

A Tips to avoid losing your salvation:

❖ What to avoid (Philippians 3:1-3)

- Before speaking of the dangers that threaten faith, Paul gives us some advice: “Rejoice in the Lord”. (Phil. 3:1a).
- To this he adds something important: it is good to repeat the truth we have, even if we already know it well (Phil. 3:1b).
- How can we rejoice in the Lord?
- Paul points out the greatest danger threatening the church at that time: false teachers who taught strict adherence to the ceremonial law (Phil. 3:2). He refers to these in three distinct ways: dogs (Ps. 22:16; 2 Pet. 2:21-22); evildoers; and mutilators of the flesh (through circumcision).

❖ What is left behind (Philippians 3:4-6)

- At the Council of Jerusalem, it had been decreed that the Gentiles should not be troubled with matters of Jewish ceremonial law (Acts 15:19-21). However, certain teachers had come to Philippi teaching the necessity of circumcision (Phil. 3:2-3).
- Going back in time, Paul reminds them how perfect he was when he was like those teachers (Phil. 3:4-6):
 - (1) Circumcised on the eighth day; son of devout parents
 - (2) Hebrew of Hebrews; Benjaminite of pure stock
 - (3) Regarding the law, the strictest Pharisee
 - (4) Regarding zeal, he was a persecutor of the church.
 - (5) Irreproachable guardian of the Law
- But he boasted about all of this before he knew Jesus. Now he knew that he hadn't even understood the Law (Mt. 5:21-22). Now he knew that only Christ saves (Phil. 3:7).

❖ The important thing (Philippians 3:7-8)

- Paul weighs his former life against his current life. On one side, he places all his knowledge; his glorious future as a star pupil of Gamaliel; his magnificent Pharisaical gifts. All gain.
- Now, place on the other side of the scale his life since he met Christ. All gain becomes rubbish, because nothing can compare to the love of Christ (Phil. 3:7-8).
- What could be more valuable than eternal life in heaven and on the new earth? Yet, worldly values blind many to this reality. There is a natural competition between the things considered important here and what Heaven truly values: Christlike character and the salvation of the soul.

B Tips for remaining in salvation:

❖ The faith of Christ (Philippians 3:9)

- Paul, confident in his own righteousness, went to Damascus to bring the heretics of the sect of the “Way” back to the path of salvation (Acts 9:1-2). But he entered Damascus overcome by another righteousness, the righteousness of God: “that which is through faith in Christ” (Philippians 3:9).
- From that moment on, he never again trusted in his own righteousness. For it is useless to trust in our actions to achieve salvation (Gal. 2:16).
- He longed to “be found in [Christ]” (Phil. 3:9). What does this imply?
- According to 1 Corinthians 1:30, being “in Christ” encompasses everything that comprises the Plan of Salvation, from the dawn of our spiritual intelligence (wisdom), through justification by faith (righteousness) and preparation for heaven (sanctification), to, finally, glorification at the Second Coming (redemption).

❖ The knowledge of Christ (Philippians 3:10-16)

- How can we know Christ (Phil. 3:10-16)?
 - (1) When we study His Word
 - (2) When we are led by the Holy Spirit
 - (3) When we share in His sufferings
 - (4) When we proceed to the goal
- The Christian life is like a race. We must have our goal clearly in mind. We do not live to stay here and merely enjoy this life. We hope to reach the resurrection of the dead (Phil. 3:11).
- Until that moment arrives, we strive to “attain to that for which Christ Jesus attained me” (Phil. 3:12 NIV). Jesus attained me to give me a city; a prize; an endless life to live with Him (Heb. 11:10; Phil. 3:14; 1 Thess. 4:17).