The Christian and His Beliefs

Philippians 3:1-3

Introduction:

I. The Tactful Approach – 3:1

“Finally” - Τὸ λοιπόν is sometimes used by Paul to signal the end of a letter – like “my final point.” Here he is introducing a new subject.

A. Look up – “my brethren”

Brothers of mine - They are not brothers of the Judaizers, but of Paul. And, if you are brothers of Paul, then you are brothers of Christ. So, look up, not around you; or below you.

B. Lift up – “rejoice in the Lord”

Paul uses this word, rejoice, 10 times in Philippians- 1-2/2-4/3-2/4-2. (Only one other time in the Prison Epistles) (Col 1:24). This may indicate that the Philippians may have needed special encouragement.

You might expect Paul to be complaining. Instead he is rejoicing and telling others to do the same. Lift up your voice and rejoice.

C. Listen up – Warning

1. Repetition - “For me to write the same things to you *is* not tedious,”

Repetition is the best form of learning - Alphabet / times tables - Paul had told them these things in 1:27-28; 2:2-4; 2:14-16, but he didn’t mind as long as they learned it.

2. Responsibility - “but for you *it is* safe”

It was a matter of safety for them. That outweighed his inconvenience.

II. The Triple Warning – 3:2

 Beware… Beware… Beware…

 A. Beware of the Dogs – “Beware of dogs” (κύνας)

 B. Beware of Evil Workers – “beware of ﻿﻿evil workers,”

 1. Evil in Attitude

 2. Evil in their Doctrine

 3. Evil in their results

 C. Beware of the Concision – “beware of the mutilation!”

III. The True Worshippers of God – 3:3-4

“For we are ﻿﻿the circumcision,”

A. Worship by the Spirit of God – 3:3b

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“who worship ﻿﻿God in the Spirit”

1. Not centered in Jerusalem – Jn. 4

2. Not based on the law

3. Wholly from the heart

4. Doesn’t require religious trappings

5. Can worship in a cathedral or in a plain building.

 B. Glory in Christ – 3:3c

“rejoice in Christ Jesus”

1. Boast in Christ – Galatians 2:20

“I have been ﻿﻿crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh ﻿﻿I live by faith in the Son of God, ﻿﻿who loved me and gave Himself for me.”

1. Rely only on Christ – His person and work (Don’t try to help God out).

3. Rely on His cross as the only basis of salvation (Don’t add to His salvation)

4. Rely on His power to Endure Persecution – Hebrews 12:2

﻿“looking unto Jesus, the ﻿﻿author and ﻿﻿finisher of *our* faith, ﻿﻿who for the joy that was set before Him ﻿﻿endured the cross, despising the shame, and ﻿﻿has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

5. Rely on His strength to Carry His Banner into the Battle – Romans 8:31-33a

﻿﻿“If God *be* for us, who *can be* against us? ﻿﻿﻿He who did not spare His own Son, but ﻿﻿delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things.”Who will bring a charge? Certainly not God!Who will condemn? -- Certainly not Christ!

6. Rely on His Sovereign Grace for Eternity and Time -

We trusted Him for eternity when we believed on Him for our salvation - “He who did not spare His own Son, but ﻿﻿delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?”

C. Have No Confidence in the Flesh – 3:3d

“and have no confidence in the flesh,”

1. No human advantages

2. No human attainments

3. No human adherence

4. No human ancestry

Conclusion: