

THE DANGERS OF LEGALISM

(Philippians 3:1-6)

I. PAUL WARNED THE PHILIPPIANS OF DOCTRINAL ERROR (3:1-6)

A. The word “*finally*” does _____ indicate that Paul was wrapping it up, but rather in our modern vernacular we might say, “as far as the _____ is concerned.” (3:1a)

B. The Apostle’s primary exhortation here was that these believers in Philippi were to _____ the Lord. (3:1b)

C. Because _____ and _____ are part and parcel of teaching, the apostle told them, “*for me to write the same things to you is not tedious.*” (3:1c)

* Why as believers do we need to continue to hear the same truths repeated?

D. The three-fold repetition of the imperative “*beware*” underlines the serious dangers the Philippians faced, and so he described three characteristics of the same group of Judaizers...

1. The Jews habitually referred to Gentiles contemptuously as “_____”; Paul now hurls this term of _____ back on their own heads. (v. 2a)

2. The phrase “_____” stresses the wicked character of their labors. (v. 2b)

3. “*Beware of the _____*” gives us the most insight into exactly whom Paul had in mind, that being the circumcised Jews. (v. 2c)

E. Paul reminded the Philippians that they were part of the _____ circumcision of the _____, now synonymous with the Body of Christ. (3:3a)

1. The means to worshipping the Lord was “*in the _____*” whereas the good for nothing alternative was in one’s own _____. (v. 3b)
2. The grounds for boasting were that they were positionally _____ completely accepted by God, rather than continually _____ to be acceptable to God by one’s works. (v. 3c)
3. Those who have been saved by the power and grace of God (1st tense) should _____ have misplaced confidence in their own _____ as they now live the Christian life (2nd tense). (v. 3d)

F. If Paul were one to boast about his _____ and qualifications, he would have a great deal to take _____ in, humanly speaking. (3:4)

-- *circumcised the eighth day*

-- *of the stock of Israel*

-- *of the tribe of Benjamin*

-- *a Hebrew of the Hebrews*

-- *concerning the law, a Pharisee*

-- *concerning zeal, persecuting the church*

-- *concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless*

* How can you apply Paul’s admonitions to you personally?