

March 20, 2022

## A Fresh Look (Philippians 3:1-11)

by Warren Berkley

*Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you is no trouble to me and is safe for you. Look out for the dogs, look out for the evildoers, look out for those who mutilate the flesh. For we are the circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh— 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: 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. But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. 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 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—that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.*

I've looked at this passage for many years and have always thought, first, of this simple point: There is value in review. "To write the same things to you is no trouble to me and is safe for

you." Paul didn't consider it a problem to repeat what he had said or written before. Review has spiritual value. We need to hear, over and over, the truth of the gospel of Christ. In fact, if, as you listen to your local preacher, you begin to hear things you've never heard before ... and have not found in Scripture – well, question that!

The rest of this passage conveys one primary point: "Look out for the bad guys, who aggressively advance a fleshly Judaistic religion." Paul says, "I was like that once. I share their ground of boasting. But, I gave all that up to know Christ and serve Him."

Evildoers, false teachers, were aggressively seeking to recruit Christians to their ill-conceived cause (a heavy hand of legalistic Judaism, imposed on Christians). Their actions included their claim that they were the true Jews, the real people of God who had authentic access to God. Their boasting – their religious resume – Paul could identify with.

But Paul was not holding tightly to that resume. His Jewish background was not his ground of boasting nor his evangelistic story.

"But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ ... to be found in Him ... that I may know Him and share in His suffering." etc.

Paul could boast like the evildoers, but

## Welcome!

When you visit our assemblies, you will be received friendly, kindly and courteously. We believe this to be the natural attitude of those who truly love God and mankind. Though you may at first be among strangers, we hope that you will come to know us well and count us as your friends.

**We offer Bible studies as well as correspondence courses for those interested in learning more about what God expects of us.**

## Important Dates

**Leon Valley** - gospel meeting March 20-23 with Garren Stroud.

**Work Day** - March 26

**Our gospel meeting** with Hal Hammons is scheduled for April 10-13

*If you know of upcoming events, please inform Darrell so they can be included here.*

he had given all that up – “for the sake of Christ.” To form a relationship with God through Christ was far more important to Paul than boasting about his Jewish background.

## Prayer Requests

**Jack Wilson** has improved some but still has limited mobility.

**Jerry Richardson** is still undergoing cancer treatments.

**Karen Hallmark** has improved but is still struggling with her health and her eyes, as well as asthma.

**Dinah Williams** is home but still has very limited mobility.

**Don Simmons** is home and still struggling with his breathing; he is on oxygen at all times.

**John Miller (Dyanne Turner's brother)** is undergoing treatment for liver cancer.

**Debbie McMurray** is undergoing chemo.

**Randall Vanaman** is recovering from the procedure on his foot.

**Jim Trammel** is having heart issues.

If you know of someone that needs to be on this list, please tell Darrell (email preferred) and provide updates so names stay on the list as long as needed.

*“praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,”  
(Ephesians 6:18 ESV)*

The Oaks West church of Christ is a group of individual Christians who have been added to the Lord's body through baptism (Acts 2:38, 47; Gal 3:26, 27), and have joined themselves together (Acts 2:42ff) in an effort to do the Lord's will.

We are not a part of any larger organization - we do not follow any man-made creeds and we do not answer to anyone other than the Lord.

Our standard of faith and practice is the Word of God. We believe in the God of revelation (Eph 3:1-7; 2 Tim 3:16-17) and follow his instructions in an effort to have an ongoing relationship with him (1 John 4:7-11; 5:3).

Our times of study and worship are open to all, and our members are happy to meet with interested individuals or families for study.

### Evangelist

Darrell Trammel  
512-756-4493 Office  
Darrell@  
oakswestchurchofChrist.com

### Elders

George Gresham  
Jim Johnson  
Darrell Trammel

## Contact Us

Address:  
P.O. Box 675  
Burnet, TX 78611

Call:  
(512) 756-4493

E-Mail:  
oakswestchurch@gmail.com

Website:  
oakswestchurchofchrist.com