

(PAGE ONE)

Sundays beginning March 16

PHILIPPIANS 3:1-3 (Sameness, Avoiding, Rejoicing)SAMENESS Verse 1 1. ITS TEDIOUSNESS

- In ordinary life there must be much of what we call "Sameness."
1. There are the same duties, interests, events that occur every day.
 2. The same temptations have to be met and put down.
 3. The same faults must be rebuked and often the same advice given.
2. Its NECESSITY
1. Many feel the tediousness of life and long for a greater variety and a life full of excitement and change. But hear Peter on our need of review lessons:
 1. 2 Peter 1:12; "Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye once knew them, and be established in the present truth."
 2. 2 Peter 3:1; "This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance:"
 3. Philippians 3:1; "To write the same things to you, to me indeed is not grievous, but for you it is safe."
 2. The misconception of many about SAMENESS, or what we would call review lessons. Many are inclined to scoff:
 1. "I have heard that before!"
 2. "He just repeats himself." Reasons why he may repeat:
 1. He might just be too lazy to study and learn new lessons. This marks any man as a failure.
 2. He could be repeating for sake of emphasis.
3. ITS SAFETY Compare or consider:
1. The safety of sameness for ourselves.
 1. Excitement ends in revulsion and exhaustion
 2. Our characters are formed by the repetition of ideas.
 1. Repetition of good ideas: a good character.
 2. Repetition of bad ideas: a bad character.
 3. Our characters are not formed by a succession of startling events.
 2. The safety of sameness for others.
 1. In dealing with others it is most important that we should be always the same: SAMENESS.
 1. There must be an absence of caprice (abrupt change in feeling, opinion, or action) and partiality.
 2. We must always (Sameness) exercise justice, self-control, and even temper.

AVOIDING - BEWARE Verse 21. Beware of Dogs

1. To the Syro-phoenician Christ spoke of the Gentiles as dogs. Matt. 15:26
2. In this warning what kind of men does Paul here speak?:
 1. Men of a canine spirit: Ill-tempered men, snarling at all who differ with them.
 1. Ill-tempered men who had some connection with the church.
 2. These men are described as evil workers of the concision.
 3. They were Judaizing teachers who led away men from the simplicity of the gospel. See Galatians 1:6,7

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PHILIPPIANS 3:1-3 (Sameness, Avoidance, Rejoicing)

SAMENESS Verse 1 1. ITS NECESSITY

- 3. The same facts must be repeated and often the same advice given.
 - 2. The same temptations have to be met and put down.
 - 1. There are the same duties, interests, events that occur every day.
- In ordinary life there must be much of what we call "sameness."

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AVOIDING - BEWARE

Verse 2

- 1. Beware of Dogs
 - 1. In the 3rd-phonetic Epistle Paul spoke of the Gentiles as dogs, 1 Pet. 3:15.
 - 2. In this warning what kind of men does Paul here speak:
 - 1. Men of a canine spirit: ill-tempered men, sneering at all who differ with them.
 - 2. These men are described as evil workers of the confusion.
 - 3. They were looking teachers who led away men from the simplicity of the gospel. see Galatians 1:8, 9.

(PAGE 2)

REJOICING Verse 3

1. The basis for our rejoicing in Christ. Two reasons:
 1. We worship God in spirit. John 4:24; "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in Spirit and in truth.
 2. We have no confidence in the flesh.
 1. They rejoiced in a mere manual, outward mutilation called circumcision of the flesh.
 2. They forgot all about the significance of the true circumcision which is of the heart. Romans 2:28, 29; "For he is not a Jew which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: 29-But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not of the letter;(law) whose praise is not of men, but of God." See also Galatians 5:6; 6:15

PHILIPPIANS 3:4-11 (Consider three sections)

