



A Study of Galatians, Ephesians, **Philippians**, Colossians

Review of Chapter 2:

The Philippians struggled with some of the same issues that many congregations faced. Paul writes to them:

- Live a life worthy of the calling you have received
- In humility, consider others better than yourselves.
- Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.
- Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus

1. What was the problem that many congregations and people struggle with?

Christians living their Christian life

2. What was the example that Paul used as the example of the way we should live?

Your attitude should be the same as Christ

3. Continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling.....

- What sinful attitude is he talking about? **We take God and our salvation for granted, we don't think about our sins, we are not repentant when we do sin.**
- What God-pleasing attitude should we have? **Work on continuous putting our faith into action as a thanks for all that Christ has already given to us.**

A summary of the chapter was: Serve the Lord in humility or Live your faith serving others

Chapter 3: Read verses 1-4

Finally, my brothers, 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.

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—

1. Sometimes we think that we hear the same things about God (Jesus, salvation, forgiveness, new life) over and over. We think that we don't need to hear that again. What does Paul say about this type of thinking? **He says that it is good that we hear those things, it is a safeguard for us**

2. How does the Holy Spirit safeguard our faith when we hear these things again and again? **We need to hear those Gospel concepts over and over again. They are the light for our life of faith. It is often the simplest Gospel that is very important to us**

3. What are the three phrases that Paul uses that seem out of place in a letter of joy? **Out for those dogs, those men who do evil, those mutilators of the flesh.**

4. Some explanation may be needed. Who is Paul talking about? **The Judaizers who were turning people away from the pure Gospel by saying they must be circumcised before they can be saved**

5. Use the context.... How does he feel about them? Why? **He doesn't like them because they are taking people away from the truth of God**

6. When Paul says, "It is we who are circumcision, we who worship by the Spirit of God." Is he talking about physical or spiritual circumcision? How do you know? **Spiritual. He has previously said that we do not need the physical circumcision. We don't need the outward signs to show that we are faithful. We do need to be set apart for God in the heart.**

7. In the religious culture today, would we expect to hear this kind of language used to describe someone that is watering down the Gospel? Why or why not? **No, there is this vast message of being inclusive. The thought is that all we need is Jesus. We should just ignore differences of faith -- even differences of salvation. We should water down religion until there are no differences.**

8. Is it worth our time to point out when the truth of the Word is compromised? Why or why not? **Yes, we need to be the salt and the light that Jesus says we should be -- this is part of living life worthy of the calling we have received, to treasure and hold tightly to the truth of salvation**

Read Verses 4-11

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. ⁸ What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ 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 Christ—the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.

9. According to whose rules does Paul have reason for confidence?

According to the rules of the Jews, the checklist they made up as important things

10. What were those rules based on?

It was based on God's Law and the Old Testament Scriptures

11. What had Paul done his whole life that had given him reason for confidence?

He had lived according to those rules and Laws, He had worked really hard to check the things off his checklist

12. How does he feel about those qualifications, those rules, now that he has been called by Christ?

He feels that they are garbage, refuse, manure

13. What is the difference between salvation by works and salvation by grace?

They are completely different. Either God loves us and gives us salvation or he is like a boss or manager and makes us work for it and earn it.

14. In the end, whose righteousness did Paul realize he needed? A righteousness from himself or a righteousness from God? Which is better? **He needed the righteousness that God gives to him, not the one that he earned or worked for.**

Read verses 12-14

¹²Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. ¹³Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

15. How are both correct:

1. Heaven is already ours....

2. Paul saying press on to take hold of the prize....

When we are in faith, heaven is a gift that is already ours, it is already given to us

Yet, until we die, we do not live in the glory and bliss of heaven. We are yet to receive this special gift

16. How is pressing on to the goal a lot like work out your salvation with fear and trembling?

We realize that there is much more than this life, there is the next life. We realize that we have someone to answer to in the end. We have someone who loved us enough to give us forgiveness and eternal life.

17. Where is the only place where the fight will be done?

In heaven

Read verses 15-16

¹⁵ All of us who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you. ¹⁶ Only let us live up to what we have already attained.

18. What are some immature views of Christian living that people have today?

We can do whatever we want as long as we go to church.

We don't need church to be saved.

Organized religion, any organized religion, is bad

Church is about social programs and not about the world

I can live however I want, God loves me just the way I am.

19. What is the mature view we have already talked about?

We live according to God's Word, what he tells us is right and wrong.

We live keeping our eyes on the prize that Jesus has graciously given to us.

We live that life worthy of the calling we have received.

Read verses 17-21

¹⁷ Join with others in following my example, brothers, and take note of those who live according to the pattern we gave you. ¹⁸ For, as I have often told you before and now say again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹ Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things. ²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

20. How can a mind on earthly things get in the way of the heavenly things that are to come?

We can become so focused on the here and now, that it becomes the most important thing to us, we begin to make all of our decisions with the view that this is all that is important.

21. This is an exhortation. An exhortation is a godly encouragement. What is Paul encouraging the Philippians to do? **Continue to remember the gifts they have, continue to believe in the Savior from sin, Continue to thank God by the way they live**

22. How can we do a better job of that ourselves?