



BIBLE STUDY

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Philippians 3
Faith In Christ

Philippians 3:1-9
Faith In Christ: No Faith in The Flesh

I. Faith in Religion (3:1-3)
A. False Faith (3:1-2)

NIV 1 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.

The term "safeguard" suggests protection against false teachings and spiritual dangers.

NIV 2 Watch out for those dogs, those evildoers, those mutilators of the flesh.

those dogs

This term was used figuratively to describe people who were considered impure or morally corrupt

The term dog also is used to denote a person that is shameless, rude, nasty, snarling, dissatisfied, and critical.

those evildoers

Judaizers were evildoers, because they altered the message of grace by adding legalistic requirements.

those mutilators of the flesh!

This phrase specifically targets the

Judaizers who advocated circumcision as necessary for salvation.

Paul similarly expresses his frustration with those who insist on circumcision, suggesting that they are more concerned with outward rituals than with true spiritual renewal.

B. True Faith (3:3)

NIV 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

Deuteronomy 30:6

Amplified Bible

6 “And the Lord your God will circumcise your heart and the hearts of your descendants [that is, He will remove the desire to sin from your heart], so that you will love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul, so that you may live [as a recipient of His blessing].

Deuteronomy 30:6

New Living Translation

6 “The Lord your God will **change your heart**[a] and the hearts of all your descendants, so that you will love him with all your heart and soul and so you may live!

Romans 2:29

New Living Translation

29 No, a true Jew is one whose heart is right with God. **And true circumcision is not merely obeying the letter of the law; rather, it is a change of heart produced by the Spirit. And a person with a changed heart seeks praise from God, not from people.**

Colossians 2:11

New Living Translation

11 When you came to Christ, you were “**circumcised,**” but not by a physical procedure. **Christ performed a spiritual circumcision—the cutting away of your sinful nature**

Colossians 2:11-12

New International Version

11 In him you were also circumcised with a circumcision not performed by human hands. Your whole self ruled by the flesh was put off when **you were circumcised by Christ**, 12 having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.

2. Faith In Himself/Flesh (3:4-6)

NIV 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:

NIV 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;

A. Faith in Circumcision (3:5a)

circumcised on the eighth day

This practice was a sign of the covenant between God and His people, marking them as set apart.

a proselyte, circumcised at his reception into the Jewish Church

an Ishmaelite, circumcised, like Ishmael, at the age of thirteen.

B. Faith in Lineage (3:5b)

of the people of Israel

A true/natural Israelite. Jacob descendent, purity of his blood of the tribe of Benjamin

The tribe of Benjamin was one of the twelve tribes of Israel, known for its loyalty and valor.

a Hebrew of Hebrews

Descended, by both father and mother, from Abraham's race, without any mixture of foreign blood.

as to the law, a Pharisee

By identifying as a Pharisee, Paul highlights his rigorous obedience to the Mosaic Law and his commitment to living a life of religious purity.

C. Faith in Self-Righteousness (3:6)

NIV 6 as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless.

Romans 3:20

New Living Translation

20 For no one can ever be made right with God by doing what the law commands. The law simply shows us how sinful we are.

3. Faith In Christ (3:7-9)

A. Everything Loss for Christ (3:7)

NIV 7 But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ.

Philippians 3:7

New Living Translation

7 I once thought these things were **valuable**, but now I consider them **worthless** because of what Christ has done.

Paul's use of "gain" suggests a ledger or accounting metaphor, indicating things he once considered assets.

Paul uses the term "loss" to indicate a complete reevaluation of his values.

The phrase "for the sake of" indicates a purpose or motivation.

B. Knowing Christ (3:8)

NIV 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.

Knowing here implies an intimate, practical knowledge rather than mere intellectual assent.

The term rubbish is a strong word that can mean refuse or dung. Also, something that is thrown away as worthless

Philippians 3:8

Contemporary English Version

8 Nothing is as wonderful as knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. I have given up everything else and count it all as garbage. All I want is Christ

C. Faith (3:9)

NIV 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[a] Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith.

Romans 10:3-4

New Living Translation

3 For they don't understand God's way of making people right with himself. Refusing to accept God's way, they cling to their own way of getting right with God by trying to keep the law.

4 For Christ has already accomplished the purpose for which the law was given. As a result, all who believe in him are made right with God.

Romans 4:5

New Living Translation

5 But people are counted as righteous, not because of their work, but because of their faith in God who forgives sinners.

Romans 4:5

Contemporary English Version

5 But you cannot make God accept you because of something you do. God accepts sinners only because they have faith in him.

Ephesians 2:9

New Living Translation

9 Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.