

Pseudo/Pure Spirituality

In Ch 1-2 Paul has discussed his personal situation, the problem in the church and given exhortations to resolve the inner conflicts. In Ch 3, he will discuss the transformation process of the CWL and in Ch 4, he will close the book with thanks to the Lord and the Philippian church.

3:1-3 – Pseudo spirituality – confidence in the flesh vs. pure spirituality – confidence in the Spirit

3:1 – finally – Ch 3-4 considered Paul's closing remarks

3:1 – rejoice – P/A/Imp – express joy – commanding exhortation

- Count your blessings associated with Christ and be joyful about them
- Rejoice because of the sufficiency of Christ to save us and make us secure
- Rejoice because of the sufficiency of GHS to empower us to be spiritual

3:1 – repetition – Paul writes the same things over and over

- Repetition is how we learn – even when it is boring and appears unnecessary
- Teacher – not tedious or troublesome – necessary for growth and protection
- Taught – safeguard – protects the bel from the errors of legalism

3:2 - pseudo circumcision– 3 imperatives – **blepo** – watch out 3X – be on guard

- Dogs – packs of dogs – Mt 7:6 – reject truth; 2Pt 2:22 – embrace error
- Evil worker – those who distort salvation/spirituality by adding works of the flesh
- Mutilators – those who circumcise the flesh as a means of salv / spirit – just cutting flesh

3:3 – true circumcision – in comparison to the pseudo circumcision

3:3 – worship by GHS – depend upon GHS as sufficient for spiritual life

3:3 – boast in Christ Jesus – brag/rejoice because of our sufficiency in Christ – salvation & security

3:3 – confidence in flesh – Pf – fixed state of confidence – their doctrinal position

Principles / Passage

1. Our sufficiency in Christ is sufficient reason to rejoice.

- Salvation – delivered from eternity in the Lake of Fire – pre-salvation sins
- Security – eternal deliverance from future sins – post-salvation sins
- Spirituality – freedom from slavery to sin and enablement of GHS – desire/do God's will
- The fact that Christ has rescued is from eternal damnation should cause us to rejoice.

2. Our relationship with Christ is an occasion for rejoicing.

- Rejoice –**chairo** – delighted, emotional celebration
- 8x in Phil Paul speaks of rejoicing – 4:4 – commands us to rejoice – intense exhortation
- Experience and demonstration of emotion is healthy and appropriate for Believers

3. The Christian message must be taught and heard over and over.

- Jn 14:16 – GHS teaches and reminds us of what he has taught us
- 2Tim 2:14; Jude 1:5 – put the church in remembrance of what they had already been taught
- 2Pt 1:12 – I intend to always remind you
- Repetition creates a strong memory that GHS uses when we need doctrine for decisions

4. The Christian must be on guard against those who lead them away from grace.

- Paul repeats the warning “watch out” as a command – beware; be on guard
- We are to be on guard against putting confidence in ourselves rather than Christ

- Careful not to emphasize the human side of serving God – our ability, our work – all depends on Him
- Grace is all God's work that we receive as a free gift by faith – all we ever do is believe
- Gal 5:4 – seek to be justified by law = fallen (run aground) from grace

5. Confidence in the flesh is placing our faith in human works to achieve spiritual results.

- Jewish Christians – physical human act of circumcision was effective to impress God - mutilation
- No male bel could be spiritual and please God w/out the act of circumcision – legalism
- Human works must always be a result of God's work – reflection, manifestation, application
- Human works w/out spiritual work of GHS is religion and not CWL
- Dependence upon intelligence, adherence to laws, personality persuasion, genetics/race, family pedigree, finances, appearance, enthusiasm, etc
- Spiritual work/results is only accomplished by spiritual power – power of GHS in & through us
- Do not expect human efforts to have spiritual results in your family – pray

6. True spirituality is achieved by surrendering to the ministry of GHS

- Jn 14:26 – teach and recall ministry – reveals the word in a practical way – in the soul
- Rejoicing in the Lord results from focusing on what GHS recalls about our blessing in Christ
- Boasting in Christ is an expression of trust in what GHS recalls about our blessing in Christ
- Confidence in Christ and GHS frees us from trying to accomplish spiritual things in our own power.
- Reflect your joy and boast in your blessing – be an example of joy in Christ to your family

7. Man's nature causes him to relate conditionally to God and others – disoriented to grace.

- Fallen man is unable to envision grace and unconditional love – only bel's can envision grace
- Fallen man gives to others for the purpose of receiving something in return – love to be loved
- Old man thinking left in the bel, gravitates toward keeping law in order to be blessed by God
- OM thinking operates by lists of do's & don'ts as the means of winning God's favor – human doings
- NM thinking accepts God's grace and realizes that God's full favor was given in Christ at salvation
- Works are never a means of obtaining grace but the expression of grace already working in us.
- Grace security motivates love, gratitude, and loyalty, which becomes the proper basis for Christian works.
- We work **because of** grace – Rom 12:1 – **because of** the mercies of God

8. Christian approaches to spiritual maturity

- a. Moral model – simply do what is right
- b. Therapeutic model – fix what is wrong
- c. Miracle model – special encounter with God
- d. Supernatural resources model – embrace the divine good in us from GHS
Gal 5:17 – GHS creates desire for the divine in us
Phil 2:13 – GHS empowers our desire and capacity to please God

Blaise Pascal: The law demands what it cannot give; grace gives what it demands.

Dwight Edwards – Revolution Within – No longer are we governed externally by a list of moral duties; we are now compelled internally to a lifestyle of radical, holy love because of the Person who's taken up residence within... Within every believer the desire to do the will of God is the gift of God. This desire is not something to try and conjure up, but something already there, needing only to be nourished and appropriated.