

PHILIPPIANS (COUNT IT ALL JOY)
PROGRAM 14 (#912099)
WEEK 3 (#912320)
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SERIES: Philippians (Count It All Joy)

TITLE: Program 14 – The Goal Of Life

THURSDAY

OPEN

If I say that I love God and I proclaim His Word with a fervor, if I tell you that I have cast out demons, if you have seen me do in a sense miracles, or if I say I have a word from God does that make me legitimate? Does that make me the real thing? Well Paul was very concerned about those at Philippi. He was concerned that they would beware of a certain class of people. We'll talk about it today.

PART ONE

Well, Beloved, we have come to Philippians chapter 3, an awesome, awesome chapter, but we have come to this very important section of Philippians where Paul is very concerned about the recipients of his letter. And so he changes; he kind of, in a sense, pivots. You've seen a pivot in a basketball court. They're going in one direction, they stop and then they turn and they go in another direction. Well this is what he is doing. And in

chapter 3, verse 1 this is what he says: **“Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord....” (Philippians 3:1a)** You say, “Hey, what’s new?” I mean he’s been telling them to rejoice ever since he began the letter. He’s been talking about joy. He’s been talking about rejoicing. Yes, this is our epistle of joy. This is our epistle of rejoicing. And yet you know what? It is not always easy to rejoice, and so what he goes to say is, **“...To write the same things again is no trouble for me and it is a safeguard for you.” (Philippians 3:1b)** Paul is concerned about the well being of those in Philippi. He’s concerned about this church that the Lord used him to establish and he wants to make sure that they are walking the right way. And you know what? I’m concerned about you. And I feel like you and I have a very special relationship. And I feel that way because you’re downloading the study guides that we have for you. You say, “What study guides?” Well go to preceptsforlife.com, that’s preceptsforlife.com and you can download the study guide on Philippians. You say, “But we’re already in the third chapter.” Well listen, there’s a lot more to do. And not only that, but wherever you start with me you want to start in the study guide. And the reason you want to do that is because you need to know truth for yourself. That’s what this program is all about, helping you learn how to study the Bible so that you can discover God’s precepts for life. And as you discover God’s precepts for life, beloved, then it’s a safeguard for you. And so Paul is saying, “I’m going to tell you again to rejoice. I have said it before. It is a safeguard for you.” Why? Because the minute you rejoice you stop looking at circumstances and you look at Jesus Christ. Remember joy is Jesus first, others second and you third. Now we’re going to come to the you part of this chapter and right now what he’s doing is he’s making a transition, because not only is it a safeguard for them to rejoice, to look at any circumstance and say, “Hey, because I’m in Christ, because Jesus is my light, because I have the mind of Jesus Christ, because Christ is my goal,” and that’s what we see in chapter 3, “then I can rejoice.” Because what is going on does not affect

my relationship with Christ, rather, listen carefully; it becomes a platform for me to show others the sufficiency of Jesus Christ. So I can show that Christ is my life. So it doesn't matter whether I live or die because **"...to live is Christ and to die is gain."** (Philippians 1:21) I can show that I can have the mind of Christ so that I don't walk and act like the rest of the world, but I work out my own salvation through fear and trembling and I'm showing that Christ is in me both to work and to do of His good pleasure. Now we come to chapter 3. And we're going to see that later on he's going to talk about attitude. He is not finished with this right attitude of life, this right mentality. But before we come to that he wants to say, "Beware, beware, beware." He's saying, "Watch out, watch out, look out for three kinds of people, or three attributes of people that may be rolled into one person." What I want to do is I want to read to you verses 1 through 6 and then we'll come back and we'll discuss it. So you follow along with me. Now remember you're to mark every reference to the author in one color and every reference to the recipients in another color. I suggested a blue or a purple for the author, and for the recipients I suggested an orange. And so you would just color them. Don't put symbols there because your Bible will get too marked up. But the colors are very good, because it helps you look at, if you look at every color that you marked about Paul and Timothy, the authors of this book, then what you're going to do is you can make a list and you can see what the book tells you about them, the same when he writes to those in Philippi, so you can see that. So let me read for you Philippians chapter 3, verses 1 through 6. **"Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things again is no trouble for me and it's a safe guard for you. Beware of dogs. Beware of evil workers. Beware of the false circumcision...."** (Philippians 3:1-2) Now what I did, was I took my Bible marking pens and they're Micro pens, but I just did a squiggly line around beware and I did it in red because it catches your attention. And I wanted to be able to see what he tells me to beware of, because listen; this is a safe

