

## **Bible Study, Series 4, Week 6**

### **Personal Bible Study**

#### **Day: 1**

*Read: Philippians 3: 1-2*

Often we are standing in our own way keeping us from the joy we should have in God. Often there are other people working on it as well.

In Paul's time it was the Jewish missionaries who did not want to accept Christ's saving work as all we need to be saved. They still strived back to keep the law to ensure their salvation. Three times Paul warns about them. He calls them "dogs." Here we should not think about "pets" but wild dogs the attacked people in packs and that even devoured each other. They made a noise on rubbish dumps and hunted in packs. That is the kind of dogs Paul knew. What a terrible picture to compare the Jewish missionaries to! If anyone comes to you with Christ plus "something" no matter how pious, you should see such a person as the killer of your spiritual life!

1. Why is believing in Christ enough for our salvation?
2. Why do these dogs rob a Christian of his or her joy?

#### **Day: 2**

*Read Philippians 3: 2*

**"Beware of evil workers"** The same group as the dogs. They are active in the church but bad. Read 2 Corinthians 11: 13 as well. These people twist the truth. Conversion mostly mean get rid of some thing you are doing wrong like stop doing this and stop doing that and replace it with something good like going to church.

**"The concision party"** The Jewish missionaries preached conversion but also circumcision as part of salvation. Have a look what Paul says about it in Galatians 6: 15. It is nothing more than unnecessary mutilation of the body.

1. The evil workers so called zeal always lay in the fact that they have to do something to "earn" salvation and grace. What should the real motivation be for a Christian?
2. Paul says "beware" three times! How does one do that?

#### **Day: 3**

*Read Philippians 3: 3-5*

**"We are the circumcision who worship God"** for New Testament believers consist not on something done on the outside but, a bond with Jesus.

**"Circumcised the eighth day"** As prescribed by the law in Leviticus 12: 3 (compare Genesis 17: 12.)

**"Of the stock of Israel"** A true Jew.

**"Of the tribe of Benjamin"** One of the famous tribes of Israel. King Saul was from that tribe.

**"A Hebrew of the Hebrews"** a real Hebrew, Paul spoke Hebrew. As real a Hebrew as can come.

1. How does Paul describe the true believers in verse 3?
2. Why did the "dogs" and "evil

#### **Day: 4**

*Read Philippians 3: 5-6*

In his time, Paul was a model citizen.

**"A Pharisee"** remember, not all Pharisees were bad. While the Zealots and the Herodians kept themselves busy with politics and policies, and the Sadducees spent their time refuting the existence of angels and the rising of the dead the Pharisees kept themselves busy with the law. They were conservative, very religious and they kept to the traditions of the Jews. All this in itself is not bad; Christ judged them because they tried to "buy" themselves a place in heaven with these things.

**"Zeal"** in his zeal for the law, his love for the law, he persecuted the congregation.

**"Regarding the righteousness in the Law, blameless"** he kept the law in all its smallest detail in such a way that no one could possibly reprimand him. He lived the law!

1. When is it wrong to be "very conservative and very religious and conservative" like the Pharisees?
2. Paul says in verse 6 that his zeal was misplaced. How does one know if the cause you are working for is really right?

#### **Day: 5**

*Read Philippians 3: 7-8*

All these plus points, all the outwards things, are now worthless to Paul! Take note of the personal and the biggest value in verse 8 "my Lord"

1. In verse 8 Paul speaks in the most intimate way of his relationship with God. Do you know this language?
2. What or Who is God to you? A perfect example? The good Giver? The all Present? The Ruler of everything? The Unchangeable? Such a impersonal being cannot be separated from destiny or mere change!

3. For your own spiritual life God HAS to be your God in Christ. Have a look at how Paul describes him in Philippians 1: 21, 4: 13, Romans 7: 24-25, 2 Corinthians 12; 8-10 and Ephesians 5: 1 and 2.
4. You can claim Him as your own on the grounds of John 3: 16 and 1: 12 for the first time or anew.

## **Day: 6**

*Read Philippians 3: 9-11*

Verse 9 can help you to get the correct answer to yesterday's last question. To understand it you have to accept the following facts:

- Man is so totally spoilt that he can never redeem himself.
- We deserve God's punishment because we disobeyed His laws by our own free will.
- Because Christ pay for us with His blood we are free, forgiven by God (in Christ righteousness)
- Because of His blood we are cleansed so completely and relieved of all blame in His easy as if we are people who has never done anything wrong or committed no sin.
- Does it sound too good to be true? Well it is not, it is the essence of the gospel. Without it you will be lost for ever!
  1. Your righteousness consists of this and never of anything you have done yourself. If you accept it in faith, Christ is truly your Lord. Thank Him for it.
  2. On what grounds do we receive this righteousness?
  3. What do the things Paul wishes for in verse 10 mean?

## **Group Bible Study**

*Read Philippians 3: 4-11*

"Counted loss" The same word used in Matthew 16: 26

1. First of all make a list of all the things that used to count for Paul, the things that used to be in his favor. Now discuss the positive and negative value of each for a Christian.
2. Paul calls these things "outward" things that he could have relied on for his salvation. Are still things like that or other things that people rely on for their salvation? If so, which things?
3. The faithful knows that these things are worthless when it comes to Christ and our salvation. The person who understands this, experience at least six things as profit

- things that he gets added to his salvation as an added benefit. Look for it in verse 8-11 and say what the practical value of each is.
4. Paul now stands in the correct relationship to God - he is righteous (verse 9) how did it happen?
  5. In verse 10-11 Paul opens his heart to the Philippians. What is his only wish? (verse 10)
  6. Why does he want it so desperately?
  7. What influence does it have on a person's life if he or she has it?