

## Epistle to the Philippians 3:1-11

### Session outline

Doctrinal Polemics (3:1–4:1)

On being right with God (3:1-11)

Rejoice 3:1

Beware 3:2-4a

Be done 3:4b-6

Be faithful 3:7-11

### Rejoice

<sup>1</sup> In conclusion, dear friends, keep rejoicing in knowing the Lord. To write these things to you is no bother for me, and it strengthens you.

- Keep: Iterative present tense
- Bother: Not hesitant.
- Strengthen: Gk 'asphalt'

### Beware

<sup>2</sup> *As they say*, Watch out for dogs! Watch out for evil doers! *Now I say*, Watch out for mutilators!

- Watch: Continual tense.
- Dogs: Danger within towns.
- Evil doers: Danger outside towns.
- Mutilators: Danger in churches.

### Be aware

<sup>3</sup> This is because it is we who are the true circumcision, we who worship by God's Spirit, and who boast about Messiah Jesus. We have put no trust in our natural life.

- True: Spiritual vs. national Israel.
- Worship: Serve and boast.
- Life: Gk 'flesh' destined to die.

### Boast

<sup>4</sup> Of course, I myself could trust in my natural life. If anybody trusts in his natural life, I could do so more:

- <sup>5</sup> Circumcised on the eighth day.
- Born a Jew in Benjamin's tribe.
- Hebrew by race. (=Egyptian *Habirbu*?)
- Pharisee regarding God's Law.
- Zealously persecuted Christians.

### Blameless

<sup>6</sup> ... in legal righteousness I was blameless.

- Legal: Mosaic law requirements.
- righteous: Conformity to standards.
- Blameless: 'Of exceptional merit'.
- Discuss: What did OT 'believers' have to do to be 'saved'?

### The Believer Shares Christ's:

- 1 Righteousness** (2 Cor. 5:21)
- 2 Eternal Life** (1 John 5:11-12)
- 3 Sonship** (John 1:12; Gal. 3:26)
- 4 Heirship** (Rom. 8:16-17; 1 Pet. 1:4)
- 5 Royalty** (Col. 1:13; 2 Tim. 2:11-12)
- 6 Priesthood** (1 Pet. 2:5, 9)
- 7 Election** (Eph. 1:4)
- 8 Destiny** (Eph. 1:5)
- 9 Sanctification** (1 Cor. 1:2, 30; Eph. 1:4)

First Covenant	New Covenant
<b>Offer of Life Sins forgiven</b>  Sacrificial blood cleansed the way into Yahweh's presence  Remain faithful to Yahweh!  Shown by doing works of the Law	<b>Offer of Life Sins forgiven</b>  Jesus' blood cleanses the way into Yahweh's presence.  Remain faithful to Jesus!  Shown by obeying Jesus' commandments

### Be faithful

<sup>7</sup> But whatever advantage those things were for me, I now consider all those things to be forfeit, because of Messiah.

- Advantage: What real advantages?
- Consider: Evaluate, believe...
- Forfeit: Real but abandoned.

<sup>8</sup> But in contrast, I consider all those things to be forfeit, because of the superiority of knowing my Lord, Messiah Jesus.

- Consider: Make determined choices.
- Superiority : Having power over.
- Knowing: Experience relationally.
- Lord: Whom one fears & obeys.

Because of him, I forfeit all those things, and I consider them to be worthless, so that I can take advantage of Messiah <sup>9</sup> and to belong to him.

- Worthless: Rubbish, loss.
- Advantage: Verbal form of the Greek noun
- Belong: 'advantage'.  
'Be found in'.

I no longer hold to my own righteousness, which came from keeping the Law. Instead, I hold to the righteousness which comes through Messiah's faithfulness ...

- Messiah's faithfulness: Gk, 'faith of Messiah'. See Gal 2:16.  
Alternatively, 'through (having) faith in Messiah'. See Phil 2:7-8.

... which is righteousness from God for faithful people. <sup>10</sup> This is how I know Messiah, and experience God's power which raised him back to life.

- From God: Alt, 'which God gives'.
- Faithful: Gk 'upon (basis) faith'.
- Raised: Gk 'his resurrection'.

I also share in the advantages of what he suffered, by/while suffering in the same way in which he died,

- Share: *Koinônia*, 'in common'.
- Suffered: In what ways did Messiah suffer?
- Same way: 'being-morphed-together'.
- Died: 'with his death'.

