

Worship in The Spirit.

Text: Philippians 3:1 - 3 "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.) Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the concision. (3.) For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh."

Introduction: The church at Philippi was as so many churches of the churches at that time having a issue separating judaizing teachers, who endeavored to keep up the law of Moses and mix the observances of it with the doctrine of Christ and his churches. Today we have issues of Arminianism attempting to mix in with Sovereign Grace churches. Their doctrine is about humanism, it is about what people can do for themselves to gain and keep salvation. Their teachings is works based and includes outward works, baptism, church membership, and etc, etc, etc. While all these have their place in a Christians life none of them have anything to do with salvation. Those that teach them are examples of what God was talking about in Romans 1:25 "Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen." Gnosticism is another name it was know by then. These were the teachers of old Jewish teachings. Therefore as Paul concludes the letter to the church at Philippi he was warning this church and churches in the future about these creature worshipping religions. Let us as a church take Paul's warnings to heart.

- I. Out first point is found in verse 1 "Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord..."
 - A. To rejoice in the Lord is to be happy in the Lord. It is only in the Lord one can be happy.
 - B. The Psalmist wrote in **Psalms 5:11** "But let all those that put their trust in thee rejoice: let them ever shout for joy, because thou defendest them: let them also that love thy name be joyful in thee."
 1. Internal joy or happiness that is often expressed by shouting or singing in the spirit.
 2. The Psalmist prayed for the wicked to be defeated in

defending us “because thou defendest them,” look at Verse 10 “Destroy thou them, O God; let them fall by their own counsels; cast them out in the multitude of their transgressions; for they have rebelled against thee.”

- C. **Rejoicing in the Lord is for us** is to rejoice in what God has done in us, by quickening our hearts, the Holy Spirit taking up residence in us, and opening the salvation door to you, and giving you salvation. He doesn't do it for everyone, but God did it for us.
 - D. It is also the calling to a church, a pacific work in the church, and for seeing your successfulness.
 - E. It is also keeping you in your salvation, never leaving you, and seeing you through to death and your glorification at His return.
 - F. It is also the fellowship in the Spirit as Gods Spirit and our spirit fellowship everyday. This is the reason we have to, not only rejoice. but to rejoice in the Lord.
 - G. Mary said for God choosing her to be the mother of Jesus Christ, **Luke 1:47** "And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour."
 - H. Our fellowship and worship of God is spiritual and not outwardly. Only if our hearts are in joy can we have a loving and rejoicing fellowship with God.
- II. Paul's warning to this church, and ours. "...To write the same things to you..."
- V.1
- A. The things Paul preached and wrote were spiritual, they were not his writing or teachings, everything was by the Power of the Holy Spirit. 1 Corinthians 12:7 “But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.”
 - B. Therefore, Paul concluded "... to me indeed is not grievous..."
 - 1) These teachings are not slothful or troublesome. Preachers would do good to listen to Paul.
 - 2) Peter said in **2 Peter 1:12 - 15** "Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things,

though ye know them, and be established in the present truth.

(13.) Yea, I think it meet, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you up by putting you in remembrance; (14.) Knowing that shortly I must put off this my tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ hath shewed me. (15.) Moreover I will endeavour that ye may be able after my decease to have these things always in remembrance."

C. **It is not hurtful to preach about the sovereignty of God**, it is not hurtful to be spiritually happy and not outward happy. It is not hurtful to depend on God and not ourselves, because we can do nothing. Therefore, Paul concludes in verse 2 "Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the concision." - Beware of them who change the truth in to a lie and worship the creature over the Creator. Rom. 1:25

III. Paul concludes in verse 3 " For we are the circumcision..."

A. Not that we have been circumcised, but that we are the circumcision in Christ.

- 1) Paul describes true Christians, who are indeed the circumcision, the spiritual circumcision.
- 2) We are the ones who have had the flesh cut way and are now spiritual worshipers.
- 3) We are the circumcision, who worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.
- 4) Paul described it this way in **Colossians 2:11** "In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ:"
- 5) Moses said it this way in **Deuteronomy 30:6** "And the LORD thy God will circumcise thine heart, and the heart of thy seed, to love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, that thou mayest live."

B. And it is these people that "...worship God in the spirit..." V. 3

- 1) True worship is not an outward show of worship, but rather a fellowship between your spirit and the Holy Spirit. **Romans 8:14 - 15** "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. (15) For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father."
- 2) Paul said it must be spiritual because we have "...no confidence in the flesh..." V. 3 **1 Peter 1:22 - 25** "Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently: (23) Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever. (24) For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: (25) But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you."
- 3) Paul said I trusted in the flesh and I was wrong. **Philippians 3:4 - 7** "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: (5.) 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. (7.) But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ."

IV. Conclusion

- A. We have one verse for conclusion, **John 4:24** "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth."

