

# Philippians 3:1-6

## Shredding the Resume

**Phil 3:1-6** Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. For me to write the same things to you is not tedious, but for you it is safe. 2 Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the mutilation! 3 For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh, 4 though I also might have confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so: 5 circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee; 6 concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. NKJV

Paul tells the Philippians to rejoice in the **Lord**. (Phil 4:4)

Paul is glad to **repeat** himself for their benefit.

His goal is to make them **safe**. There is safety in warnings.

Paul tells them to beware of one group of people, but he describes them three ways:

1. Beware of **dogs**.
  - a. **1 Kings 14:9-12** ...but you have done more evil than all who were before you, for you have gone and made for yourself other gods and molded images to provoke Me to anger, and have cast Me behind your back — 10 therefore behold! I will bring disaster on the house of Jeroboam, and will cut off from Jeroboam every male in Israel, bond and free; I will take away the remnant of the house of Jeroboam, as one takes away refuse until it is all gone. 11 The dogs shall eat whoever belongs to Jeroboam and dies in the city, and the birds of the air shall eat whoever dies in the field; for the Lord has spoken!" NKJV
  - b. **1 Kings 21:17-19** Then the word of the Lord came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying, 18 "Arise, go down to meet Ahab king of Israel, who lives in Samaria. There he is, in the vineyard of Naboth, where he has gone down to take possession of it. 19 You shall speak to him, saying, 'Thus says the Lord: "Have you murdered and also taken possession?"' And you shall speak to him, saying, 'Thus says the Lord: "In the place where dogs licked the blood of Naboth, dogs shall lick your blood, even yours.'" NKJV
  - c. 2 Kings 9 – Jezebel's death.
  - d. Deuteronomy 23:18 – refers to harlots and dogs as an abomination.
  - e. Jews referred to Gentiles as dogs. Paul is turning the table on the Judaizing teachers. They are the scavengers determined to devour the Gentiles who have come to Christ.
2. Beware of evil workers.
  - a. One who is an evil worker is a teacher who does harm or causes injury. They are false teachers who are harming the very people they are claiming to help.
3. Beware of **mutilation**.
  - a. This is not the word for circumcision. This is the only time this word is used in the New Testament.
  - b. It is "concision" means a cutting off or a mutilation.

*Phil 3:3 For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.*

Paul says three things about the true circumcision. They are:

1. We worship God in the **Spirit**.
  - a. **John 4:19-24** The woman said to Him, "Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet. 20 Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, and you Jews say that in Jerusalem is the place where one ought

to worship." 21 Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe Me, the hour is coming when you will neither on this mountain, nor in Jerusalem, worship the Father. 22 You worship what you do not know; we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews. 23 But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. 24 God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." NKJV

- b. **Gen 17:10-14** *This is My covenant which you shall keep, between Me and you and your descendants after you: Every male child among you shall be circumcised; 11 and you shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between Me and you. 12 He who is eight days old among you shall be circumcised, every male child in your generations, he who is born in your house or bought with money from any foreigner who is not your descendant. 13 He who is born in your house and he who is bought with your money must be circumcised, and My covenant shall be in your flesh for an everlasting covenant. 14 And the uncircumcised male child, who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin, that person shall be cut off from his people; he has broken My covenant.* NKJV
  - c. The condition of man's heart has always been important to God. At the same time, there is an emphasis in the New Testament on going beyond the flesh.
  - d. **Matt 5:20** *For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.* NKJV
  - e. The Pharisees were concerned with looking good in front of men. They were more concerned with the outside of the cup than the inside of the cup. They wanted everyone to see them fasting, praying and giving.
2. We **rejoice** in Christ.
  3. We have **no** confidence in the flesh.

**Phil 3:4-6** *...though I also might have confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so: 5 circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee; 6 concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.* NKJV

Paul wasn't changing religions because he was an outcast in Judaism.

Paul's Jewish credentials were **impeccable**.

Some of his credentials were by birth.

- Paul was of the stock of **Israel**. He was not a proselyte. He was not a Samaritan. He was not an Edomite. He could trace his ancestry all the way back to Jacob.
- He was from the tribe of **Benjamin**.
  - **Jerusalem** was either in the territory belonging to Benjamin or both Judah and Benjamin.
  - Benjamin remained with Judah when the nation split. They never revolted against God's king. They remained with **David**. There would be a temptation to boast in living in the shadow of the temple.
- He was a Hebrew of Hebrews.
  - There wasn't a person alive who could make a stronger claim.
  - Both of his parents were Jews, and as far as we know he had no non-Jewish ancestors.

He had some credentials according to the law.

- He was **circumcised** on the eight day.
- He was a Pharisee.
- He was **zealous** in persecuting the church.
- He was **blameless** and righteous.

## Man-written résumés

**Luke 18:9-13** *Also He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: 10 "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men — extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.'* NKJV

The Pharisee included on his résumé a list of things he didn't do and a list of things that he thought he did well.

He was relying on his good to be right with God. It wasn't enough .

**Matt 7:21-23** *"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. 22 Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' 23 And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'* NKJV

At the end of time some will count on their own good works to claim their reward. It won't work.

We must be careful not to write our own résumé based on our good works!

## A God-written résumé

**Matt 25:32-36** *All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. 33 And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. 34 Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: 35 for I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; 36 I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me.'* NKJV

When God writes a résumé, it includes service that is done for the right reason.

**Heb 11:8-10** *By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. 9 By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; 10 for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.* NKJV

When God writes a résumé, it includes obedient faith.

It can never be our aim to earn our salvation. That is impossible. If we think we can bring anything to God that will satisfy God's wrath against us due to our sins, we are sadly mistaken.

We must serve God out of a recognition of our own inability to save ourselves, and we must fully trust Him and accept His grace on His terms.

**Phil 3:7-8** *But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ.* NKJV

We must be willing to shred our fleshly résumés and rely totally on Christ for our salvation!