<sup>11</sup> since this is how I shall attain the resurrection which will bring dead people back to life.

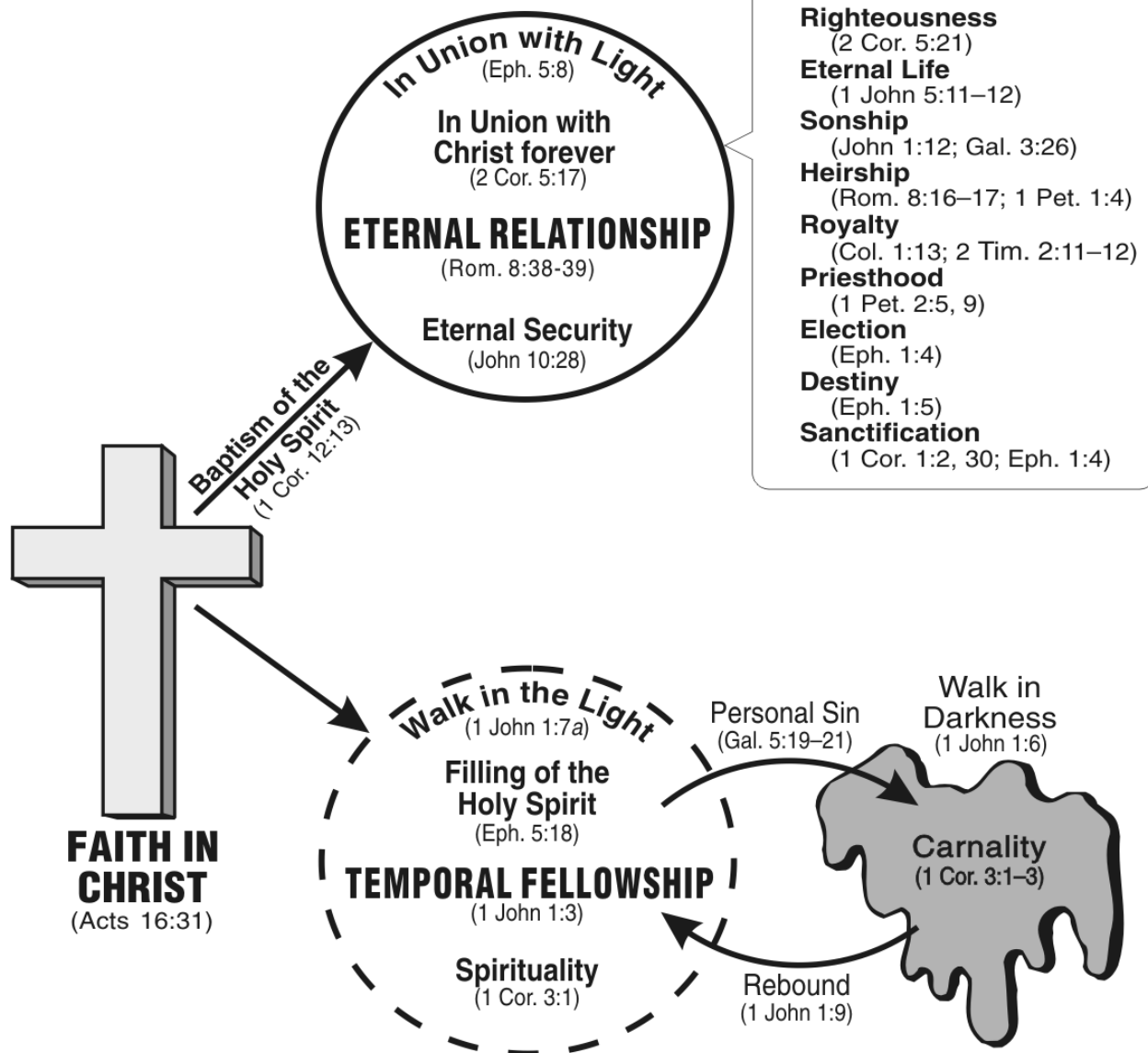
- Since: 'If' first-class condition (assumed to be true).
- How: Manner (not necessarily in doubt).
- Resurrection: Gk 'out-up-standing'.
- Dead: Physically deceased.

**Discuss:** What life principles can we draw from Paul's teaching and testimonial?

**Assignment:** 3:12-4:1

## TOP AND BOTTOM CIRCLES

Status of Believer in Top Circle: PERMANENT



Status of Believer in Bottom Circle: TEMPORARY