1. PAUL'S ESTIMATE OF HIS PRIVILEGES AS A JEW Philippians 3:4-7 *Verse 3-23-07*
 1. The pride of birth and breeding. "If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof the might trust in the flesh, I more:" Verse 4
 2. What Paul could quote of his birth and breeding.
 1. He had lived in a haze of self-satisfaction and boasted a personal record second to none.
 3. What is this record?
 1. Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin.. (His family had preserved their genealogy)
 2. A Hebrew of the Hebrews...
 1. Paul spoke the Hebrew language. Acts 21:40; 22:1, 2
 2. His father and mother were Israelites and though living in Tarsus (Acts 22:3) they had retained the Hebrew language and customs.
 3. As touching the law a Pharisee:
 1. He was by birth an Israelite.

a name about every name, 2:9

Israelite: the highest title known among God's ancient people.
 1. The importance of the name: EL the Hebrew name for God.
 2. The name Israel (means a princē of God) first given to Jacob in Genesis 32:28.
 3. Name changed from ISRAEL(2 Kings 16:6) and they were called "Jews" for the first time. The name "JEW" honored two tribes: Judah and Benjamin.
 2. By education he was a Hebrew. Acts 21:40, 22:1-3
 1. The name "Hebrew" is derived from "eber" which means:
 1. "Beyond, on the other side."
 2. This would distinguish Abraham and his posterity from the races east and west of the Euphrates.

(Paul found that the choice was not
 3. Paul was a Pharisee by choice. his to make. God had spoken)
 1. "By law" would indicate that sect that took the strictest view of the law of Moses. Acts 23:6
 2. Paul was not a pussy-footer, neither was he a man polished in the school of "right approach." His statement:
 3. Of the hope of the resurrection of the dead I am called in question divided the group as he knew it would. Acts 23:6-9

(PAGE 3)

1. PAUL'S ESTIMATE OF HIS PRIVILEGES AS JEW, Continued: Philippians 3:6, 7
 4. He refers to his religious devotedness or zeal. Verse 6
 1. He carried out his religious convictions. He was not afraid to take a stand for his convictions. "Concerning zeal, persecuting the church." Acts 7:58, Acts 8 & 9
 2. Question, which is worse?
 1. Enthusiasm in a bad cause, or
 2. A lazy "do-nothing" profession in a good one. Why accept either?
 5. A PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT. Verse 7
 1. What things were gain to me...
 2. I counted loss for Christ.
 6. Some lesson to learn:
 1. What we call religious privileges may become religious hinderances.
 1. WE may become satisfied with these religious privileges and close our eyes to higher truth.
 2. The greatest religious privileges are of no use without Christ.
 1. Paul counts them all but loss.
 2. To be born of Christian parents, to be educated in Christian truths, to be associated in Christian fellowship, to be zealous in Christian work, but all this will profit our soul exactly nothing unless we come to know, trust, love and obey Christ.

PHILIPPIANS 3:8 (The excellency of the knowledge of Christ)

1. What Paul gave up and how he felt about what he gave up. Verse 8
 1. "I count all things but loss" when those things are compared with "the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord." Verses 7, 8
 1. In accepting Christ he gave all that the world holds dear.
 2. The name Christ embraces every real blessing. Eph. 1:3; "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ."
 1. All blessings come from God and he has withheld none from those within Christ.
 2. The two tenses: then and now.
 1. I counted these things loss for Christ. Verse 7, 8
 2. "I do (now) count them but loss: refuse.

PHILIPPIANS 3:8-11 - Here for Sunday April 5.

1. Paul's four views of Christ.
 1. As a Prize. "That I may win Christ." Verse 8
 1. To win Christ is to gain his moral spirit. Romans 8:9; "But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his." See Rom. 8:5-13
 2. As a Rest. "And be found in him." Verse 9
 1. To "found in Christ" is to be found in his character.
 1. The unregenerate world lives in the fallen Character of Adam.
 2. The regenerate world lives in Christ: in the character of Christ.
 3. As a Theme. "That I may know him." Verse 10
 1. Point out the difference in "knowing a person" and "knowing about a person." Long before this Paul "knew about" Christ but did not really know Christ. Acts 9:5, 6

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PHILIPPIANS 3:8-11 - How to win Christ

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(PAGE FOUR)

1. Paul's four views of Christ," Continued: (Philippians 3:8-11)

4. As a Model.

"Being made conformable unto his death." Verse 10
What does this mean?

