



A Worship Study Guide for Individuals, Groups and Families for the week of January 24, 2021

Rejoice & Look Out

This week, Pastor Steve Shelby preached from [Philippians 3:1-3](#)

¹ Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you is no trouble to me and is safe for you. ² Look out for the dogs, look out for the evildoers, look out for those who mutilate the flesh. ³ For we are the circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh—

For Further Discussion:

- **When do you find yourself getting angry?** How would someone know if you were angry?
- What is the **connection** between “rejoice in the Lord” (1) and Paul’s **outrage** (2)?
- Paul uses **three contemptuous terms** for his opponents in v.2 to confront any self-righteousness apart from Jesus Christ. Let’s walk through each one..
 - 1.) **“Dogs”**
Here Paul confronts **Ethnicity-based Righteousness**. If you think God declares you clean on the basis of your race or heritage, you are actually unclean! “Dog” was a common Jewish reference to Gentiles. Are there ways you are **tempted to believe** you have an **ethnic-based righteousness**?
 - 2.) **“Evildoers”**
Here Paul confronts **Morality-based Righteousness**. If you think God declares you righteous on the basis of your good works and law keeping, you are actually unrighteous and lawless! “Evildoer” was a common Jewish reference to Gentiles. Are there ways you are **tempted to believe** you have a **morality-based righteousness**?
 - 3.) **“Those who mutilate the flesh”**
Here Paul confronts **Works-based Righteousness**. If you think God approves of you on the basis of your worship practices, you are actually harming others and disqualifying yourself! “Uncircumcised” was a common Jewish reference to Gentiles. Are there ways you are **tempted to believe** you have a **ceremony-based righteousness**?

- Read [Genesis 17:10-12](#). What did God say was **His purpose of circumcision** in the Old Testament? How does this compare with the **purposes of Paul’s opponents**?
- Paul also **confronts self-righteousness** through **three affirmations** of his fellow Christians in v.3. **What does each one communicate**?
 - 1.) **“We are the circumcision”**
 - 2.) **“We...who worship by the Spirit of God”**
 - 3.) **“We... who... glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh”**
- **Pray together** in light of this week’s passage.

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Questions? Contact Pastor Kevin Greene, kevin@wepc.org

