

Joy Philippians 3:1-11

Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord! It is no trouble for me to write the same things to you again, and it is a safeguard for you. Philippians 3:1 (New International Version)

This passage mentions **four “joy zappers”** that undermine being glad in God and experiencing His joy.

- **Joy Zapper #1: LEGALISM**

Watch out for those dogs, those wicked men and their evil deeds, those mutilators who say you must be circumcised to be saved. ³For we who worship God in the Spirit are the only ones who are truly circumcised. We put no confidence in human effort. Instead, we boast about what Christ Jesus has done for us. Philippians 3:2-3 (NLT, 1996)

Legalism = any attempt to help God out with extra rules and regulations

For you are not a true Jew just because you were born of Jewish parents or because you have gone through the Jewish ceremony of circumcision. ²⁹No, a true Jew is one whose heart is right with God. And true circumcision is not a cutting of the body but a change of heart produced by God's Spirit . . . Romans 2:28-29 (NLT, 1996)

. . . the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. Philippians 3:9 (NIV)

- **Joy Zapper #2: RELIANCE UPON GOOD WORKS**

Two places you can rely to gain a relationship with God

- Human effort
- Christ's completed work

He saved us, not because of the good things we did, but because of his mercy. He washed away our sins and gave us a new life through the Holy Spirit. ⁶He generously poured out the Spirit upon us because of what Jesus Christ our Savior did. ⁷He declared us not guilty because of his great kindness. And now we know that we will inherit eternal life. Titus 3:5-7 (NLT, 1996)

Yet I could have confidence in myself if anyone could. If others have reason for confidence in their own efforts, I have even more! ⁵For I was circumcised when I was eight days old, having been born into a pure-blooded Jewish family that is a branch of the tribe of Benjamin. So I am a real Jew if there ever was one! What's more, I was a member of the Pharisees, who demand the strictest

obedience to the Jewish law. ⁶And zealous? Yes, in fact, I harshly persecuted the church. And I obeyed the Jewish law so carefully that I was never accused of any fault. Philippians 3:4-6 (NLT, 1996)

I once thought all these things were so very important, but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done. ⁸Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the priceless gain of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I may have Christ . . . Philippians 3:7, 8 (NLT, 1996)

- **Joy Zapper #3: UNFORGIVEN GUILT**

I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ--the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. Philippians 3:8b-9 (NIV)

Justification = a legal act of God in which He thinks of our sins as forgiven and declares us to be righteous in His sight through faith.

- The justification that God gives is reckoned

And to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is reckoned as righteousness. Romans 4:5 (Revised Standard Version)

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. 2 Corinthians 5:21 (NIV)

- Justification happens only by faith

. . . [God] justifies those who have faith in Jesus. Romans 3:26 (NIV)

. . . since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, . . . Romans 5:1 (New Revised Standard Version)

- **Joy Zapper #4: INSECURITY ABOUT HEAVEN**

I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead. Philippians 3:10-11 (NIV)

. . . I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day. 2 Timothy 1:12 (NIV)

For my determined purpose is that I may know Christ--that I may progressively become more deeply and intimately acquainted with Him, perceiving and recognizing and understanding Him more strongly and more clearly. Philippians 3:10 (Amplified Bible)

For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. . . . ^{5:1}Now, brothers, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, ²for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17; 5:1-2 (NIV)