

## INTRODUCTION.

### SOLA FIDE ~ FAITH ALONE.

- ▶▶ Summary of biblical doctrine teaching that a person is declared righteous or justified by God on the basis of our faith alone in Jesus alone & not by works or anything else.
- ▶▶ As noted ~ sola fide is basically what Paul discusses in this next paragraph that we are currently looking at, ~ Phil. 3:1-11.
- ▶▶ Last time we spent a significant amount of time building a solid foundation, ~ and purposefully so, ~ in order for us to get a better handle on the meat of this paragraph.
- ▶▶ Today we will take up [verses 2-3](#). ~ Recall [vs. 1](#) included in foundation.

BASICALLY, ~ IN VERSE 2, ~ PAUL WARNS BELIEVERS TO WATCH OUT FOR THOSE who say that salvation is by faith in Jesus + something else.

FURTHER, ~ IT'S A WARNING AGAINST THOSE WHO SAY THAT WE CAN BE JUSTIFIED before God through religion and its rituals.

### GROUP CALLED THE JUDAIZERS CONSTANTLY PLAGUED PAUL & HIS CONVERTS.

- ▶▶ They added works of the law to faith in Christ, ~ both for salvation and for Christian living. ~ They did not omit faith in Christ but added works of the flesh.
  - ▷▷ But note what Paul says in [Rom. 3:20a](#), ~ "For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight."
- ▶▶ The OT rite of circumcision was of special concern to them. ~ They insisted that it was necessary for salvation.
  - ▷▷ Circumcision signified membership in the community of Israel, ~ and set them apart as God's people. ~ But it had no value in commending someone to God.
- ▶▶ Paul is mainly concerned here in [verse 2](#) with circumcision being added to faith.
  - ▷▷ But what he says applies to any teaching that adds anything to faith in Jesus . . . .
  - ▷▷ It also applies to the teaching that practicing religion and its rituals will get a person into heaven. 📖 1/6

▶▶ Anyone who teaches that we can be justified before God through religion and their rituals, ~ or that salvation is by faith in Jesus plus something else, ~ is teaching a false gospel.

↳↳ In Gal., ~ stern words for those who preach a false gospel. ~ Accursed. (1:8-9)

VS. 2. ~ LOOK AT PAUL'S THREEFOLD (NOT 3 GROUPS) DESCRIPTION OF THESE purveyors of false gospels.

▶▶ This description applies to all false teachers, ~ not just those who teach erroneous views of salvation. ~ So we'll expand to include all types of false teaching. ~ Verse 2 . . . .

▶▶ Paul uses extremely vivid language here.

▷▷ Most likely he uses it to wake us, ~ believers, ~ up to the terrible risk that false teachers pose. ~ TPID, ~ shock us into reality. ~ Not to be treated flippantly.

▶▶ And notice Paul says "look out for" 3 times. ~ "look out for" is a strong word, ~ meaning "look out for" or "be warned against."

↳↳ Thus the seriousness of the warning is quite apparent.

NOW LET'S LOOK AT PAUL'S THREEFOLD DESCRIPTION OF FALSE TEACHERS.

▶▶ 1<sup>st</sup>, ~ Paul calls them "dogs." ~ Not pets . . . . ~ When Jesus . . . . ~ "house dog."

▷▷ Uses different word. ~ Paul most likely referring to the "dogs of the streets."

↳↳ The packs of homeless, ~ ravenous dogs which roamed the countryside eating whatever they could. ~ Were vicious & attacked people on the street.

▷▷ As these "dogs of the streets" represented a danger to those who encountered them, ~ so false teachers represent spiritual danger to their hearers.

▶▶ 2<sup>nd</sup>, ~ Paul calls them "evildoers."

▷▷ Most likely in the sense that they professed to work for the gospel, ~ but whose work in reality was evil. ~ 2 Cor. 11:13-15 . . . .

▷▷ False teachers come in disguise. ~ Peter . . . . ~ Jude . . . .

▶▶ And thirdly, ~ Paul calls them mutilators. ~ I.e., ~ their work does only harm. ↴ 2/6

**PAUL USES VIVID LANGUAGE AND REPETITION TO AWAKEN US TO THE DANGER OF false teaching.**

▶▶ False teaching is not neutral. ~ False teaching is not harmless.

▷▷ In his second epistle, ~ Peter says that false teaching is "destructive." ~ It is destructive to both the church and to individual believers' faith.

▷▷ In **Titus 1:10-11**, ~ speaking of false teachers, ~ Paul states, ~ "For there are many who are insubordinate, ~ empty talkers and deceivers, ~ especially those of the circumcision party. ~ They must be silenced."

↳↳ Then Paul tells us why. ~ He says, ~ "since they are upsetting whole families by teaching for shameful gain what they ought not to teach."

→→ "upsetting" means to cause serious difficulty or trouble with regard to someone's belief.

▷▷ Jude combines both the fact that false teachers come in disguise and that they are destructive.

↳↳ Jude compares them teachers to "hidden reefs" that will suddenly destroy ships that come too near. ~ IOW, ~ hidden dangers.

▶▶ There can be no compromise on our part with false teaching, ~ any more than a surgeon could compromise with a cancerous tumor in a patient's body.

**IN VERSE 3a, ~ PAUL POINTS OUT THAT THOSE WHO HAVE FAITH ALONE IN Jesus alone are the true people of God.**

**"FOR WE ARE THE CIRCUMCISION."**

▶▶ Briefly put, ~ "circumcision" here is used figuratively as a title for "the true people of God," ~ the church. ~ And "we" refers to believers in Jesus and him alone.