guard for me also. So he says I'm to beware of dogs. I'm to beware of evil workers and I am to beware of the false circumcision. Why? **"For we...,"** we the author, we Timothy, **"...are the true circumcision."** (Philippians 3:3a) So immediately what you see is there's a contrast here. And remember when you observe the text you want to look for contrasts. So you have the false circumcision and you have the true circumcision. And he says, "You beware of those, for we are the true circumcision." He goes on to say, **"...Who worship in the Spirit of God and glory in Jesus Christ, and put no confidence in the flesh."** (Philippians 3:3b) Now as you read this he's got a list of three things, and these three things are important. And so what I did is you can take a pencil in case you want to erase it later or you can take a fine point pen and do a 1, and a 2 and a 3. So what I did is, I said, "we are of the true circumcision." Who? And the reason I'm numbering this list is because he's going to define to me what the true circumcision are like. So the true circumcision, number one: worship in the Spirit of God. Number two: they glory in Christ Jesus. And number three, and you would put a 3 there: they put no confidence in the flesh. Now he says, **"Although I myself might have confidence, even in the flesh if anyone has a mind to put confidence in the flesh, I far more."** (Philippians 3:4) So let's stop here. We see the word "confidence in the flesh" and this is an important word. And you realize it because he repeats it three times and he's talking and if you understand about the false circumcision and the true circumcision, then you understand it even more. Now we're going to understand that, but not today. But we're going to look at it because it's very important. "But confidence in the flesh," and so what I did is I colored it brown. And again I used a color, and I marked it three times. And then it says, **"If anyone has a mind to put confidence in the flesh."** (Philippians 3:4b) So once again we see the word mind used. Now remember mind and attitude are basically the same thing. So over every reference to attitude and over every reference to mind we want to put that A. Okay, we want to put that big A so that we see

how important our mind is, how important our attitude is. Then he says, **“...I far more...”** And then he’s going to tell you why he has confidence in the flesh. He says, **“...I [was] circumcised the eighth day. [I’m of the nation of Israel], of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews, as to the Law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church, as to righteousness, which is found in the Law, I was blameless.” (Philippians 3:4b-6)** and I’m going to read verse 7. **“But whatever things were gain to me those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Jesus Christ.” (Philippians 3:7)** And we come to that word things, and we’re going to mark it later, because what he’s going to show you is that you can have joy despite things, and we’ll talk about that later. But what I want us to do is I want us to go back up and I want us to look at the beware. Now remember it’s a safe guard for them to rejoice. It is also a safe guard for them to know what they are to beware of, what they are to lookout for, what they are to watch for. Now the word, beware, all three of those bewares are in the present tense in the Greek. If you have an Inductive Study Bible, which is the kind of Bible that I use and which is the kind of Bible I recommend for everybody, because it doesn’t give you an interpretation of the text. Rather it shows you how to mark your Bible. It gives you instructions on that. But in the back it explains the tenses of the verbs. And so when you go back there you see that a present tense is a continuous action. In other words, what he is about to tell them is so absolutely critical that he wants them to do this as a habit of life. Keep on being aware of evil workers. Keep on being aware of dogs. Keep on being aware of the false circumcision. Why? Because if you’re not, beloved, then you are liable to put confidence in the flesh or you’re liable to be ensnared by those people. That’s what we’ll talk about when we come back.

PART TWO

Who you listen to, beloved, and who you follow is very, very critical. And this is why Paul is so concerned because he wants them to make sure that he knows who's a dog and who is an evil worker and who is of the false circumcision. Why? Because these kinds of people or this kind of person, by their character and by their deeds and by their doctrine can lead others astray. And, and today, when we, through the media and the Internet have so many opportunities to hear all sorts of people we really need to be careful. Now Paul was concerned about this and he was concerned about this before he ever wrote this epistle to those in Philippi. And I want us to go back to Acts chapter 20. Remember that Philippians, as I told you, is a prison epistle and Paul was not put in prison until the end of the book of Acts. And so he's on his missionary journey, and he's on his third missionary journey. And he knows that prison, that chains, await him. God has shown him this. So what he has done is, he is on his way back to Jerusalem and he is taking a gift of support to the saints there. And as he prepares to go there, because his time is short, he asks the Ephesian elders to come down and meet with him in Miletus. And when they come and meet with him we have this wonderful account of what he is telling them. His last words, or he feels like they may be his last words, because he knows he's going to go to prison. Now we know from studying all the Scriptures that Paul is in prison at least two times under the Roman Empire. Of course he starts in Caesarea or Caesarea and then he moves to Rome and he's in prison there and then he's imprisoned again at the end of his life and he ends his life by being beheaded for the gospel of Jesus Christ. What a glorious way to die. You say, "I'm not so sure." Well we'll study that one day and you will see that it was a privilege for him to die for Jesus Christ. And it ought to be, and it will be if Christ is your life, beloved, and if you have the mind of Jesus Christ, and if you have the right attitude about things and about life. But let's look at Acts chapter 20. In verse 25 he says, **"And now, behold, I know that all of you, among**

