

GENUINE BELIEVERS

Philippians 3:1-11

Consider some of God's expectations for genuine believers.

God expects us to ...

I. REJOICE (1)

A. THE ACTION: Rejoice in the Lord

1. Because you are His
2. Because you have Him
3. Because He is someone to celebrate

B. THE ATTITUDE: Real joy is sourced in Christ

- Where are you looking to for joy?

C. THE REMINDER

1. This was not tedious for Paul
2. This is a safeguard for them

God expects us to ...

II. BEWARE ... (2-3)

A. OF THE WICKED (2)

1. Our Duty
 - Be on the continual look out for these
2. Their Description
 - a. Prowlers: Dogs (Gal. 1:6-9)
 - b. Performers: Evil workers (II Cor. 11:13)
 - c. Pagan: Mutilators (Acts 15:1 and I Kings 18:25)

B. OF THE WORSHIPFUL (3)

1. Their Distinction: The true circumcision
 - Being a new, Spirit-enabled people of God with a heart cut away to God
2. Their Devotion: Worshipping in the Spirit
 - Relationship orientation not rites obligations
3. Their Doxology: Glorifying in Christ
 - Literally: Boasting in Jesus ... promoting Him, exalting Him alone
4. Their Distrust: Putting no confidence in the flesh

God expects us to ...

III. **REVIEW** (4-11)

- Using Paul's personal practices as a guideline

A. UNDERSTAND YOUR LIBILITIES (4-6)

1. Status (4)
 - Paul's religious trophy case was full
2. Superiority (5-6)
 - a. An excellence in heritage (5a)
 - b. A devotion to religion (5b)
 - c. A passionate energy (6a)
 - d. A blameless appearance (6b)

B. UNDERSTAND YOUR RESPONSIBILITY (7-8)

1. The Reckoning at Conversion (7)
 - a. My gains go in the loss column
 - b. My evaluating system has changed
 - c. Note: If there has not been an honest and humble change of mind about self-righteousness you're not saved!
2. The Recognition Over Time (8)
 - a. Counting everything as loss to better know Christ is essential
 - b. Whatever is lost was worthless anyway
 - c. The real gain is Christ!

C. UNDERSTAND YOUR GOAL (9-11)

1. Being found in Christ (9)
 - a. Discovered to be in Him
 - b. Resting in Christ and not in religion
 - c. Having a faith relationship and not a flesh relationship
 - d. Holding to a relationship which comes only from faith
2. Knowing Christ (10)
 - a. His person
 - b. His power
 - c. His pain
 - d. His purpose
3. Meeting Christ (11)
 - a. Arriving at the resurrection from the dead
 - b. Faithful until the rapture and ready to meet Christ - I Tim. 4:6-8

CONCLUSION: God expects joyousness, cautiousness and thoughtfulness from those who are truly born again.

Read I Peter 1:6-9