

Who is the Circumcision?

TEXT: Phil. 3:1-21; 4:1

INTRODUCTION:

- A. THE EXHORTATION MADE HERE IS NOT NEW.
- B. NOT THAT THEY HAVE DISOBEYED – JUST IN CASE.

I. BEWARE OF THE DOGS, EVIL WORKERS, THE CONCISION (vs. 2) JUDAIZERS.

- A. “**DOGS**” – SNAPPING, SNARLING LIKE DOGS, TROUBLEMAKERS (**Acts 15:1**).
- B. “**EVIL WORKERS**,” FALSE TEACHERS, LEADING THE INNOCENT AWAY
(**Gal. 3:1; 4:11; Col. 2:8**).
- C. “**CONCISION**” – MUTILATORS, PREACHED MEANINGLESS CIRCUMCISION
(**Gal. 5:6**).

II. WHO IS THE CIRCUMCISION?(vs. 3).

- A. **SYMBOLIZES COVENANT RELATION WITH GOD** (**Gen. 17**).
- B. THEY **WORSHIP BY THE SPIRIT** (**John 4:24; 16:13**).
- C. **JESUS IS THEIR GLORY** – CONTRAST THE JEWS (**Matt. 3:9**).
- D. **NO CONFIDENCE IN THE FLESH** – OUR RELATION TO GOD IS NOT
DEPENDENT ON PHYSICAL CIRCUMSTANCE (**Rom. 2:28-29**).
 - 1. Paul qualified in the flesh better than anyone (**Phil. 3:4-6**).
 - 2. To make this point he gave up all fleshly advantage (**vs. 7**).
 - 3. All is worthless compared to a knowledge of Jesus (**vs. 8; Matt. 13:44-46**).
 - 4. All things are sacrificed **that he might gain Christ and be found in him.**
Why is this desirable? (**vs. 8-9**).
 - a. The Law of Moses demanded perfect compliance (**Gal. 3:10**).
 - b. Nobody is perfect – all sin (**Gal. 3:11-12**). Even Paul.
 - c. Justification is **only through Jesus** and his sacrifice
(**Gal. 3:13-14; 1 Pet. 2:21-24**).
 - d. This righteousness is our **through faith** (**Gal. 3:14**).
 - 5. All things are sacrificed **that I may know:** (**Phil. 3:10**).
 - a. **him.** Can't know God or Jesus with a worldly outlook
(**John 8:23; 1 Cor. 2:14-16**).
 - b. **the power of his resurrection**(**Col. 2:13; 3:1; Rom. 6:4-5**).
 - c. **the fellowship of his sufferings** (**Rom. 6:3, 6**).
 - d. becoming conformed to his death (**Rom. 6:1-5**).
 - e. **vs. 11.** That he might attain unto the resurrection – Physical and Spiritual.

III. THO PAUL CLAIMS TO BE OF THE CIRCUMCISION, HE DOES NOT CLAIM FOR HIMSELF TO BE PERFECT (Phil. 3:12-14).

- A. WE CANNOT REST ON OUR LAURELS (**vs. 13**).
- B. HE PRESSES ON, S T R E T C H I N G FORWARD, TO THE PRIZE.
 - 1. **Maturity** and completeness as a Christian.
 - 2. The **heavenly home**.
- C. MATURE CHRISTIANS ARE TO HAVE THIS MIND (**vs. 15**).

D. **WE ARE TO DO OUR BEST WITH WHAT WE HAVE (vs. 16).**

IV. IMITATORS OF PAUL (vs. 17).

- A. CONTRAST OF JUDAIZERS – **ENEMIES** OF THE CROSS (vs. 18-19).
-- **1 John 2:15-17**. They mind earthly things.
- B. OUR HOME IS HEAVEN (vs. 20-21). **WE WAIT!**
- C. WHEREFORE, STAND FAST(**4:1**).

CONCLUSION: WHERE IS YOUR CONFIDENCE?