▶▶ Paul is drawing a contrast here between true believers and those who teach and also those who hold to false gospels.

▷▷ Idea here is this: ~ "For we, ~ i.e., ~ those who have faith alone in Jesus alone, ~ and not those who teach or hold to false gospels, ~ we are the true people of God."

**THEN IN VS. 3b, ~ PAUL GIVES US A FULLER PICTURE OF THE genuine people of God.**

## SPECIFICALLY, ~ HE MARKS OUT THREE DISTINCTIVE QUALITIES OF GENUINE believers.

- ▶▶ Paul points out that there is a definite ~ and stark ~ difference between the genuine people of God and those who propagate or who trust in false gospels.
- ▶▶ Also, ~ what Paul says here provides a guideline to help us spot a teacher of false gospels.
  - ▷▷ If a Bible preacher or teacher lacks these qualities, ~ alarm bells should go off.

### 1<sup>st</sup>, ~ THE GENUINE PEOPLE OF GOD "WORSHIP BY THE SPIRIT OF GOD."

- ▶▶ Genuine believers' worship is not a worship based in religious ritual! ~~ Sacrifices, ~ ordinances, ~ religious ceremonies, ~ etc.
- ▶▶ Ours, ~ i.e., ~ genuine believers, ~ is a worship of God that is prompted by the Holy Spirit dwelling within us ~ and flows forth from grateful hearts.
  - ▷▷ As the believer ponders the greatness of God our King and Savior, ~ the blessings we have from him, ~ and the work he has done on our behalf, ~ ¶¶
    - ↪↪ praise and worship of Jesus are the natural results.
  - ▷▷ The Holy Spirit kindles within believers' hearts a raging, ~ unquenchable fire of awe, ~ gratitude, ~ and love for our Savior, ~ ¶¶
    - ↪↪ which naturally results in heartfelt worship of our most awesome God.

### PLEASE NOTE THE 2<sup>nd</sup> DISTINCTIVE QUALITY OF THE GENUINE PEOPLE OF GOD.

- ▶▶ We "glory in Christ Jesus." ~~ I.e., ~ we boast about what Christ Jesus has done, ~ not in in who we are or in what we've done.
- ▶▶ We boast about what Jesus has done.
  - ▷▷ This is so because we know and readily acknowledge that our justification before God is an act of his grace, ~ which we received through faith alone in Jesus alone.
- ▶▶ We can't take any credit for our salvation.
  - ▷▷ In Eph. 2:8-9, ~ "For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast." ¶¶ 4/6

▶▶ So we boast about Jesus and what he has done.

▷▷ As Paul says in 1 Cor. 1:31, ~ "so that, as it is written, 'Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.'"

▷▷ Man freed from a legion of demons by Jesus serves as example to us.

▶▶ And in glory none of us will be able to say, ~ "let me tell you how I got myself here." ~ No, ~ for all eternity, ~ we'll be boasting about Jesus and rejoicing in what he's done.

▶▶ Later we'll sing these words from Fanny Crosby. ~ And if we are a genuine believer, ~ we should be singing them with great gusto and extreme gratitude.

▷▷ Redeemed, how I love to proclaim it! Redeemed by the blood of the Lamb; Redeemed thru His infinite mercy, His child and forever I am.

▷▷ This, ~ my . . . , ~ is our salvation testimony.

↪↪ As Peter says in his first epistle, ~ we were not redeemed "with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot."

## NOW LET'S LOOK AT THE 3<sup>rd</sup> DISTINCTIVE QUALITY OF THE GENUINE PEOPLE OF GOD.

▶▶ We "put no confidence in the flesh."

▶▶ When a person has such confidence, ~ he/she thinks that they are good enough in themselves, ~ or have what it takes, ~ or have sufficient ability to do whatever it takes, ~ to gain entrance into heaven.

▷▷ But this is misplaced confidence, ~ because no one can gain entrance into heaven this way.

▷▷ Jesus said that the tax collector who cried out for mercy from a distance "went down to his house justified."

↪↪ But the Pharisee who bragged about his religious achievements remained condemned. (Luke 18:9-14)

▶▶ Genuine believers "put no confidence in the flesh."

▶▶ Paul's overarching point here, ~ I would suggest, ~ is this: ~ We put no confidence in the notion that we could be in any way, ~ or are in any way, ~ the source of our salvation. ↯↯ 5/6

▶▶ To explain more clearly, ~ for our salvation, ~ we rely upon no outward privilege, ~ physical advantage, ~ or outward appearance.

▷▷ We place no confidence in who we are or efforts on our part.

▷▷ We do not put trust in religious ceremonies or human qualifications.

▷▷ There is no way we could be in any way, ~ or are in any way, ~ the source of our salvation, ~ and we fully know and acknowledge it.

▷▷ We also fully know and acknowledge that it is by God's free and undeserved favor we have been saved through faith.

↪↪ I.e., ~ faith alone in Jesus alone is the channel by which one receives God's free and undeserved favor and is saved.

→→ And in this, ~ and only this, ~ we put our confidence.

### CONCLUSION.

I WILL NOT BOAST IN ANYTHING: ~~ NO GIFTS, ~ NO POWER, ~ NO WISDOM.

▶▶ But I will boast in Jesus Christ: ~~ His death and resurrection.

▶▶ Why should I gain from His reward? ~~ I cannot give an answer.

▶▶ But this I know with all my heart: ~~ His wounds have paid my ransom.

LET'S PRAY . . . . 6/6