1. It means to live and to die in the mood in which he lived and died: which was self-sacrifice.

1. He lived not for himself but for others.

2. He died not for himself but for others. Matt. 20:28; "Even as the son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many."

3. We learn: That self-sacrificing love is the very essence of personal (personal work) Christianity and nothing else is.

2. Paul's ultimate object. "If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead." Verse 11

1. What his desire implies:

John 5:28, 29

1. Not a general resurrection for that will involve all men. Heb. 9:27

2. But to the glorious resurrection of a heavenly life which is worth attaining by every sacrifice, and by every possible means necessary to such a life.

3. It implies also:

1. His belief in a resurrection of the dead. Acts 23:6; "Of the hope of the resurrection of the dead I am called in question."

2. A sense of difficulty, as regarded from the human side. Some do not believe in a resurrection. Acts 23: Sadducees of his day and many in our day do not. Acts 23:8

3. His disposition to submit to all providential arrangements that he might attain unto such a glorious resurrection. See Matt. 7:21

PHILIPPIANS 3:12-16

THE CHRISTIAN RACE AND CONDITIONS OF VICTORY Philippians 3:12-14

1. Forgetting and remembering. When Paul admonishes to "forget" some things he at the same time says that it is wrong to remember some things. We should remember too that there are some things we should not forget. So we consider THE SIN OF FORGETTING:

WHEN IT IS A SIN TO FORGET God warns men in these words:

1. Hosea 4:6; "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shall be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children." People usually remember what is interesting to them:

1. Many people remember Washington at Valley Forge praying in the snow but forget Jesus praying in Gethsemane and the crimson tears he shed there.

2. Many remember Alexander who wept for more worlds to conquer but forget Jesus who wept because Jerusalem refused to receive him as Son of God and saviour of men.

3. Many read biography and even autobiography, learn much and remember many things about men:

1. But they are prone to forget Christ's public ministry of three years.

2. His love for little children and his affection for and sympathy with the outcast.

3. His understanding of and kindness to common people.

THE CHRISTIAN RACE AND CONDITIONS OF VICTORY, Continued:

THE CHRISTIAN RACE

1. All in the race-Not all winners-Some losers.

1. 1 Cor. 9:27; "Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run that ye may obtain."

2. Some things involved in Paul's Christian progress.

1. His confession of imperfection.

Phil. 3:12

1. "Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect."

2. "But I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus." Verse 12. This language and confession implies certain things:

3. It reveals Paul's high estimate of a Christian's duty.

2. His preparation for obtaining the prize "This one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind." V-13

Some things we should forget:

1. All those things which are behind and that would do us harm.
2. The Bible repeatedly places emphasis upon one great word "Remember." But side by side with the exhortation to remember is the injunction to forget. Isaiah 43:18; said almost the same thing Paul said when he says, "Remember ye not the former things, neither consider the things of old." So what should we forget?

(Blunders) 3. We should forget yesterday's blunders.

1. Dragging skeletons out of the closet is a hideous business and foolish.
2. One of the most useless of all habits is that of dragging along too much of one's past.
3. This like being chained to a dead body, it handicaps a man in the race. It saps his strength.

(Injuries) 4. We should forget our injuries.

1. It is impossible to go through life without being wounded, for life is a battle ground.
2. We cannot hate those who injure us (real or imaginary) for hate is the ugliest thing in God's universe.
3. We cannot hold a grudge against such people for a grudge is the heaviest load that you ever carried.

(Our Sins) 5. We should forget our sins.

