

Chesswood Baptist Church

Where Everybody is Somebody

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MINISTRY OF THE WORD

BEWARE OF EVIL WORKERS...

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SUNDAY MORNING, MAY 17, 2020

SCRIPTURE READING: **PHILIPPIANS 3:1-12**

Philippians 3:2, Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the concision.

1. BACKGROUND

Refer to the Evening message May 17, 2020

2. INTRODUCTION

- a. Today I have been led to preach from the book of **Philippians chapter 3**.
- b. As we approach this outstanding epistle, it is labeled as one of Paul's prison epistles.
- c. We have indicated before that while Paul was in prison, he had a mind to keep things going for our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.
- d. If we were to look at this entire book, we would find it contains **three elements**.
- e. It contains the **philosophy**; the rule for Christian living as Paul reflects in **Philippians 1:21, For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain**.
- f. It also gives us the **pattern** for Christian living.
- g. What should be our pattern? What should be our day to day walk? **Galatians 5:16, This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh**.
- h. **Philippians 2:5, Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus**: We need to live our daily life realizing that we are seated in Heavenly places in Christ Jesus. **Ephesians 2:6, And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus**:
- i. We are to live our daily life with the mind of Christ.
- j. We are to grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. **2 Peter 3:18, But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen**.
- k. The third thing Paul reflects on, which we are going to look at in some detail today, is the **prize** for Christian living.
- l. There is a prize. We as believers must all stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ one of these days.
- m. **I must emphasize there is no prize for salvation, but there is a prize for our stewardship as to how well we performed the mission that God had laid out for us**.
- n. As we look at the prize for Christian living, Paul says in **Philippians 3:13-14, Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,**

14: I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

- o. Paul recognized the fact that after one is saved; we need to be working for our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.
- p. We do not work for our salvation, but we do work because we are saved, and we want to please the Lord.
- q. One of these days the Lord Jesus Christ will establish His Kingdom on the face of the earth. However, before that takes place and the tribulation period arrives, the rapture of the church is certain.
- r. He tells us the dead in Christ will rise first. **1 Thessalonians 4:16-17**, *For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 17: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.*
- s. With that introduction, let us see what we can glean from God's precious Word today.

3. TEN POINTS TO THE MESSAGE

a. Rejoice in the Lord.

- 1. **Philippians 3:1**, *Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you, to me indeed is not grievous, but for you it is safe.*
- 2. I was talking to a friend some time ago, who was reading a book that talked about safe people to be around.
- 3. As I penned this message, I could not help but to reflect on that. Paul says it is safe for us to rejoice in the Lord.
- 4. How many believers know this?
- 5. Paul also says *Finally, my brethren* – This seems to indicate that he was ready to cease his writings. However, he goes on for an extended period of time.
- 6. I also make the statement that I am going to my seat. People chuckle sometimes because I continue. It appears here that it is Scriptural to do so.
- 7. Sometimes the Lord gives us additional things we need to say, and we are not to quench the Spirit. **1 Thessalonians 5:19**, *Quench not the Spirit.*
- 8. Paul is giving us his final message here. We should keep this on our minds, Finally, **my brethren, rejoice in the Lord.** Then he says it is not grievous - **is not grievous, but for you it is safe.** - Paul had a special love for the Philippian believers. They were a highly spiritual group of believers.
- 9. We can see his very heart as he writes to them. He was not writing to straighten out problems like he did with the Galatians and the Corinthians; he tells them the key in this life is to rejoice in the Lord. **Know what you believe and why you believe it and stand on your belief.**
- 10. We need to know where we are going and have reservations. The Preserved word of God provides vivid instructions with respect to the past, present and the future. Let's analyze the word Bible which means basic instruction before leaving earth.
- 11. Paul says it is safe for him to tell us that. It is safe for him to write to them because he knows they have spiritual understanding. They were not carnal and babes in Christ like the Corinthians. **1 Corinthians 3:1-3**, *And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. 2: I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye*

were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able.3: For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?

12. They were a spiritually mature body of believers.

b. Beware of evil workers.

1. **Philippians 3:2**, *Beware of dogs, **beware of evil workers**, beware of the concision.*

2. *Beware of dogs* – false prophets, false teachers and evil workers are lumped into one single category.

3. **Isaiah 56:10**, *His watchmen are blind: they are all ignorant, they are all dumb dogs, they cannot bark; sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber.* – At that time Isaiah was warning the people not to get into their comfort zone – to be aware of false prophets and false teachers.

4. Today we are to be aware of false teachers. False prophets are called dumb dogs; one who is not willing to declare the whole counsel of God. **1 Corinthians 20:26-27**, *Wherefore I take you to record this day, that I am pure from the blood of all men. 27: For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.*

5. We live in a time from the pulpit; we want a message of comfort. I believe we should give a message of comfort at certain times, but sometimes God message will not comfort our hearts as a matter of fact it tends to prick our heart.

