

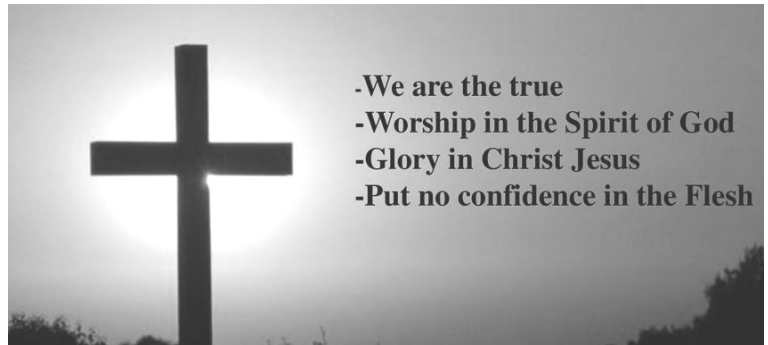
**A Study of the Book of Philippians**  
**Theme: "OUR PARTNERSHIP IN**  
**THE GOSPEL!"**

Trinity Lutheran Church Norman, OK.

Pastor David R. Nehrenz

**Lesson: 17 Chapter 3:1-6**

**Date: 1-5-20**



**BIBLE TEXT:**

(1) Finally, my brothers, rejoice in **the Lord**. To write the same things to you is no trouble to me and is safe for you. (2) Look out for the dogs, look out for the evildoers, look out for those who mutilate the flesh. (3) For we are the real circumcision, who worship by the **Spirit of God** and glory in **Christ Jesus** and put no confidence in the flesh-- (4) though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also. If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: (5) circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; (6) as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness, under the law blameless.

(7) But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of **Christ**. (8) Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing **Christ Jesus my Lord**. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain **Christ** (9) and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in **Christ**, the righteousness from **God** that depends on faith-- (10) that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, (11) that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. (12) Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because **Christ Jesus** has made me his own.

(13) Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, (14) I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of **God in Christ Jesus**.

(15) Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, **God** will reveal that also to you. (16) Only let us hold true to what we have attained. (17) Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. (18) For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of **the cross of Christ**. (19) Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things.

(20) But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a **Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ**, (21) who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

## **STUDY NOTES:**

-Rejoice in the Lord

(Ps 85:6; 97:11; Hab 3:18; Mt 5:12; Rom 12:12-15; 1 Thess 5:16; 1 Pet 4:13)

- Look out for the dogs – evildoers - who mutilate the flesh

(who violently demand that Gentiles too must be circumcised – or not be saved drawing people away from Christ and desiring to justify themselves)

(Ps 22:16,20; Mt 7:6; Gal 5:12-15; 6:12-15; Rev 22:15)

- We are the real circumcision, who worship by the **Spirit of God** and glory in **Christ Jesus**

Note: The new “circumcision” is baptism

(Ezek 36:26; Rom 2:25-29; 6:11; 1 Cor 7:18,19;

Gal 2:12; 5:2-11; Col 2:11-17; Titus 1:10)

- Paul’s autobiography as a faithful Jew:

“I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also. If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness, under the law blameless.”

(Gen 17:12; 49:27; 2 Sam 20:1;

Gal 1:13-24; 1 Tim 1:12-16; Acts 9:1,2; 22:1-21; 23:6; 26:1-23)

## **LIFE APPLICATION:**

1. Why can we rejoice in the Lord every day?
2. How do we worship by the **Spirit of God** and glory in **Christ Jesus** and put no confidence in the flesh?

## **LUTHER’S WORKS:**

(Vol. 52, pp. 154–155) “Why, then, has circumcision come to an end, even though the same faith in Christ, which it signifies, goes on and remains? The answer is that God has always maintained one faith from the beginning of the world until the end, the faith of Christ... So when God promised to Abraham the blessing in his seed and gave him as a sign of it circumcision, it could certainly not exist, by virtue of that very promise, longer than up to the fulfillment of that promise. But when Christ, the blessed seed, came, the promise was fulfilled; one did no longer have to wait for it. So, of necessity, the sign, too, must be finished and must cease... The meaning of faith continues forever, no matter whether the promise goes or stays with its sign.”

(Vol. 23, p. 28) “In St. Paul’s epistles to the Romans, the Galatians, and the Colossians we find many passages which declare that God has consummated all the divine services in Judaism, and that Christ was to be the end of the Law (Rom. 10:4). Christ was also to be the fulfillment of the Law and of time (Gal. 4:4), and the fulfillment of all things. Christ was to be all in all and to have all. Therefore he who takes hold of Him in faith will possess forgiveness of sin, the Law will be fulfilled for him, death and the devil will be conquered, and he will obtain the gift of eternal life... For if I believe in Christ, I have fulfilled the Law, and it cannot accuse me. I have conquered hell, and it cannot hold me. All that Christ has is mine. Through Him we acquire all His goods and eternal life.”