1. Hebrews 12:1; Wherefore seeing we are also compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us."
2. God will forget our sins if we but repent. Micah 7:19; "He will turn again, he will have compassion upon us; he will subdue our iniquities; and thou will cast all their sins into the depth of the sea."
 1. Shall I be inviting these sins to come back?
 2. Shall I be diving down into the sea to drag these sins up.
 3. Not unless I want to brand myself a fool.

6. What one should do with blunders, sins, grudges, enmities, hates ETC.

1. Treat them as you would treat deadly mosquitos and shoo them away as filthy flies that spoil the fair and wholesome meats of life.

PRACTICAL EXHORTATIONS TO UNITY IN RELIGIOUS LIFE Philippians 3:15,16

1. WE must walk with the help of God. Two things involved. *here April 13, 1969*
 1. Walk by the same rule. 2. Mind the same thing.

THE CHRISTIAN RACE AND CONDITIONS OR VICTORY, Continued

THE CHRISTIAN RACE

1. All in the race-not all winners-Some losers.
1. 1 Cor. 9:24; "Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run that ye may obtain."
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9. Hebrews 12:1; "Wherefore seeing we are also compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us."
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13. Not unless I want to brand myself a fool.
14. What one should do with blunders, sins, grudges, omitties, hates ETC. Treat them as you would treat deadily mosquitoes and avoid them away as filthy flies that soil the air and whose means of life is to suck blood. PRAGMATICAL EXHORTATIONS TO UNITY IN RELIGIOUS LIFE Eph. 4:1-6
1. We must walk with the help of God. Two things involved.
2. Walk by the same rule. 3. Mind the same thing.

(PAGE SIX)

IMITATORS - CHARACTERS CONTRASTED - DESTINIES - CITIZENSHIP. Philippians 3:17-21

1. Imitators. Philippians 3:17; "Brethren, be ye followers (imitators) together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample." In this we see:
 1. The duty of following good examples.
 1. 1 Cor. 11:1; "Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ."
 2. The limitation of imitation in this instance.
 1. Imitation limited to the example of Christ. 1 Cor. 11:1
2. Characters Contrasted. Philippians 3:17, 18
 1. The walk (Character) of good men: Christ, Paul, Timothy ETC. Verse 17
The rule by which they walked: Limited by the word of God.
 2. The walk of mere professors of Christianity.
 1. In spite of their loud professions Paul said, "They are the enemies of the cross of Christ." Verse 18
 2. Such men are to be avoided. Romans 16:17; "Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which he have learned; and avoid them."
3. Destinies involved.
 1. Destiny for the enemies of the Cross of Christ. "Whose end is destruction." Verse 19
 2. These enemies of the cross of Christ are identified in three ways:
 1. "Whose God is their belly." (See Romans 16:17, 18)
 1. They were sensual, self-indulgent, forgetting that the "kingdom of God is not meat and drink, but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost." Romans 14:17
 2. "Whose glory is their shame."
 1. They find what they call "glory" in shameful things.
 2. Wrong conduct, immoral ETC.
 3. "Who mind earthly things."
 1. Paul does not altogether encourage the neglect of all earthly things.
 2. He does censure the living for this present visible world to the neglect of the kingdom, the church, by which we are surrounded.
 2. Destiny for the friends of the Cross of Christ. "For our conversation (citizenship) is in heaven." Verse 20
 1. How does this citizenship come?
 1. It is in Christ that we become "fellow-citizens of the saints and of the household of God." Ephesians 2:19
 2. Consider the duties and blessings this citizenship involves.
 1. Duties:
 1. We are to obey its laws and watch over the interest of Christ's kingdom.
 2. Blessings:
 1. As faithful citizens in Christ's kingdom we will receive its Protection, Guidance, and Comfort.
 3. The expectation of the citizen.
 1. "From whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ."
 2. "Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body..." Verse 21
 3. "It is sown in dishonour, it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power." 1 Cor. 15:43

IMITATORS - CHARACTERS CONTRASTED - DESTINIES - CITIZENSHIP - Philippians 3:17-21

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