

# The wrong path to pursuing Christ

*The eternal danger of religion; Philippians 3:4-6* Chris Mueller 11/2016

## Introduction:

*Jude 4 For certain persons have crept in unnoticed, those who were long beforehand marked out for this condemnation, ungodly persons who turn the grace of our God into licentiousness and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.*

*Luke 6:46 Why do you call Me, "Lord, Lord," and do not do what I say?*

*Matthew 7:22 Many will say to Me on that day, "Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?" 23 And then I will declare to them, "I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness."*

*Ephesians 1:4 He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him.*

*1 Peter 1:15 but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; 16 because it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."*

*Philippians 3:1-3 1 Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things again is no trouble to me, and it is a safeguard for you. 2 Beware of the dogs, beware of the evil workers, beware of the false circumcision; 3 for we are the true circumcision, who worship in the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh*

*#1 Sustain a HEART of joy 3:1a      #2 Remain DISCERNING 1b-2      #3 Maintain GENUINE Christianity:  
1<sup>st</sup> Genuine TRANSFORMATION 3a      2<sup>nd</sup> Genuine WORSHIPING 3b      3<sup>rd</sup> Genuine BOASTING 3c  
4<sup>th</sup> Genuine INABILITY 3d and put no confidence in the flesh*

*Philippians 3:4 although I myself might have confidence even in the flesh. If anyone else has a mind to put confidence in the flesh, I far more: 5 circumcised the eighth day, of the nation of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the Law, a Pharisee; 6 as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to the righteousness which is in the Law, found blameless.*

**#1 Salvation is not by \_\_\_\_\_ 4 although I myself might have confidence even in the flesh.  
If anyone else has a mind to put confidence in the flesh, I far more:**

*Matthew 5:48 ...you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect...*

**#2 Salvation is not by \_\_\_\_\_ 5a circumcised the eighth day,**

**#3 Salvation is not by \_\_\_\_\_ 5b of the nation of Israel,**

*Amos 3:2 You only have I chosen among all the families of the earth*

**#4 Salvation is not by \_\_\_\_\_ 5c of the tribe of Benjamin,**

**#5 Salvation is not by \_\_\_\_\_ 5d a Hebrew of Hebrews**

*Acts 21:40 Paul...spoke to them in the Hebrew dialect 26:4 ... all Jews know my manner of life from my youth up, which from the beginning was spent among my own nation and at Jerusalem;*

*5 ... I lived as a Pharisee according to the strictest sect of our religion.*

**#6 Salvation is not by \_\_\_\_\_ 5e as to the Law, a Pharisee**

*Acts 23:6 Brethren, I am a Pharisee, a son of Pharisees.*

*Acts 26:5 I lived as a Pharisee according to the strictest sect of our religion.*

**#7 Salvation is not by \_\_\_\_\_, nor ZEAL 6a as to zeal, a persecutor of the church**

*Galatians 1: 13 For you have heard of my former manner of life in Judaism, how I used to persecute the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it*

*1 Timothy 1:13 I was formerly a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent aggressor. Yet I was shown mercy because I acted ignorantly in unbelief*

**#8 Salvation is not by \_\_\_\_\_ righteousness 6b as to the righteousness which is in the Law, found blameless.**

*Luke 1:6 were both righteous in the sight of God, walking blamelessly in all the commandments and requirements of the Lord.*

#### **SUMMARY:**

##### **Conclusion:**

##### **DECISION**

##### **EXTERNAL LIFESTYLE**

*2 Corinthians 13:5 Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves!*

*Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you—unless indeed you fail the test?*

##### **EXTREMES**

##### **COASTING**

*John 10:27 My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.*

#### **QUESTIONS TO PROMOTE GROWTH IN CHRISTLIKENESS - BECOME A DOER OF THE WORD...**

- 1-Why does Paul list Philippians 3:4-6 in this context? Why are these verses here?
- 2-How was Paul better than the Judaizers, and why was it important for Paul to be better than they externally?
- 3-Of the 8 methods Paul lists for external righteousness, which ones are qualities Christians also trust in wrongly today?
- 4-What are some of the self-righteous externals American Christians depend upon wrongly for salvation?
- 5-Are you more prone to be a legalist or a libertine in your current walk with God? What will you do about it?
- 6-What steps will I take today to live in the Spirit, obediently to the Word, but avoid being legalist or libertine?

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