

Philippians 3.1-11

Identity – Where from? What do? Who family? > Common Questions Life

Need some Boxes to Know HOW to Relate / Understand People

Know People @ Background = TRUST Language – Nation – Town – Job

1st C Rome > Guilds / Trade Assoc – Temples – Tribes – Languages

Paul – Highly Respected Young Rabbi, Fine Family, taught by Gamaliel

Something Dramatic Happens to Saul > All Impt Things Now Rubbish!

Claims Face to Face Encounter w GOD – Heard Voice – Called Apostle

Now Entire Life CHANGED > Values Reoriented! – Shocking! Scarry!

21st C Life Change – Divorce, Change Gender > Veiled Shock, Drift!

Paul Not Worried about Image: Confident in X > Calls for CHANGE!

1. Self-Salvation falls Short

Jewish Nation SAVED by GRACE thru FAITH: God’s Undeserved Favor

Slaves Egypt/ Redeemed thru Sea/ Covenant@ Sinai: Law > Holy Nation

Laws & Commands > Blessing? > OBEY // Cursing? > DISOBEY

Think LAW > Telescope: Make God Look Big: Grace to Save Sinners

Rules: Order for Rebels / Rituals for Forgetful / Ceremony for Next Generation

Drop Telescope /Wrong End: Make Us Look Big Saved? Sure!! Deserve!

Rules – Show Righteous!! / Rituals – Parade Worth! / Ceremonies - National Pride!

Jesus CORRECTED > Murder, Adultery from HEART! Grace to Humble

Peter to Jews/Pentecost > Spirit/Jesus – Cut to Heart – Formed churches

Early Church > Mostly Jewish > Growing # Gentiles > Worship Jesus

As # Gentiles Grew > Jews told G’s LOOK thru Wrong End of Telescope

Council in Jerus Acts 15.1 ‘some men came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers, “Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.”’

Conclusion of Council Acts 15.11 “we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus” > Right view of TELESCOPE!

v. 2 Look out for the dogs, look out for the evildoers, look out for those who mutilate the flesh / Beware the Curs! B the Criminals! B the Cutters!

a. DOGS-Not Fifi Lapdog / Golden Retriever @ Fireplace

1stC NOT Pets: Some Watchdogs, Most Rabid, Traveled in Wild Packs

Jews called Gentiles Dogs: Now Paul > calls Jewish Religious Leaders!!

False Teachers Snapped @ Paul's Heels, Barking Lies & Heresies like Dogs

“for dogs encompass me, a company of evildoers encircles me” Psalm 22.16

b. EVIL WORKERS contrast to Evangelists/Good News > BAD NEWS

“Look at what Jesus did...90% way...YOU come 10%” / God did all Can

Ritual gets Across Finish Line > PROOF is your SIGN! Circumcision!

If 1% of your Trust for Salvation is in Yourself > Will be 100% Lost!

Rom 3.20 by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight

c. MUTILATORS of FLESH contrast w True Circumcision

Paul uses language of Gentiles > who Mocked Jews for their Circumcision

Not Abandoning OT Truth > Making Pt OT Clear – Reality before Ritual

Deuteronomy 30.6 “The Lord your God will circumcise your heart...so that you will love the Lord your God w all your heart & with all your soul, that you may live

Why Not ADD Rituals? Circ? Sacrament? Remember NOT Require

Paint Mustache on Mona Lisa? Improve? Destroy It? FINISHED WORK

'he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy'
Titus 3.5

2. Super-Jew Fall Short

v. 4 though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also. If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more:

a. Paul's Relationship to Nation v. 5 “circumcised on the 8th day, of people of Israel”

Day Expected to Be Circ as Good Jew > BORN into the Faith

Superior to ANY Gentile Convert = 10 Generations! For Gentiles

Gentiles can Convert – but Remain 2nd Class Jews

v. 5 “of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews”

Ben & Joseph Jacob's Favorite Sons / Favorite wife Rachel's Son

1st King of Israel > Saul from Tribe Benj – HE is named Saul!