whom I went about preaching the kingdom, will no longer see my face. Therefore, I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men, for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole purpose of God.” (Acts 20:25-27) Or what he’s saying here is the whole counsel of God. Now this is so crucial, and this is why Precepts for Life teaches you how to study the Bible for yourself and takes you through the Bible book-by-book, chapter-by-chapter, verse-by-verse so that you get the whole counsel of God. Many times what happens is we preach and we decide on a message and then we go to this scripture and get something to support our message, and then we go over here and we go over here. And that’s all right; that’s topical preaching. And there’s nothing wrong with it, but if you do not know the teaching of every book of the Bible, then you can watch and people will take verses out of context. And when you take a verse out of context and you teach it as a truth it becomes a pretext, and then you’re in trouble, because you haven’t believed according to the whole counsel or the whole purpose of God. So this is what Paul has been doing. Now he goes on to say, **“Be on guard for yourselves.”** (Acts 20:28a) Remember Philippians 3 opens up, “It is a safe guard for you.” Philippians 3 opens up with, “Beware, beware, beware; keep on being aware.” Why? You have to be on your guard. Now why do you have to be on your guard? He says, **“Be on your guard for yourselves.”** Now he’s talking to the elders. He’s talking to the pastors. He’s talking to those that are the heads of the church. **“Be on your guard for yourselves and for all the flock among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers....”** (Acts 20:28a) or has made you episkopos, like bishops. In other words, you are an overseer and you are responsible for your care of that flock. I’m responsible for what I teach you. I am going to give an account for every single thing I have taught. And if I have twisted scripture, if I have distorted scripture, if I have manipulated the text in order to manipulate you to get you to give me money, to get you to like me so that I’m not going to speak about sin, because if I speak about sin,

then you're not going to like me and listen, you can't give the gospel without speaking about sin, because the gospel is this: that Jesus died for our sins according to the Scriptures. So we've got to give the whole counsel of God, and we've got to, out of love talk to you about sin. Out of love Paul has to talk to them about false teachers, about dogs, about evil workers, about the false circumcision. He has to talk to them here and he has to warn them. Remember, he thinks he's never going to see them again, and so he is giving them important instructions. And he is saying, **"Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among whom the Holy Spirit has made you overseers to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood."** (Acts 20:28) Listen, you are precious to God and I have to treat you that way. How precious are you to God? Well God purchased you with the blood of His Son. It was the death of Jesus that brought you into the family of God. That's how precious you are. Precious one, you are precious to God. And so he goes on to say this, he says, **"I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock."** He says, **"And from among your own selves..."**, now catch this, **"...from among your own selves..."**, in your church. **"Men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves."** (Acts 20:29-30) In other words he's saying, "You're in charge of this church and you have to be on guard. You have to watch over the flock because if you don't then these men that are like savage wolves, or these men that are dogs, these men that are evil workers, these men that are of the false circumcision are going to come in and they're going to draw away others after themselves." And he goes on to say, **"Therefore be on the alert, remembering that night and day for a period of three years..."**, I stayed in your city for three years. **"I did not cease to admonish each one of you with tears."** (Acts 20:31) In other words, "I warned you. I warned you. I warned you. Beware, beware, beware." Well you know, not only Paul warned them, but Jesus had warned them. Go to Matthew chapter 7. In

Matthew, chapter 7 is the end of the Sermon on the Mount. And in Matthew chapter 7, Jesus is concerned. And what He says in verse 15 is, **“Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves.” (Matthew 7:15)** They come going “baaa” but really they are snarling at you. They want to devour you. And He goes on and He says, **“You will know them by their fruits....” (Matthew 7:16a)** He says, **“Not everyone who says to me ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven....” (Matthew 7:21)** He says, **“Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name? Did we not in Your name cast out demons? Did we not in Your name perform many miracles?’” (Matthew 7:22)** And Jesus says, **“I never knew you. You never were mine. You were false. You were not true. You were evil and not good.” (Matthew 7:23)** O beloved, this is so important. Don’t miss the next program. You’ve got to beware so stick with me, beloved, and study your Bible. Study the course and be approved unto God.