6. Several weeks ago, I made the statement that we do not always make people feel comfortable.

7. We want you uncomfortable to the point that you come to know Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour.

8. In Isaiah's day there were false prophets; in our day there are false teachers and we must be incredibly careful that we are not lulled to sleep. **1 Thessalonians 5:6**, *Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober. 2 Peter 2:2*, *And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.*

9. The idea of comfort is one thing, but the idea of realizing that God has a love side and a wrath side is another thing. We must not allow our self to slumber. **Matthew 13:25**, *But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way.*

10. We must also be aware of the fact that divisions can cause contentions. **1 Corinthians 1:10**, *Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.*

11. We are not to be legalistic in our local churches. Legalism will not allow us to accomplish what God has intended.

12. Paul was of the circumcision. Which means that he was of the Jewish heritage.

c. Rejoice in Christ Jesus.

1. **Philippians 3:3**, *For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and **rejoice in Christ Jesus**, and have no confidence in the flesh.*

2. Paul is referring to the fact that he was circumcised. However, **Galatians 6:15**, *For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature.*
 3. We cannot be saved by the law. Circumcision that Christ is talking about is a new birth He talked to Nicodemus about. **John 3:3**, *Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.*
 4. True circumcision is of the heart. **Romans 2:29**, *But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.*
 5. We are not to have confidence in the flesh. The old nature cannot produce things for God, or things of God. We must feed the new nature with the Preserved Word of God. **Romans 8:8**, *So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. 1 Peter 1:23*, *Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.*
 6. As we feed the new nature with God's Word we can certainly rejoice. We are not to put confidence in the flesh.
 7. I shudder for those who think they can lose their salvation. They are putting confidence in the flesh. Our salvation is secure.
 8. Our salvation is bought by the Lord Jesus Christ with a price and is secure forever. **1 Corinthians 6:20**, *For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.*
- d. **Though I might also have confidence in the flesh.**
1. **Philippians 3:4**, *Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more:*
 2. Paul sets forth seven things that he trusted in at one time. They were his trademarks before he met the Lord Jesus Christ on the road to Damascus.
 3. He had confidence in the flesh. He is going to lay down all seven things that he obtained through his religion.
 4. Once we get saved, we are to lose our religion and know that Christ is all in all. **Philippians 3:10**, *That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; Colossians 2:10*, *And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:*
- e. **Circumcised the eighth day.**
1. **Philippians 3:5-6**, *Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee; 6: Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.*
 2. First of all, Paul speaks of his circumcision. Under the Mosaic Law it was a requirement for the parents to take the child on the eighth day to be circumcised. **Leviticus 12:3**, *And in the eighth day the flesh of his foreskin shall be circumcised.*
 3. This was something that was practiced by them. Of course, we know that circumcision does not save in any way, shape, or form.
 4. **1. Circumcised the eighth day** – means he had godly parents.
 5. **2. of the stock of Israel** – means he was a full-fledged Israelite. There were

- some who were of the mixed multitude.
6. Paul traces his genealogy back and says he was a Jew.
 7. **3. of the tribe of Benjamin**, - This is like saying he came out of the absolute best family. As a matter of fact, Rachel gave birth to Benjamin.
 8. Jacob called him the son of my right hand. He was loved. He was the son that he could lean on.
 9. The first king of Israel came from the tribe of Benjamin: Saul. David was God's choice, but Saul was the people's choice.
 10. Saul of Tarsus could have even been named from him. Paul could say with great pride that he was from the tribe of Benjamin.
 11. Many times, Great-grandfathers, grandfathers, and fathers have founded churches and later that church will go liberal. Relatives will remain there because it was founded by an ancestor.
 12. We must be incredibly careful and line up where the truth is being taught and preached. The Local church is the pillar and ground of the truth. **1 Timothy 3:15, But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.**
 13. **4. an Hebrew of the Hebrews**; - He was a leader.
 14. **5. as touching the law, a Pharisee**; - We know he was a Pharisee; a member of the Sanhedrin. They were a religious political party.
 15. Their aim was to usher in the Kingdom of Heaven. They were a fundamental group – they believed in the integrity of the Word of God, believed in angels, believed in the resurrection, and in miracles.
 16. They were lawful and legalistic and as a result they were going to usher in the Kingdom of Heaven.
 17. We know it will come but it will not come that way. The church must be caught up first.
 18. **6. Concerning zeal, persecuting the church**; - Saul thought that in persecuting the church he was doing God's will.
 19. He was met on the road to Damascus; he was on his way there to persecute the church.
 20. The Lord Jesus Christ met him and changed his life, his thinking and his purpose for living changed. **Acts 9:5, And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.**
 21. **7. touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.** – Paul does not indicate that he was sinless. As a matter of fact, in **Romans chapter 7** he tells us his story. **Romans 7:7, What shall we say then? Is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet.**
 22. The law was God's standard. None of us can keep the law. That is the reason why the Lord Jesus Christ had to come and die for us. **Matthew 5:17, Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.**
 23. **touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.** – There was nothing wrong with the law, but it was not given to save, it was the blood of

Christ that was given to save souls. **Hebrews 9:22**, *And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission.*

24. Paul found out that all the credential that he had and all the criteria he had, was all dung that he might win Christ.

f. But what things were gain to me.

