

Phil. 3:2-11

- I. Beware of those opposed to the way of Christ (2)
 - A. Look out for the dogs (2a)
 - B. Look out for the evildoers (2b)
 - C. Look out for those who mutilate the flesh (2c)
 - ironic wordplay on circumcision
- II. Reason: We are those who are the true followers of Christ (3-11)
 - A. We are the circumcision (3a)
 - i.e. the true circumcision, of the heart, not just flesh, cf. Dt. 30:6, Rom 2:29, Col. 2:11
 - B. We are those serving by the Spirit of God (3b)
 - C. We are those who boast/put our confidence in Christ (3c-11)
 - 1. General statement: We put our confidence in Christ, not in the flesh (3c-d)
 - a. Positive: Our boast is in Christ (4c)
 - b. Negative: We do not put confidence in the flesh (4d)
 - 2. Specific example and application from Paul's life (4-11)
 - a. Negatively: Paul doesn't put any value on his fleshly accomplishments (4-6)
 - 1) Disclaimer: Paul could put confidence in the flesh from a worldly point of view (4a)
 - 2) The explanation of what Paul could put confidence in: (4b-6)
 - a) Rhetorical comparison: If anyone thinks they have reason to boast (4b)
 - b) Rhetorical response: I have more reason for confidence in the flesh (4c-6)
 - (1) General statement: I have more (4c)
 - (2) Specific examples of his reasons (5-6)
 - (a) List of reasons considered absolutely (5a-d)
 - (i) I was circumcised on the eighth day (5a)
 - (ii) I am from the people of Israel (5b)
 - (iii) I am from the tribe of Benjamin (5c)
 - (iv) I am a Hebrew of Hebrews (5d)
 - i.e. the epitome of Jewish heritage
 - (b) List of reasons according to a standard (5e-6)
 - (i) According to the Law – a Pharisee (5e)
 - (ii) According to zeal – a persecutor of the church (6a)
 - (iii) According to righteousness under the Law – blameless (6b)
 - b. Positively: Paul puts no value on those things, but absolutely all value on knowing Christ (7-11)
 - 1) I have considered these things to be disadvantage, loss compared to Christ
 - a) I have considered these things to be disadvantage, loss compared to Christ
 - b) Those things which [once] were [considered] gain to me
 - 2) I consider **all** things to be disadvantage, loss compared to Christ
 - a) I consider all things to be disadvantage compared to the surpassing greatness of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord
 - b) That is- I have suffered the loss of all things for the sake of Him
 - 3) I consider [all things] to be rubbish [polite translation of a word which means crap]
 - a) I consider all things to be rubbish
 - b) Purpose- so that I may gain Christ and be found in Him and know Him
 - (1)