

Philippians 3:1-11

v1 – rejoice	(verb)	express great joy or happiness
v1 – safeguard	(noun)	a measure intended to prevent someone from being harmed
v2 – mutilators	(noun)	someone who deliberately and severely damages the body of another person
v2 – flesh	(noun)	the physical body
v3 – ‘the circumcision’		Circumcision was practiced by God’s people, the Israelites, in the Old Testament to show that they belong to God. To be ‘the circumcision’ is to be the true people of God.
v3 – boast	(verb)	speak proudly about your own achievements
v3 – confidence	(noun)	feeling of certainty and security
v5 – Israel	(proper noun)	the nation who were God’s chosen people in Old Testament times.
v5 – tribe of Benjamin		a subgroup of people within the nation of Israel who are all descended from a common ancestor, Benjamin.
v5 – Hebrew	(proper noun)	someone from the nation of Israel
v5 – ‘a Hebrew of Hebrews’		a genuine Hebrew; someone whose parents are both Hebrews
v5 – the law	(noun)	God’s law in the Old Testament
v5 – Pharisee	(proper noun)	a Jewish religious group who had many of their own rules that had to be followed in addition to God’s rules.
v6 – zeal	(noun)	eagerness and strong desire for God
v6 – persecuting	(verb)	deliberately causing trouble for people because of their race or beliefs
v6 – righteousness	(noun)	the quality of doing what is right
v6 – faultless	(adjective)	perfect; without any mistakes
v7 – ‘for the sake of’		because of; on account of
v8 – surpassing	(adjective)	exceptional; extraordinary
v8 – worth	(noun)	value
v9 – faith	(noun)	trust, dependence
v10 – resurrection	(noun)	being raised to life again after you have died
v11 – attaining	(verb)	gaining

Philippians 3:1-11 (New International Reader’s Version)

¹Further, my brothers and sisters, be joyful because you belong to the Lord! It is no trouble for me to write about some important matters to you again. If you know about them, you will have a safe path to follow. ²Watch out for those dogs. They are people who do evil things. When they circumcise, it is nothing more than a useless cutting of the body. ³But we have been truly circumcised. We serve God by the power of his Spirit. We boast about what Christ Jesus has done. We don’t put our trust in who we are or what we can do. ⁴I have many reasons to trust in who I am and what I have done. Someone else may think they have reasons to trust in these things. But I have even more.

⁵I was circumcised on the eighth day. I am part of the people of Israel. I am from the tribe of Benjamin. I am a pure Hebrew. As far as the law is concerned, I am a Pharisee. ⁶As far as being committed is concerned, I opposed and attacked the church. As far as keeping the law is concerned, I kept it perfectly.

⁷I thought things like that were really something great. But now I consider them to be nothing because of Christ. ⁸Even more, I consider everything to be nothing compared to knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. To know him is worth much more than anything else. Because of him I have lost everything. But I consider all of it to be garbage so I can know Christ better. ⁹I want to be joined to him. Being right with God does not come from my obeying the law. It comes because I believe in Christ. It comes from God because of faith. ¹⁰I want to know Christ better. Yes, I want to know the power that raised him from the dead. I want to join him in his sufferings. I want to become like him by sharing in his death. ¹¹Then by God’s grace I will rise from the dead.

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