

Sermon Discussion

25 October 2020

Read Philippians 3:1-11 together.

Dig Deeper

When Paul says in v. 3 that “we are the circumcision,” he was referring to the circumcision of the heart that happens when a person trusts in Jesus Christ. The alternative is trusting in self and in rite-keeping for salvation.

Paul used two Greek verbs that are very similar. *Peritemnein* means to circumcise, and *katatemein* means to mutilate. “Peritemnein” describes the sacred sign and work of circumcision, but “katatemein,” as used in Leviticus 21:5, describes forbidden self-mutilation. So, Paul essentially says, “*You Jews think that you are circumcised, but really you are only mutilated.*”

The Old Testament rite of physical circumcision was not only a sign of covenant relationship, but it was also intended to be related to spiritual circumcision of the heart (Deuteronomy 30:6). Writing to the Philippians, or Gentiles, Paul made it clear that he and they were the true circumcision. This was because they had no confidence in the flesh and instead worshiped by the Spirit of God and gloried in Christ Jesus alone.

Instead of boasting in human accomplishments, as the Judaizers and Jews did, a child of God should glory in Christ Jesus alone.

1. Consider the things that people treasure. Why do they treasure these things?
2. Why is it important to resist legalism and false gospels? How can our church be protected from these?
3. According to the sermon (and really v. 3!), what are the three distinguishing marks of a genuine Christian?
4. On what are you basing your assurance of salvation? Why do you need Christ's righteousness?

Application & Prayer

- This message talked about the power of Christ's resurrection in our lives. Discuss and pray for particular areas where you might need to experience His power currently.
- Consider the ways God has given you confidence in His righteousness and redemption. Pause and thank God for the evidences of His grace.