' ones, the circumcision – Titus 1:10-14, Gal 5:2, 6:12-16
- f. The conciliatory compromise to avoid persecution ... and so it is today.
- g. Circumcision (flesh) contrasted to spirit, and rejoice in Christ vs. our flesh
- h. Its not just circumcision, but now every religious ritual, outward appearance, and worldly credential that puffs up the flesh and introduces a Christian boasting

3. We are the Circumcision

- a. Circumcision was a token and sign of God's covenant – Gen 17:10-14, Ro 4:11
- b. It was in the flesh, made by hands, it spoke to separation unto God – Eph 2:11
- c. But now you can be sanctified without it- Eph 2:13, *"by one Spirit"* -2:18, Rom 15:16
- d. The man and seed of the circumcised is sanctified to God.
- e. The law required an inner circumcision of the heart – Deu 10:16, 10:12-13
- f. The new covenant even promised God would circumcise the heart – Deu 30:6
- g. Israel kept the fleshly sign, but broke the law of the inner circumcision – Acts 7:51
- h. Paul identifies true Jews who obey the law in – Rom 2:25-29
- i. Our circumcision is not of Israel's covenants, or physical, nor of the flesh – Col 2:11
- j. We are circumcised in Christ, sanctified unto God, separated from sins by grace.
- k. Our confidence does not start with "I", but Christ.

4. Phil 3:4-6

- a. *"I more"* – Paul had more confidence in his flesh than others – 2Co 11:17-23, Gal 1:14
- b. People love to boast in the flesh and Paul rebukes them – 1Co 14:18-19, 2Co 11:11
- c. Some of us are not much in the flesh, others are more, it is hard to humble them
- d. Paul's heritage, his law keeping, and his zeal were above reproach. Acts 22:3
- e. We work our lives to gain things in our flesh, but to lose these things for Christ is worth the trade. Paul had to lose his religion to be saved.
- f. The things you once valued, we must learn are now valued less.