

New Hebron Missionary Baptist Church <u>newhebronlr.org</u> Pastor Rodney E. Smith, Sr. Bible Study

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." (Ps. 119:105)

Study of Philippians, "The Epistle of Joy" [pt.14]

{Philippians 2:28-3:3}

v.28) I sent him therefore the more carefully, that, when ye see him again, ye may rejoice, and that I may be the less sorrowful.

v.29) Receive him therefore in the Lord with all gladness; and hold such in reputation:

v.30) Because for the work of Christ he was nigh unto death, not regarding his life, to supply your lack of service toward me.

v.1) Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you, to me indeed is not grievous, but for you it is safe.

v.2) Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the concision.

v.3) For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.

v.28-30)

- "the more carefully..." with the more haste.
- "Receive him therefore in the Lord..." he is someone and given back to you by the Lord, and regard him as a gift from God.
- We should remember that if was the Lord who restored his health [Phil. 2:27]
- "not regarding his life..." in their culture when you visited prisoners held by the Romans, the visitor was often regarded as a criminal also. Therefore the visitor exposed himself to danger just by being near those who were considered dangerous and could've been beaten or killed too.

3:1)

 "To write the same things to you..." – this is Paul's way of expressing that they were about to hear him teaching on a subject that he has taught them before. Paul is aware of the necessity of repetition.

- Teaching over a subject more than once emphasizes the importance of the message and it shows that your doctrine is still the same. [Eph. 4:14]
- We must learn that the truth of scripture does not change and we cannot hear them too often.

v.2)

- "dogs...evil workers...the concision..." all three descriptions are of the Judaizers who taught that salvation was obtained through circumcision.
- Dogs were in the ancient world vicious scavengers that tended to run in packs. It was a
 derogatory term for gentiles and Paul uses it here to describe other Jews which would
 not make him very popular.

v.3)

- Epaphroditus was less concerned about his own potentially fatal illness than he was about the effect of this news on the saints at Philippi. [Phil. 2:3,4]
- He shows that we are the true circumcision which is the circumcision of the heart. By cutting off all of the wicked affections of the heart we may serve God in purity and holiness. [Heb. 12:1; Ps. 119:111; Gal. 5:16]

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