1. **Philippians 3:7**, *But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.*
2. Suddenly, all the credits he had become debits.
3. Before, persecuting the Lord Jesus Christ and the church is now first in his life.
4. **But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.** – There is a change in the ledger.

g. I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord:

1. **Philippians 3:8**, *Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ.*
2. This is strong language coming from a former persecutor of the church.
3. Paul was converted on the road to Damascus. Once one has a true conversion there is a change in attitude, a change of heart, and we lose our religion and become a disciple of Jesus Christ. **2 Corinthians 5:17**, *Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*
4. Religion will not get us into Heaven. Those things are loss that we might obtain Christ Jesus. **Philippians 3:10**, *That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;*
5. *do count them but dung, that I may win Christ*, - none of the credentials will stand up considering the Gospel Message: the death burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

h. And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness.

1. **Philippians 3:9**, *And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:*
2. The Bible tells us in **Isaiah 64:6**, *But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.*
3. We cannot get there by keeping the law. **Romans 10:4**, *For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.*
4. When we come to know Jesus Christ, we are not placed under the law. Salvation is plus nothing minus nothing.
5. Our own legal righteousness will not take us to Heaven.
6. Concerning the Sabbath day **Colossians 2:16**, tells us, *Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days:* It is not about the day. We worship on the first day of the week because that is the day the tomb was found to be empty. **John 4:23**, *But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall*

worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.

7. Jesus Christ was raised from the dead the first day of the week.
 8. Our faith is to be place in none other than in Jesus Christ our Saviour.
 9. **Romans 3:22**, *Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:*
 10. We must understand that Christ died on the cross and bodily resurrected the third day. When we come to know Him as personal Saviour, He subtracts our sins and gives us His righteousness. **He gives us righteousness for our belief.**
- i. That I may know him.**
1. **Philippians 3:10-11**, *That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; 11: If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.*
 2. Do not get the impression that we are saved by our works. We are saved by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.
 3. There is no conflict between what James has to say and what Paul says. **James 2:18**, *Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith **by** my works.*
 4. Once we are saved, we are motivated to do a job for God.
 5. As indicated several Sunday ago, I am seeing three things that excites me in Chesswood Baptist Church: people are getting excited that the Preserved Word of God is being preached and taught, there appears to be a greater burden for the lost that will translate to increase growth at Chesswood. In addition to that people have a mind to work for God.
 6. Several Sunday we preached from Nehemiah and found out that when they were all in one accord and had one mind, they got the wall built in fifty-two days.
 7. There is nothing that can stop us from the outside.
 8. ***That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; 11: If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.*** – We know there was suffering. **Psalms 22** lays that out in emphatic detail.
 9. The church will be caught away to meet the Lord in the air one of these days. We also know that the church is from Pentecost to the rapture. The Old Testament saints will not be raised until the end of the Great Tribulation Period. **Daniel 12:1-3**, *And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book. 2: And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. 3: And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.*
 10. The rest of the dead will not be raised until the end of the Millennium.
 11. There are several phases of the first resurrection. We must be a part of the first resurrection and not the second. **Revelation 20:5-6**, *But the rest of the*

dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. **6:** *Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.*

j. Not as though I had already attained.

1. **Philippians 3:12,** *Not as though I had already attained,* either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.
2. When God Speaks of perfection, He means we are to go on to complete maturity.
3. Peter lays it out that we are to grow in grace. **2 Peter 3:18,** *But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.*
4. We are to continue steadfastly in the apostle's doctrine. **Acts 2:42,** *And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.*
5. We are to gather knowledge. To know the Preserved Word of God. The only thing that will stand in the evil days is knowledge of the Word of God.
6. Paul says he has not gotten there yet. There are many saints who think they have gone through the Bible one time and they have it all. They have no tolerance for Bible study.
7. We need Bible study and we need to go over and over it again.

4. CONCLUSION

- a. Do you know the Saviour? If you do not know Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour, today needs to be your day of salvation.
- b. My friend, come to Jesus right now.
- c. **Romans 3:23,** *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*
- d. **Romans 3:10,** *As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:*
- e. **Romans 10:9-10,** *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10: For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*
- f. Would you please stand?

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