

Philippians

(11) Fatal Confidence in the Flesh

Phil 3:2-7

2 Watch out for those dogs, those men who do evil, those mutilators of the flesh. 3 For it is we who are the circumcision, we who worship by the Spirit of God, who glory in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh— 4 though I myself have reasons for such confidence. If anyone else thinks he has 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 legalistic righteousness, faultless. 7 But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. NIV

Paul's warning regards the Judaizers...3:1-3

What is the first term Paul uses to describe these false teachers? 3:2; Ps.22:16; Rev.22:15

He calls them 'dogs'. Wild, vicious, and hated. Often used by Jews to describe Gentiles!

How does our 'love everybody' culture deal with this passage? Mt.7:15; Acts 20:29

Basically by distorting it! It's for a different time/culture/etc. We must not offend anyone!

Paul was imprisoned for possible execution. Who's the 'worst', Romans / Judaizers? Mt.10:28

Infinitely worse are the false teachers. Their 'fruit' is eternal damnation! No recovery.

What's his second term describing these false teachers? 3:2; IICor.11:13; IITim.3:1-5

'men who do evil (depraved, wicked, worthless)'. Describes the effect of their teachings.

And the third term? 3:2 see Rom.2:25-29

'false circumcision', mutilators of the flesh. Those whose confidence is in the flesh.

What was (is) the basic doctrine of these false teachers (Judaizers)? Acts 15:1

Only truly saved by faith + circumcision! Faith + works, not grace alone, faith alone.

What are some of the 'modern' variations of this theme? Mt.7:21-23; IIJn.9-11

Baptism, certain denominations, terms of service, charismatic evidence, truth + error.

What are the distinguishing traits of true believers? 3:3; Jn.4:23-24; Rom.7:6

Worship in/by the Holy Spirit; glory in Christ; put no confidence in the flesh!

Paul's personal spiritual balance-sheet...3:4-7

Before Acts 9:5, what was Paul counting on, spiritually? 3:4-6

Ritual, race, rank, tradition, religion, sincerity, legalistic righteousness. 7 deadly things!

How do we see these same things in our 'religious' world today?

After Acts 9:5, how does Paul count these things? 3:7

He considered them all in the loss column! Not just zero, but negative. Real insight!

So what does Paul now have in the 'plus' column? 3:8-9; Rom.4:1-12

He has the Righteousness of Christ imputed to his account! And his negatives to Christ.

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