Hebrew FROM Heb. Family Pharisees, spoke Aramaic, language Jesus!

b. Paul's Relationship to the Law > Party of Most Righteous Jews

v. 5 "as to the law, a Pharisee" – highest standard orthodoxy

Graduate of Oxford, Cambridge, Harvard, Yale, UH-Hilo!

Best Training – Best Likelihood of Correct Understanding of Jewish Faith

c. Paul's Relationship to Israel's Enemies

v. 6 "as to zeal, a persecutor of the church" Violently against Rome Idolatry

Pharisees grew out of Maccabean revolt > agnst Rome/Temple 200 AD

Pharisees > Strict interpretation Jewish Law > Maintain Jewish Identity LOSING!

Turned Zeal against followers of Jesus / Claimed Jesus NEW Israel

Paul to Riot in Jerus Acts 22.3 'being zealous for God as you are all today'

v. 6 "as to righteousness under the law, blameless" // Rich Young Ruler!

Man Pleaser! ADMIRER by Others > Loved by Jesus – Walked AWAY!

3. Shocking Encounter with the Savior

a. **Dung** v. 7,8 whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ

Gentiles ENVY Status of Paul / Perfect Pedigree of Jewish Orthodoxy

COMPARED to What He was Given by Risen Jesus > it is Rubbish, Dung

the Lord to Samuel, "...the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart" 1 Sam 16.7

Turn Telescope Around > Word of God given to make GOD Glorious

Not OT is Bad > Impt Foundation > Jesus Better! Completes a Jew!

No Bicycle Here? BJ rode Bikes! No Hills! > No Bike, No Cars

b. Declaration > Stand in Work God Did, Not Strive to Achieve It!

v. 9 be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith,

Paul LOST own Righteousness/DUNG > GAINED Righteousness of X

“Justification is full because it gives us Christ’s righteousness; it is final because it does not depend on keeping the law but on God’s gift of his Son; it cannot be reversed; it can never be destroyed. It is invincible because it is the judgment of the last day brought into the present day”
Sinclair Ferguson

v. 3 For we are the circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh

Gk Single Definite Article > 3 Descriptors > NOT Multiple CHOICE!

True Believer is ALL 3 at Same Time > Full Work of God in our Lives

Confidence in Self / Conf in Savior > Mutually Exclusive / 1 or Other

Romans 2.28,29 For no one is a Jew who is merely one outwardly, nor is circumcision outward and physical. But a Jew is one inwardly, and circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter. His praise is not from man but from God. // JUDAH = PRAISE!

“worship by the Spirit of God” > poured out by Jesus, points to Jesus

That is WHY we > “glory in Christ Jesus” – Only Savior for Sinners

‘put no confidence in the flesh’ NOT “the Lord helps who help selves”

Ben Franklin! > God helps those who CANNOT Help Themselves

“Upbringing, natural qualities and gifts, possessions, traditions, an education that makes us feel superior to others – all these are irrelevant. More, when we trust in them they pull us down in sin and failure; they cannot earn our favor with God. We cannot afford to rely on them. Christ and Christ alone is our security. This is the gospel. Dilute it, add to it, distort it – and all is lost. Believe it and we will be justified”
Sinclair Ferguson

Jesus: “Remember Lot's wife. Whoever seeks to keep his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it”
Luke 17.32, 33

c. Difficulty Describes Christian Life > from Resurrection to Resurrection

KNOWING Christ > Relationship > He calls us Friends – Grow Deeper

Historical Experience of Believer: Paul met RISEN Jesus on Rd Damascus

v. 10 that I may know him > Heart of New Covenant

“For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel...they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more”
Jeremiah 31.33,34

Jesus prayer few Hours before Cross: “This is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent”
John 17.3

v. 10 the power of his resurrection...v. 11 that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Xtian Life > from Res of Jesus TO our Resur IN HIM > Alive in Christ

“any means possible” – NOT Doubt Conclusion – Not Sure Circumstance

Saul of Tarsus – Unquestioned Confidence / Paul – How can it Be?

