

the TAKE HOME 02.14.16

Today's Scripture Passage: Philippians 3:1-11 page 831-832/Pew Bible

¹Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord! It is no trouble for me to write the same things to you again, and it is a safeguard for you. ²Watch out for those dogs, those men who do evil, those mutilators of the flesh. ³For it is we who are the circumcision, we who worship by the Spirit of God, who glory in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh-- ⁴though I myself have reasons for such confidence. ⁵If anyone else thinks he has reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for legalistic righteousness, faultless. ⁷But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ--the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. ¹⁰I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.

Questions for Reflection & Discussion

1. Why is it so important for Christians to rejoice?
2. Why was it important to "watch out" for the dogs (Judaizers)? What danger did they pose?
3. Who are the Judaizers today?
4. What are some differences between a "righteousness of my own" and "the righteousness that comes from God"?
5. Describe the "surpassing greatness of knowing Christ" in your life. How does it/should it compare with Paul's description in Verses 9-11?

Bible Challenge

- Like an ancient scribe, write this scripture word for word.
- On your electronic device, download "The Bible" app by Life.Church. Go to Philippians and click the audio button at the top right to listen to the book of Philippians all the way through. How does God speak to you through this?
- Reword the passage as if writing to your Christian friends.
- Read the passage in several translations. What do you notice?

• **Memorize the series' verse: Philippians 3:12**
Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.

- All done? Try reading/studying the passage for next week:
Philippians 3:12-21