**All for Christ**

*Philippians 3*

**Introduction**

1. During Paul’s ministry, there were false teachers who gave much trouble to the congregations he established, and the Christians he preached to and helped grow.
2. We refer to these as Judaizers – Jewish Christians who espouse the hybrid doctrine of salvation through Christ, accompanied by the keeping of the Law of Moses.
3. **Paul warned the Philippians of these false teachers and their doctrine, and gave himself as an example of how a Christian should actually live (All for Christ) – which was contrary to that which the Judaizers taught.**
4. Beware of the Mutilation
5. Rejoice in the Lord **(v. 1)**
   1. Any rejoicing the Christian can enjoy is ***“in the Lord.”***
   2. **This is in entirety, and there can be no rejoicing in the flesh.**
   3. This epistle of joy which Paul writes needed a warning because their reason for rejoicing would be lost if they did not live All for Christ, but turned back to the OT. (**v. 1a** – **it is safe – a safeguard**)
6. Beware of the Judaizers **(v. 2)**
   1. **Dogs, evil workers, the mutilation** – Paul did not take their doctrine, and the havoc they wreaked lightly.
   2. **Mutilation** – they abused the concept of circumcision, making the fleshly act the significance to salvation, binding part of the OT, instead of truly being devoted to God.
   3. ***“You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart in ears” (Acts 7:51)***.
   4. ***“For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love” (Galatians 5:6).***
   5. Yet, they had confidence in the flesh, and bound circumcision as a factor of salvation.
7. Paul’s Example – All for Christ
8. The true circumcision. **(v. 3)**
   1. **Christians are the true circumcision** – ***“with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ” (Colossians 2:11)***.
   2. **Marks of the true circumcision:**
      1. Worship in Spirit.
      2. Rejoice in Christ.
      3. Have no confidence in the flesh.
9. Paul’s life exhibits such.
   1. **(v. 4)** – If anyone could have confidence in the flesh, it was Paul:
      1. **Circumcised 8th day** – not a proselyte, but a Jew by birth.
      2. **Of the stock of Israel** – pure, direct blood line from Jacob.
      3. **Of the tribe of Benjamin** – only son of Jacob born in the promised land; Mother – Rachel, Jacobs favorite wife (Leah is the other); Only tribe to remain true to Judah in the division of the kingdom.
      4. **Hebrew of the Hebrews** – He was a purist as a Hebrew.
      5. **Pharisee** – strictest sect of the Jews. ***(“brought up…at the feet of Gamaliel, taught according to the strictness of our fathers’ law” – Acts 22:3***).
      6. **Zeal** – He persecuted the church – killed Christians.
      7. **Righteousness of the law** – blameless – there was no one who could bring a charge against him.
   2. **(v. 7)** – Counted as loss for Christ.
      1. **(v. 8-9)** – When Paul realized the only way to be fount righteous before God was through the knowledge of Christ, he counted all those things as ***“rubbish”*** to gain Christ. (**Righteousness, not through the keeping of the OT, but through faith in Christ – all his accomplishments as a Jew mattered not**.)
      2. **(v. 10)** – He dropped these things to know Christ better.
         1. **Power of His resurrection** – which works in the life of a Christian to salvation.
         2. **Fellowship of His sufferings** – suffering for Christ, and as Christ did. (**Was a blessing – cf. 1:29** – granted that you suffer for His sake.)
         3. **Being conformed to His death** – dying to sin, and willing to die for Him.
      3. **(v. 11)** – His goal was attaining to the resurrection.
         1. But all will be raised. How is this something Paul attains to?
         2. **Glory in the resurrection – resurrection to life – not death.**
   3. **(vv. 12-14)** – Paul did not relax with his accomplishments, as a Jew. He realized he had not yet made it, and pressed on.
      1. **Forgetting things behind** – as a Jew, things he once had confidence in – His confidence is in Christ.
      2. Reaching for things ahead.
      3. He presses on.
10. Follow His Example
11. Follow His example of pressing on. **(vv. 15-16)**
    1. This would include the counting all as loss for Christ.
    2. **Desiring Christ to such a degree that you even want to have fellowship in His suffering, and be conformed to His death.**
    3. Your life is All for Christ.
    4. ***(v. 15) – “as many as are mature”*** – do you consider yourself a mature Christian? Do you have this mindset?
12. Live for your true home – heaven **(vv. 17-21).**
    1. The Judaizers are not a good example to follow. Rather, those who are like Paul. **(vv. 17-19**).
    2. A Christian’s true citizenship is in heaven. He should not live for this world – for the flesh. *He should be laying up heavenly treasure, and conducting himself in the way that is striving for the goal* **(v. 20-21).** (Attaining to the resurrection from the dead.)
    3. (**4:1)** – Ultimately, this life described by Paul is summed up in, “so stand fast in the Lord, beloved.”

**Conclusion**

1. The only one who will attain to the resurrection are those who give up all for Christ.
2. Their lives are lived entirely for Christ – All for Christ.
3. **Is your life truly lived for Christ? – Does your attitude and actions reflect that of Paul?**