

SERMON SUMMARY

Date: August 20, 2006	11:00 am Worship Service
Preacher: Rev. Donald Lawrence	Reference: Philippians 3: 1-11
Topic: Rejoicing In The Lord – Enjoying Consecration	



Christianity seems to be viewed with such a strictness and discipline that one has to ask if it is at all possible to enjoy holiness? Additionally, can one enjoy living a life to the honor and Glory of God? In this text, Paul seems to address these questions, as he focused on rejoicing and its importance, its assurance, its intention and its immersion

In verse 1, Paul seemed to be pointing to rejoicing in the Savior of Souls, alluding to a conclusion, contentment and a covering (safeguard). Our call as seen in this verse is one of a Celebration of Our Union with Christ. This demands that we as God's children delight ourselves in the Lord for there is elation in the Cross.

In verse 2-3, 'run from Saboteurs of Truth' is the message that Paul seems to convey. Saboteurs as Paul saw it were Imposters, comparable to such things as:

- Wild Dogs
- Wild Devils
- Wild Dedications

However, when one is joined unto Christ, there occurs:

- Sincere Heart
- Spirit Heeding
- Savior Honoring
- "Self-Honesty"

The call in these two verse is one of caution with Usurpers to the Truth. This demands of us to distance self from "lay-waiters" because there are enemies of the Cross.

In verses 4-9, Paul addresses a relinquishing of self-righteousness. Paul himself had all the credentials that in some circles would be seen as a reputation to be proud of. There was the fact that he was:

- Circumced
- A Benjamite (one of the most reputable tribes of Israel)
- A Pharisee (important body of Jewish law)
- A Persecutor

Even though Paul had all the credentials, he saw it as more profitable to relinquish such credentials as redemption was more of a positive for him. This demands of us to dedicate self to the Lord for there is a need for embracing of the Cross.

A reach for Spiritual Growth is what Paul sees in verses 10-11 that involves:

- New Power
- New Participation
- New Prospect

We are called to crave for the Utmost in Christ, which demands that there be a drowning of self in the Lord for there is envelopment by The Cross

We can truly enjoy that which is for our ultimate good and consecration leads us to all that is good and glorious. We should therefore dedicate ourselves to the Lord for therein lies true delight.