

PENINSULA CHRISTIAN F E L L O W S H I P

Philippians 3:1-11

Interesting context with Easter

- **1:27-2:16**, Call to Christlike lives
- **(2:19-30)**, Two examples of it
- **3:1-11**, Applied perspective

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Vs. 1, "Finally" = It remains then...

- First & Foremost – "**Rejoice in the Lord!**"
- Everything we concern ourselves with **starts there**

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Matt. 28:9, Christ's first post-resurrection Word:
"**Rejoice!**"

- In the midst of their **earthly** suffering...
- He called them to **Eternal Joy!**
- **Always**, no matter what...

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Matthew 5:12, Acts 5:41 & 16:25 – Persecution

- In public, in church, in jail

Colossians 1:24 & I Peter 4:13 – Sufferings & trials

Let **NOTHING** rob you of **rejoicing in Christ!**

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Romans 8:18, "For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us."

II Corinthians 4:7-10 & 16-18, "But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of

Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body."

"Therefore we do not give up. Even though our outer person is being destroyed, our inner person is being renewed day by day. For our momentary light affliction is producing for us an absolutely incomparable eternal weight of glory. So we do not focus on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal."

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Vs. 2, "Beware of dogs" (evil workers & the mutilation)

- He doesn't mean, "Man's best friend"

Apart from our trained pets, what do dogs do?

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Dogs are **scavengers** who feed on discarded garbage

- They scatter worthless remains (**gossip**)
- They **defecate** everywhere (my first house)
- **Exposing** what should be buried (**I Peter 4:8**)
- Unrestrained, they can become a pack of killers

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Psalm 22:16, "For dogs have surrounded Me; a gang of evildoers has closed in on Me"

Psalm 59: (Selected)

Matthew 7:6, "Do not give what is holy **to the dogs**; nor cast your pearls before swine, lest they

trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you in pieces.”

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Vs. 3 Rejects & refutes **physical conformity** (the mutilation)

- claiming acceptance by God through human conduct

Vs. 4-6... If not for Christ, I would display my phylacteries

- Evidence of earning righteousness

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Vs. 7-9... What I was once proud to have earned

- I declare a shameful & **detrimental waste**
- Discarded as worthless **garbage, filth or dung**
(means “thrown to the dogs)
- **Matthew 7:6 ?**

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What have you **discarded as worthless** in Christ?

- No longer proud of...
- Not only of no value, but **detrimental?**
- Getting rid of it is **not enough**

Matthew 12:44, Clean & empty can be even more dangerous

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Romans 12:21, “Overcome evil **with good.**”

- It’s not about **not** being
- It’s about what is so valuable **nothing else is missed**

Paul didn’t discard his former valuables to get rid of them

He got rid of them by receiving the **righteousness of faith in Christ!**

Ephesians 2:8-9, “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.”

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Vs. 10-11, “That I may **know Him** and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.”

***2:5-8**, “Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus”... who being God... emptied Himself ... becoming an obedient slave to God.

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Jesus put the life of God on display and gave it away...

- **So we could too**

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“Predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son”

Romans 8:29

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Next Week:
“Reaching for the prize”