

Rejoice in the Truth

Philippians 3:1–3

When we come to our text in this lesson, we see Paul introduces a new segment of his epistle with concern for an issue that had been plaguing him and the early churches—The false teachers, mainly the Judaizers.

These false teachers were going into the churches that Paul had started and were teaching a works salvation that was undermining and discouraging some of the Gentile believers.

In our text, we see three important truths Paul shares with the Philippians in relation to the gospel and rejoicing in its truth.

I. A Cause for Rejoicing

Philippians 3:1

A. A Repeated Thanks

Paul tells them to “rejoice in the Lord.” Paul had already used *rejoice* seven times in the first two chapters. Paul uses a form of the word *rejoice* twelve times and *joy* six times in this book.

“When the heart is full of joy, it always allows its joy to escape. It is like the fountain in the marketplace; whenever it is full, it runs away in streams, and so soon as it ceases to overflow, you may be quite sure that it has ceased to be full. The only full heart is the overflowing heart.” C.H. Spurgeon

B. A Love of the Truth

Truth is a safeguard for the Christian.

1. **The Truth Keeps us free from deception and lies.**

John 8:31–32 KJV 1900

Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, *then* are ye my disciples indeed;

And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

2. **The truth lines up with the Holy Spirit’s guidance.**

John 16:13 KJV 1900

Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, *that* shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

3. **The Truth is the foundation of our sanctification—the Word of God.**

John 17:17 KJV 1900

Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

II. A Concern for the Church

Philippians 3:2

“The early Christians condemned false doctrine in a way that sounds almost unchristian today.”
Vance Havner

A. Unclean Wolves

No doubt this term “dogs” was describing the character of the type of person who was a false teacher—he wanted to disrupt and break up the churches.

Acts 20:29 KJV 1900

For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock.

Peter also warned of false teachers.

2 Peter 2:1 KJV 1900

But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.

2 Peter 2:19 KJV 1900

While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage.

2 Peter 2:22 KJV 1900

But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog *is* turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.

“The reference here is, doubtless, to Judaizing teachers, and the idea is, that they were contentious, troublesome, dissatisfied, and would produce disturbance. The strong language which the apostle uses here, shows the sense which he had of the danger arising from their influence.” Albert Barnes

B. Evil Workers

Although false teachers may think they are doing good and that they are benefitting their hearers, they are in reality evil workers because they are opposing the truth!

2 Corinthians 11:13–15 KJV 1900

For such *are* false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.

And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.

Therefore *it is* no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

C. False Worshippers

The word *concision* was used of the Jews and in particular the Judaizers who were trying to draw Christians from their liberty in Christ to a life of bondage again under the rituals and practices of the law.

Galatians 5:1–3 KJV 1900

Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

Behold, I Paul say unto you, that if ye be circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing.

For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to do the whole law.

Numbers 32:23 KJV 1900

But if ye will not do so, behold, ye have sinned against the LORD: and be sure your sin will find you out.

III. A Confidence in Christ

Colossians 2:11–14 KJV 1900

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:

Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with *him* through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.

And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;

Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;

A. A True Faith

Philippians 3:3a

Is from the Heart

True worship for the church is not found in a geographical location; it is worshipping God from the heart.

John 4:23–24 KJV 1900

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.

God *is* a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship *him* in spirit and in truth.

Is toward Christ

True worship is from the heart and is focused not on our actions but on Jesus Christ.

Colossians 3:23 KJV 1900

And whatsoever ye do, do *it* heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;

B. A Trusting Faith

Philippians 3:3b

John 6:63 KJV 1900

It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, *they* are spirit, and *they* are life.

Psalms 28:7–8 KJV 1900

The LORD *is* my strength and my shield; My heart trusted in him, and I am helped: Therefore my heart greatly rejoiceth; And with my song will I praise him.

The LORD *is* their strength, And he *is* the saving strength of his anointed.

Conclusion

As a Bible-believing Christian, we have great cause for rejoicing! Never before have we had such a great opportunity to help promote the truth of Christ!

Tonight, if you are seeking truth, I want to point you to Jesus Christ!

John 14:6 KJV 1900

Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

He is the only way to heaven. He is the only one that provides salvation. He is the one that you need tonight. I urge you to put your faith in Jesus.

If you would like to be saved, I invite you to call, text, or email us. We want to reach out to you with the Hope of the Gospel! Call: 417-865-7286 Text: 417-815-4686 Email: info@hillsidebc.com