**PHILIPPIANS**

Class Study - 3:1-11

1. 3:1 “Write…again.” What is the value of repetition?
2. 3:2 With a three-fold “watch out” Paul warns against the threat to the Philippians’ spiritual safety. He uses the teaching style of repeating something, he hopes to impress upon his readers

All three of these warnings refer to the same enemies, who are commonly called Judaizers. Judaizers were Jews or Gentile converts to Christianity who claimed to believe in Jesus as their Savior. BUT, they also taught that in addition to believing in Jesus, it was necessary to keep certain ceremonial laws that God had given to the OT Israelites. Why do you suppose that Paul spoke so strongly?

1. “dogs” This is a harsh word for Paul’s opponents. It shows their aggressive opposition to the gospel and the seriousness of their error and destructive results. Why do you suppose that Paul used this term?
2. “men who do evil” These people were workers who pretended to teach the Word of God. They made believe that they labored in the Word and doctrine. How does that make them even more dangerous?
3. “mutilators” Again a strong, painfully vivid term, the false teachers have so distorted the meaning of circumcision that it has become nothing more than a useless cutting of the body.

Who might similar enemies be in our society? What are their approaches? How can we best fend them off?

1. 3:3 Why should we not put confidence in any human invention of salvation?
2. 3:4-6 Why does Paul have reason to be confident?
3. 3:7-8 He uses the word “loss” three different times in these two verses. The Greek of that word means “damage or disadvantage.” In what way are our works damaging or a disadvantage?
4. 3:9 What does “be found in Him” mean?
5. 3:10-11 List the benefits of being “found in Him.” What do these do for your day- to- day living?