

CFT BRISTOL CHURCH

“BOOK BY BOOK” BIBLE STUDY NOTES

By Pastor Benson



CFT BRISTOL CHURCH

**A STUDY OF
PHILIPPIANS 3:1-6**

**HAVING NO
CONFIDENCE IN THE
FLESH**

JOIN US

Friday, 8pm -9pm, 2nd June 2023
@cft bristol church online

Having No Confidence In The Flesh (Philippians 3:1-6)

Philippians 3:1-6

Further, my brothers and sisters, 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. ² Watch out for those dogs, those evildoers, those mutilators of the flesh. ³ For it is we who are the circumcision, we who serve God by his Spirit, who boast in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh— ⁴ though I myself have reasons for such confidence.

If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless.

Notes:

[1] Apostle starts by asking the Philippian church to rejoice in the Lord and not to be tired of his constant admonitions particularly with respect to what he was about to say. He cared dearly about their faith in our Lord Jesus (Hebrews 13:17)

[2] He warns them about a group of people who were attempting to subvert the faith of the Philippian believers. He uses very strong terms to describe these group of people:

- I. Dogs (Matthew 7:6; 15:26, 27; Mark 7:27, 28; Luke 16:21; 2 Peter 2:22; Revelation 22:15)
- II. Evil Workers (2 Corinthians 11:13, Titus 1:10)
- III. Mutilators of the flesh (The False circumcision)

[3] He contrasts these group of people with True believers using the following phrases:

- I. The circumcision (Colossians 2:11)
- II. Who worship in Spirit (or serve God by His Spirit) (John 4:24)
- III. We who rejoice (or boast) in Christ Jesus (1 Thessalonians 5:16-17)
- IV. We have no confidence in the Flesh (2 Corinthians 3:5)

One can describe “The Flesh” in the context as that part of us as humans (and believers) that is independent of God, to put it simply (Rom 8:5-6, Rom 8:7-8, Gal 5:13, Gal 5:16-17, Gal 5:19-21)

[4] The Apostle Paul went further to state that, if anyone could boast in “The Flesh”, he would have the credentials to do so, but he didn’t because he was now “in Christ”. He outlined credentials that could be boast worthy:

- I. He was of the stock of Israel.
- II. He was from the tribe of Benjamin.

- III. He was “Hebrew of Hebrews”
- IV. He has excellent knowledge of the Laws of Moses
- V. He had zeal (so much that he persecuted the church)
- VI. He was blameless from a righteous perspective.

The “Flesh” looks down on everyone stemming from a place of self-righteousness (Luke 18:11)

[5] The Apostle Paul basically is re-iterating the basis of the gospel of Christ:

- I. Faith in Christ was enough for salvation. Adding the requirements of the Old Testament law on top of the gospel for salvation was erroneous and defeats the essence of the gospel. (Galatians 3:1-2)
- II. Salvation is by grace through faith in Christ not by works, including works of the law (Ephesians 2:8–9),