

/Hello. / Let us begin with the tenth lecture on the prison epistles. / Today's Word is Philippians chapter 3.

/The title for this chapter is "Gaining Christ." / Here are the main points.

/First, watch out for false prophets and stand in faith. Verses 1-3. / Second, external things that are objects of boasting. Verses 4-6. / Third, discovery of the spiritual world of Christ. Verses 7-8.

/Fourth, efforts to participate in the power of Christ's resurrection. Verses 9-11. / Fifth, press on. Verses 12-17. / Sixth, enemy of the cross. Verses 18-19. / Seventh, our citizenship is in heaven. Verses 20-21.

/First point, watch out for false prophets and stand in faith. Verses 1-3.

/Read verse 1. / 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.

/It says, "rejoice in the Lord!" / We believers must be able to rejoice in faith. / Paul also said, "It is no trouble for me to write the same things to you again."

/Paul exhorted the believers with the same words. / True servants of God must constantly exhort the believers. / In Isaiah 28:10, / it says, "Do and do, do and do, rule on rule, rule on rule."

/Paul said in verse 1, "It is no trouble for me to write the same things to you again, and it is a safeguard for you." / Paul said the same words over and over again. What did he tell them?

/He told them to "rejoice in the Lord." / At the end of verse 1, Paul wrote, "it is a safeguard for you." / Paul then says the "same things" in 3:2.

/Paul says, "watch out for those dogs." / That is, believers are safe when they watch out for false prophets. / He further explains this in verse 2.

/Verse 2. / Watch out for those dogs, those men who do evil, those mutilators of the flesh.

/It says, "Watch out for those dogs, those men who do evil, those mutilators of the flesh."

/"Dogs" here symbolize the Jews. / Dogs are good at biting. / The Jews bit and tore the truth.

/There were people who bit and tore the truth in every generation. / In Isaiah 56:10-11, / it speaks of watchmen. / They were blind and ignorant. / They were all mute dogs, so they could not bark.

/They loved to sleep and slumber. / They were full of greed. / Isaiah chapter 56 calls the watchmen, dogs. / The first characteristic of dogs is that they bark. / They should be able to warn others when there are thieves.

/Likewise, pastors must warn believers when heretics enter the church. / The second characteristic is that dogs like to sleep. / Isaiah 56:10. The watchmen loved to sleep and dream.

/Those who are spiritually asleep and love to dream refer to the Jews. / The third characteristic of dogs is that they are greedy. / Fourth, they bite and tear. / They are ignorant to what is valuable and bite and tear at it.

/They do not recognize the value of pearls or gems, and they bite and tear. / The Bible says we must not give valuable things to dogs. / This is because dogs destroy what is valuable. / What is valuable should be given to those who deserve it.

/Next, Paul says, watch out for "those men who do evil." / Evildoers refer to those who do not work in faith, but who act ruthlessly in wickedness, even if they are God's servants.

/They claim that they work for God, but God's will is not in their interests, because they work for their own interests. / They are pastors who do not use their conscience, but do wicked things. / The verse tells us to watch out for these evildoers.

/Next, Paul said, watch out for "mutilators of the flesh." / These people harm themselves, and claim that "the flesh must be mutilated." / They claim that circumcision is necessary.

/During that time, Jewish Christians who claimed that circumcision was necessary were called “mutilators of the flesh.” / They falsely claimed the necessity of circumcision.

/Even in today’s time, we can say that those who harm the truth and testify to a **different** truth are mutilators of the flesh. / We must be aware of those heretics to prevent our faith from harmed. / This is the reason why Paul warns them to watch out.

/Verse 3. / For it is we who are the circumcision, we who worship by the Spirit of God, who glory in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh—

/Verse 2 was about watching out for false prophets. / On the contrast, here in verse 3, Paul talks about the good deeds of true servants of God. / It says, “we who worship by the Spirit of God.” / We serve God by his Spirit.

/If we do not work through the Holy Spirit, our works would be considered hypocritical. / John 4:24/ says, “God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth.”

/We must serve and worship by the Holy Spirit. / Paul also says to boast in Christ Jesus. / False prophets boast of themselves. / They have pride in themselves. / Yet, true prophets boast only of Jesus Christ.

/We boast about God only and glorify him because all things have been made good by God’s grace.

