

Oak Hill Baptist Church

27 October 2024

Philippians 3:1-4:1

Press on Toward Jesus

As Paul has finished up his warning that we are only saved by faith in Christ and not by certain good works, he turns the corner and encourages us to love God and others. When we do this, we are a light to the world.

The Jewish people who were pushing gentile Christians to be circumcised or follow the Jewish model of righteousness, were not only leading them astray about salvation, but they were also not being kind to new believers by placing this burden on them.

Paul then urges the church to rejoice in the Lord. We can rejoice in the Lord because:

1. **We are saved by faith in Jesus.**
2. **Jesus pays our sin punishment.**
3. **We are given the Spirit of God.**
4. **The Spirit and God's Word and God's people help us in life.**

We are part of God's nation (heaven), and that is even more important than our own lineage or nationality. All nationalities can go to heaven, but it's not because of what country we come from, it is because of Christ!

Do you see your country or God as more important? Do you see your own name or God as more important?

Do you see your stuff or God as more important?

Are you putting anything before God? Are you rejoicing in your life now?

Do you have joy! Do you have joy in Jesus even when you are suffering because you know He is with you now and He will be with you in heaven if you know Jesus?

Vs 1-11 We need to rejoice in the Lord no matter what is happening in life.

We can rejoice because we know Jesus and He knows us. No matter how bad things are now, Jesus is there to help you. Are you asking Jesus to help you? Do you honor His word and direction when He does help you?

Philippians 4:4 *Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.*

Paul takes a difficult situation like a divided church with people trying to force men into circumcision, and he points to Jesus. He writes, while he's in jail, that even in hard times God is working and God can use us.

The reason Paul calls these mens dogs is because they are trying to lead people astray. They are leading against faith in Jesus, and they are teaching that Christians must follow certain rules to get to heaven.

Any religion that teaches that we can get to heaven by our works or what we do, is a false religion. God says we must have faith in Jesus to get to heaven. We can never do anything to earn it or deserve it.

Ephesians 2:8-9 *For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, 9 not a result of works, so that no one may boast.*

Galatians 2:16 *yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified.*

Gather ~ Praise ~ Pray ~ Grow ~ Serve

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We cannot trust our flesh to do good. Our works actually show that we deserve hell. But God knew this and gave us a Savior in Jesus. Do you believe in Jesus as your Lord?

Paul shows this church that he is a good Jew. These Judaizers are trying to teach the church to be good Jews to get into heaven. Paul argues that he is the Jew of Jews and yet he still needs Jesus.

You are not saved because of your nationality. You are not saved, even if you think you are awesome or great. You are not saved if you do a bunch of good things. We can only be saved by believing in Jesus and asking Him to save us.

Everything in our life is a loss compared to loving Jesus!

The worldly things we lose, or give up for Jesus, are like trash compared to knowing Jesus!

Is there anything in your life now that you would not give up for Jesus? What sin habit are you holding onto because you love it more than Jesus? Are you willing to ask Him to take it away?

We can KNOW God by having faith in Jesus! We can trust He is our Lord and Savior and He died for our sins, We can trust that He was raised from the dead. If Jesus suffers, we will suffer, but He was raised and we will be raised from the dead if we believe in Jesus. Do you believe in Jesus as your Lord and Savior?

Vs 12-1 Christian, press on toward loving Jesus and living for Jesus. Don't give up and have joy when you suffer, because Jesus saves.

If you know Jesus, He made you His own!

Romans 8:29-30 *For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. 30 And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.*

Ephesians 1:11-14 *In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, 12 so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. 13 In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.*

Is your goal Jesus? Do you believe in Him? Do you live for Him?

Vs 17-1 Paul urges readers to imitate him in trusting Jesus, living for Jesus, and by rejoicing even in suffering.

If someone does not live for Christ, their end is destruction. Jesus can be their Savior, but they must stop worshiping and glorifying themselves.

As Christians, our citizenship is in heaven. We are from the place called heaven. This kingdom will outlive every kingdom and country that has ever existed.

In heaven, there will be perfection. We will have glorified bodies.

Stand firm in the Lord. Live for Jesus. Live with heaven in mind. We will get to be with Jesus, current pain and suffering will stop, and we will have glorified bodies in our new country!

Christian, stand firm in Jesus!

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