

# Rejoice in the Lord Always!

Based on Paul's letter to the Philippians – Lesson #3  
Good Shepherd Bible Study 2020

**Introduction:** What was the first temptation of the devil in the Garden of Eden?

**Philippians 3:1-6** Further, my brothers and sisters, 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. 2 Watch out for those dogs, those evildoers, those mutilators of the flesh. 3 For it is we who are the circumcision, we who serve God by his Spirit, who boast in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh— 4 though I myself have reasons for such confidence. If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: 5 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; 6 as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless.

v. 2-4 What was the false teaching of the Judiazers?

Beware of any false teaching which takes your focus off Christ and his gift of salvation, and puts the focus on you and human efforts.

v.4-6 What did Paul take pride in before he became a Christian?

**Philippians 3:7-11** But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. 8 What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ 9 and 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 on the basis of faith. 10 I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, 11 and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.

What did Paul boast of now instead?

**Knowing Christ** - to know by experience, come to know as a trusted friend

What had Paul “lost” for Christ?

How does a person become righteous before God?

What does it mean to know the power of Christ's resurrection?

What does it mean to share in his sufferings?

**Philippians 3:12-16** Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. 13 Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. 15 All of us, then, who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you. 16 Only let us live up to what we have already attained. 17 Join together in

For what purpose did Christ take hold of you?

See also **John 15:16** You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to so that you might go and bear fruit.

Who opposes that purpose?

How do we press on toward our goal?

PRESS ON! Keep growing! Keep serving! Keep praising! Keep sharing! Keep trusting! Keep following! Keep obeying! Keep thanking!

**Philippians 3:18-4:1** following my example, brothers and sisters, and just as you have us as a model, keep your eyes on those who live as we do. 18 For, as I have often told you before and now tell you again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. 19 Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is set on earthly things. 20 But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body. 4:1 Therefore, my brothers and sisters, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, dear friends!

Evaluate – Your attitude and actions, for good or for bad, don't just impact you.

v.18-19 What kind of people are being referred to here?

With what attitude can believers view Christ' return?

v.20 What is the Christians' dual citizenship?

What kind of bodies will we enjoy in heaven?