

Joy sustains Us To Press

3 Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you, to me indeed is not grievous, but for you it is safe.

The theme of the book was to let them know true joy only comes through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Thus he warns them what devices Satan has to take away your joy.

- Satan doesn't laugh out of joy he does to mock and intimidate
- He doesn't have an ounce of joy in him because he has no future
- Satan resents joy because he knows it comes from God - He hates Praise

2 Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the concision.

- All of the above referred to false prophets- (try) evil workers - devices to derail your zeal and efforts in the kingdom- concision - the demand to be justified by your work

3 For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.

- Whenever you feel convicted about outcome worship in the Spirit - (David) You have access to God because of the sacrifice (Hebrews)

4 Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more:

- If it was about a resume then I should be the one to be able to boast. Yet I also find I am among the few with a resume he chooses to call-- ²⁶ For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, *are called.* ²⁷ But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; ²⁸ and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, ²⁹ that no flesh should glory in His presence.

5 Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee;

6 Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.

7 But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.

- Benjamin the first king and two of the loyal tribes, the highest ranking order besides the High Priest - wrote scriptures in bands around their head- lived to interpret scripture- memorized the first five books. Fought what he believed to be heresy, no one could bring accusation of him based on the law. It all stood in the way of me knowing Christ.

⁸ Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the Excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ,

- Upon recognizing them to be stumbling blocks he removes these prestigious accomplishments to win Christ

⁹ And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:

- There is an inward drive to create our own righteousness based on feeling and emotions instead of the revealed word of God and His Holy Spirit.

¹⁰ That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;

- Romans 8:11 resurrection power in you!. Roman 8:18 the suffering of this present time removes the fleshly obstacles impeding the Glory. Galatians; I am crucified with Christ

¹¹ If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.

- The whole journey is leading to that day when we receive the end of our faith- the resurrection and transformation. 1 Corinthians 15:51

¹² Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.

- You are constantly aware there is another place to pursue yet what your searching for seemingly all ready has a hold on you- Jeremiah - " I would sit down"

¹³ Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,

- Even past Good works cannot dominate our present because there is always a greater work ahead. How much more we cannot dwell on past failures for they too will deter us from pressing into a higher calling

¹⁴ I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

- There is a prize a reward for pressing into the higher callings of God in Christ Jesus. "Every round goes higher and higher."