Illustrate vs Golden Gate Bridge SF > 2 Pillars driven deep into Bedrock
Cables Suspended on Strong Pillars > All Held Together / Resur to Resur

What is Nature of Xtian Life? Happiness? Success? Prosperity? Health?

Send \$ to Ministry – Prayer Cloth – Anointing – Name It & Claim It!

v. 10,11 that I may know him...and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death

Jesus Real Man – Lived, Died, Rose > More than just Believing Facts

Salvation = Knowing Him personally – Talk to Him, Listen, Follow

We LIVE for Christ because we DIED to Self – Pick Up Cross & Follow

If Looking thru Wrong End of Telescope > Ask WHY need to Die to Self?

If YOU fill the Whole Screen > No Room, No Need for God in the SHOT

Paul lived under LAW: Slave > Serve Lord Jesus – Alive & Set Free!

Philippians 1.21 “For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain”

2 Corinth 4.11 For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.

Galatians 2.20 “I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”

Paradox > We MOST ALIVE when Most Surrendered to Christ as Lord

Cannot take Treasure 2 Heaven > but CAN SEND it Ahead in Gospel Min

Paul Popov > Door of Hope, Intl >> “Yesterday, Pastor Anatoly, my dear and long-time friend, informed me that his church suffered catastrophic damage when a massive barrage of 73 missiles and 656 drones hit across Ukraine.

Putin's missile hit the church, which completely blew out all windows and doors, collapsed the suspended ceilings and tore through the Sunday school classrooms, office spaces and the indoor recreation area where many teens often gather.

I know Pastor Anatoly's New Life Church well as I have visited often...Praise God, the strike occurred at 3:50 AM when the sanctuary was empty. The building was greatly damaged but nobody was injured or killed!

We thank God for his mercy and protection on so many of our friends and ministry workers throughout Ukraine. Please keep them in your prayers! Together in His Ministry, Paul H. Popov

d. Delight v. 1 Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you is no trouble to me and is safe for you.

Finally > Don't Worry – Only Half-way thru Letter! Preaching Technique

ALL True JOY is In the Lord > Source, Ultimate Object is in HIM

JOY not in Changing Circumstances > but in Unchanging God over Circu

If ABIDE in Jesus we'll Bear FRUIT & Remain in His JOY

Paul repeats this Message > Command BE JOYFUL – Refuse to Grumble

“is safe for you” What happened to Grumblers in Israel – Died along Way

Dying with X – Alive by Spirit – Glory in Gospel – Joy in Lord Strength

Psalm 81 // Sing aloud to God our strength; **shout for joy to the God of Jacob!** // Raise a song; sound the tambourine, the sweet lyre with the harp. // **Blow the trumpet at the new moon, at the full moon, on our feast day.** // For it is a statute for Israel, // **a rule of the God of Jacob.** // He made it a decree in Joseph // **when he went out over the land of Egypt.** // I hear a language I had not known: // **“I relieved your shoulder of the burden; your hands were freed from the basket.** // In distress you called, and I delivered you; // **I answered you in the secret place of thunder;** // I tested you at the waters of Meribah. Hear, O my people, while I admonish you! // **O Israel, if you would but listen to me!** // There shall be no strange god among you; you shall not bow down to a foreign god. // **I am the Lord your God, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt.** // Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it. // **“But my people did not listen to my voice; Israel would not submit to me.** // So I gave them over to their stubborn hearts, to follow their own counsels. // **Oh, that my people would listen to me, that Israel would walk in my ways!** // I would soon subdue their enemies and turn my hand against their foes. // **Those who hate the Lord would cringe toward him, and their fate would last forever.** // But he would feed you with the finest of the wheat, // **and with honey from the rock I would satisfy you.”**
Amen and Amen.