

## **IV. THE PRESSING ON OF THE CHRISTIAN BELIEVER**

### **PHILIPPIANS 3:1-21**

- Goal: to learn how to constantly guard my Christian life.
- Personal growth for a Christian believer is not automatic, natural, or easy.
- This chapter gives us some of the great principles that governed Paul's life.

### **Pressing On: Guarding Oneself**

#### **Philippians 3:1-3**

1. By rejoicing in the Lord (v.1).
  - As the believer walks through life, two things are always confronting him: trials and false teaching.
  - The first guard is to rejoice in the Lord.
  - If he walks throughout the day rejoicing in the Lord, his mind is upon the Lord (Is. 26:3).
  - Rejoicing places and keeps a person in the presence of Christ (Ps. 5:11).
2. By heeding the Word of God (v.1).
  - To heed means to guard, to pay attention to.
  - If the believer fails to study and obey the Scripture he will cave in to the trials of life or to false teaching (2Tim. 2:15).

3. By watching out for false teachers (v.2).

- Paul mentions three groups of false teachers in this verse.

A. Beware of false teachers who act like dogs.

- There are some false teachers who are vicious and dangerous: just like wild dogs (2Peter 2:1-3).

B. Beware of false teachers who are evil workers.

- This refers to those who hold to and teach people to live a worldly life (James 4:4).
- This refers to those who teach evil by the way they live and talk.
- There are those who are always opposing the Lord Jesus Christ and His salvation by grace alone.
- They go about establishing their own way to God, doing whatever they feel is needed to make them acceptable to Him.

C. Beware of false teachers who are of the concision.

- The concision refers to the legalists, or religionists who refuse to accept salvation by grace alone (Ro. 10:3-5).