

P.M. OUTLINE  
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**"NO CONFIDENCE IN THE FLESH"**

**(Philippians 3:1 – 11)**

**INTRODUCTION**

**"Rejoice in the Lord"** - the true ground for rejoicing in contrast with "confidence in the flesh."

**"To write the same things to you is not tedious ... it is safe"** - some things need repeating, and it is not a burden to write things that contribute to your spiritual welfare to keep you from danger.

**1. (v2) "BEWARE"** - because danger lurks.

Paul warned elders at Ephesus: (Acts 20:29-30) "... savage wolves will come in ..." and (Acts 15:1) "certain men ... taught the brethren, unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved."

In (Galatians 6:12-15) "As many as desire to make a good showing in the flesh, these would compel you to be circumcised ... they desire to have you circumcised that they may boast in your flesh. But God forbid that I should boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ ... For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor un-circumcision avails anything, but a new creation."

Paul here says "beware" three times to brand these false teachers as "dogs" "evil workers" and "mutilation" (KJV "beware of the concision").

**2. (v3) "FOR WE ARE THE CIRCUMCISION"**

1) **"Who worship God in the Spirit"**  
(TCNT) **"We whose worship is prompted by the Spirit of God"**

(Colossians 2:11-12) "In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, buried with Him in baptism ... "

**"Worship God"** - (John 4:23-24) "... when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth .. "  
(Romans 12:1-2) "... living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service ... " (RSV "spiritual worship")

2) **"Rejoice ("glory") in Christ"** - not in circumcision; rather, in relationship.

3) **"And have no confidence in the flesh"** - remember (Gal. 6:15).

**3. (v4 – 7) PAUL'S PERSONAL EXAMPLE**

If "confidence" was "in the flesh," then Paul could boast ("I more so"), and if Paul could disclaim all such confidence, every Judaizer was bound to do the same.

**"circumcised the eighth day"** - (Leviticus 12:3; Luke 1:59) Paul conformed to the law showing he was neither heathen nor Ishmaelite, but from law-observing Jewish parents.

**"of the stock of Israel"** - not a proselyte nor grafted in: (Rms. 11:1; 2 Cor. 11:22)

**"of the tribe of Benjamin"** - Benjamin joined with Judah forming the southern kingdom.

**“a Hebrew of Hebrews”** - a Hebrew of Hebrew parents; a full-blooded Jew.

**“concerning the law, a Pharisee”** - (Acts 26:5) “strictest sect of our religion ... “

**“concerning zeal, persecuting the church”** - a zealous persecutor of the opposition.  
(Acts 22:3-5; Galatians 1:13-14)

**“concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless”** - meaning that his adherence to the law was so strict that in the eyes of men he was held blameless.  
No one could point an accusing finger and there was nothing to bring against him.

(v7) “but what things were gain to me” - all of these boasting items.

**“I have counted”** - audited; evaluated; appraised; carefully considered.

**“loss”** - (v8) **“as rubbish;”** lacking all excellence or value; worthless; garbage.

(v7) “for Christ” - the contrast is presented: “these” verses “Christ”

Paul is not simply exchanging one religion for another:

(v7) **“these I have counted loss”** (v8) **“indeed I count all things loss”**  
(v8) **“I have suffered the loss of all things”**

It is (v7) **“for Christ”** (v8) **“for whom”** (v8) **“that I may gain Christ”**

#### 4. (v8 – 11) “FOR THE EXCELLENCE” - **“for Christ”**

1) **“knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord”** - not just the facts, the Person!

2) **“and be found in Him”** - (John 15:4) **“Abide in Me”**  
(John 8:31) “... if you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed”

**“not having my own righteousness”** - remember (Ephesians 2:8-10)  
**“the righteousness which is from God by faith”**

Note the words to Hymn #454 Rock of Ages

3) **“that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection”**  
(1 Cor. 15:19) “If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most pitiable”

4) **“and the fellowship of His suffering”** - (Acts 9:15-16)

It's daily cross-bearing, second-mile, stewardship, and faithfulness.

**CLOSE:** give it up, gain Christ, so that (v11) **“I may attain to the resurrection from the dead”**

Paul knows that all will rise in the great resurrection day.

He is willing to forsake the old “to gain Christ” to hear the “well done ... enter in.”