

Rejoice in the Lord!

Introduction

In Philippians 3vs1-11, Paul turns his attention from the positive example of Timothy and Epaphroditus to the trouble makers whose teaching Paul fears may undermine the faith of the Philippians. These trouble makers put their confidence in their own Jewish heritage – a position which Paul describes as putting ‘confidence in the flesh.’ By contrast, Paul wants the Philippians to keep rejoicing in the Lord, i.e. to put their spiritual confidence in Christ and His righteousness which was given to them when they believed Paul’s gospel. Paul drives home his appeal by giving his own testimony and by reminding them of the only thing that counts as far as God is concerned – the joy and privilege of knowing Christ and of following Him.

Study Questions

(These questions should be answered from the text)

Read Philippians 3vs1-11.

1. What is Paul hoping to achieve with his words in this passage?

2. Why is Paul concerned to do this?

3. What characterises these trouble makers?

4. What so-called privileges did Paul enjoy?

5. What was his attitude to these 'privileges' in the light of the gospel?

6. According to this passage what constitutes the true people of God?

7. What is Paul's chief desire?

Think it Through _____

1. From this passage what does it mean to 'rejoice in the Lord'?