

# Philippians 3:1-11

## Beware of every threat to gospel joy

*(The People's Bible, Philippians, Colossians, Philemon, pages 64-74)*

### Look

Verse 2      *“Watch out for those dogs . . . those mutilators of the flesh.”* False teachers, commonly known as Judaizers, had infiltrated the church at Philippi. While they spoke of Jesus as the Savior, they also preached that to procure salvation it was necessary to keep ceremonial laws that God had given in the Old Testament. Thus they proclaimed salvation by works—a foreign, false gospel.

### Discuss

1. In the midst of this cheerful letter, why do Paul's words become so vehement, calling certain people dogs?
2. The Judaizers claimed to be “the circumcision” (verse 3). Paul says that Christians are the ones who are really circumcised. Why?
3. Why did Paul give such a detailed description of his pre-Christ days of unbelief?
4. What was Paul willing to give up so that he could know Christ?
5. What was Paul's final goal in life?
6. In addition to Christ's righteousness, Paul wanted two things. What did he want? How are these two things related in our lives?

### Apply

7. What is the value of repetition in hearing the truths of our faith?

*Human righteousness means nothing. What matters is circumcision by the Spirit and knowing the power of Jesus' resurrection.*