

Sunday, May 15, 2022

Hope for the Good Guy

Philippians 3:1-11

Joy in Context

Main Point-Hope for the Good Guy

The Apostle Paul: Born in privilege, born a Roman citizen in Tarsus, which being born there did not mean you had citizenship of Rome. His dad, being Jewish, was a high member of society and Saul was born into it.

Being raised in Tarsus was like being raised in Harvard, Oxford or Princeton.

*"It becomes immediately obvious that Tarsus was an ancient 'ivy league' university, one in which students could receive a top flight education."*¹

This gave young Saul access to the highest learning of philosophy and culture.

He excelled, so much so that he was sent to study under Gamaliel and became a Pharisee, which was a religious leader that embraced the Law AND the Prophets.

So, Saul was culturally relevant, well educated, morally astute, a leader, religious AND zealous... bottom line, Saul was a good guy!

Yet, he was all these things WITHOUT Jesus.

Which begs the bigger question, what's your end goal in regard to maturity in Christ? Redemption → Restoration: What does Restoration look like? I'll give you a hint, it's not what Saul pulled off without Jesus.

¹ <https://www.biblicaltheology.com/Research/WallaceQ01.html>

Vs. 1 Rejoice in the Lord!

-Review.

Rejoice in the Lord: expressional, in future hope, in trials, in community because it's in the Lord which means it's complete and no one can take it away.

The transition between verse one and 2 is quite the tone!

Say-Rejoice in the Lord!... Say-Beware of dogs!

*Rejoice in the Lord, not in the flesh; have confidence in (Jesus)*²

It's no small exhortation.

-Are we to look out for rots and pits? The word "dogs" isn't used like it is today. Very rarely used as a pet, but represented dangerous and unclean. But here's the crazy thing; the word "dog" generally represented gentiles. Yet, Paul is writing too gentiles. Who then is he referring to? The term "mutilation" gives us a clue—> It's Jewish people who were telling Christians they had to be circumcised to be "saved"... In other words, it's by keeping the law that your relationship with God is established.

Paul Flips the script, but it's not a new idea

Dogs

His watchmen are blind; they are all without knowledge; they are all silent dogs; they cannot bark, dreaming, lying down, loving to slumber. The dogs have a mighty appetite; they never have enough. But they are shepherds who have no understanding; they have all turned to their own way, each to his own gain, one and all. Isaiah 56:10-11

Evil doers

^{2 2} Spence-Jones, H. D. M. (Ed.). (1909). [Philippians](#) (p. 111). London; New York: Funk & Wagnalls Company.

For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. So it is no surprise if his servants, also, disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. Their end will correspond to their deeds. 2 Corinthians 11:13-15

**beware of the mutilation
MSG-knife-happy circumcisers**

Vs. 3

we are the circumcision

Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no longer stubborn.

Deuteronomy 10:16

Worship by the spirit

“But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” John 4:23-24

Rejoice in Christ!

AND TAKE NO CONFIDENCE IN THE FLESH!

This is the hope for the good guy... this is the hope for all of us!

Vs. 4-6, Wanna boast? Let's do this.

How about you? Even as Christians, we can boast in our achievements and it ever so slightly can edge out our sufficiency in Christ!

List my “accolades”

-So what's the response?

Vs. 7-8

So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple. Luke 14:33

and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised. 2 Corinthians 5:15

Vs. 9-11→ GOSPEL

This is the Hope for the Good Guy!

What's your end goal in regard to maturity in Christ? Redemption → Restoration: Redemption → Restoration. What does Restoration look like? I'll give you a hint, it's not what Saul pulled off without Jesus.

He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted." Luke 18:9-14

Offering / Communion

Silent Reflection

Prepare hearts for communion.

Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. 1 Corinthians 11:28

Silently REFLECT.