/We must not boast about anything other than the works of the Holy Spirit and Christ. / In verse 3, it says, “we are the circumcision” and “who put no confidence in flesh.”

/This means that the flesh and circumcision are nothing to boast about. / Paul said that he considered everything a loss and garbage compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus.

/Paul said, “we are the circumcision.” / He claimed that unlike those who were physically circumcised, he and others received spiritual circumcision.

/There are three meanings behind “circumcision.” / The first is the removal of fleshly

desires. / Jeremiah 4:4. / Second, / the seal of chosen people. / Genesis 17:14. / Philippians 3:5.

/Third, participation in God's covenant. / Genesis 17:9-13. / Because those who accepted Jesus as their Savior repented and received forgiveness of sins, they have become spiritually circumcised. / They participate in God's covenant.

/Also, circumcision is the seal that shows that we are God's people. / Spiritually speaking, physical circumcision has no effect on anything. / We were spiritually circumcised because we believed in Jesus and received forgiveness of sins.

/Now let us move on to the second point. External things that are objects of boasting. Verses 4-6.

/Verse 4. / though I myself have reasons for such confidence.

/Paul had many things to boast about. / While the false prophets boasted, Paul did not. / He had a lot of things to boast about. / Paul was circumcised eight days after he was born.

/He was circumcised on the eighth day of his birth. / He was part of the nation of Israel. / This means that he was God's elect. / He was a descendant of Abraham.

/He was also from the tribe of Benjamin. / Israel was once divided into two, the south and the north. / Northern Israel was wicked. / Many who were not from the tribe of Levi were appointed as priests.

/They changed the seasons that God made. / They were to worship God in Jerusalem, but they worshipped him in Bethel and Dan. / They worshipped God by making a golden calf.

/Also, they were a mixed nation. / However, the tribes of Judah and Benjamin were pure descendants of Abraham. / Therefore, being part of the tribe of Benjamin was something worthy to boast about.

/Also, Paul called himself the Hebrew of Hebrews. / This means that he was conservative. / He was a pure Hebrew. / He was a Pharisee by law.

/The Sadducees claimed that there is neither resurrection nor angels. / Yet, the Pharisees believed in both. / Therefore, even in terms of doctrines, he belonged to the traditions.

/There were more things for Paul to boast about. / He persecuted the church with zeal. / Because the teachings of Christianity and the Pharisees did not agree with each other, Paul persecuted Christians in faithfulness to God.

/Paul was loyal and zealous. / As for legalistic righteousness, he was faultless. /He kept all the laws.

/Paul had many things to boast about in terms of the flesh, but he considered them garbage after he found Christ.

/Now the third point, discovery of the spiritual world of Christ.

/Verse 7. / But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ.

/There were many things for Paul to boast about, but he considered them all a loss when he found Christ. / In the past, the things he boasted of were of gain for him.

/However, now it is a loss for him. / He knew that boasting of things of the flesh could harm his faith. / If people accept Jesus Christ as their Savior, they must first realize that they are sinners.

/They must abandon all things of flesh, things to boast of, and outwardly things, and must be poor in heart. / Therefore, things of the flesh hinder living life in faith.

/Verse 8. / What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ

/Paul considered everything a loss and rubbish because of the surpassing greatness of knowing Jesus Christ. / That is the way to gain Jesus Christ. / To know Jesus Christ is to have

everlasting life.

/Christ is God's mystery. / Jesus Christ is our salvation. /He is our power. / He is our life and resurrection. / This is why knowing Christ surpasses greatness.

/Because Jesus is so worthy and good, we cannot leave Him. / We cannot leave Jesus even if we are threatened with death.

/There were many things to boast about in the past, / but now all is considered a loss. Paul only loved and followed Christ. / All else was rubbish.

/Rubbish refers to urine and feces. / We eat food with our mouths. /Then our bodies absorb all the nutrients. / Then everything that is left becomes feces.

/This is the same in knowing Christ. / When we believe and gain Jesus Christ, / we use everything in the world.

/Just as food gives us nutrients, we understand Jesus Christ and get closer to Him and gain Him.

/Next, just as feces is excreted, all worldly things leave us and Jesus is the only One who is good. Because worldly things are harmful, these are excreted. / Would it be good for us if we have Jesus in one hand and the world in the other?

/The Bible tells us that we cannot serve two masters. / We cannot serve both. / This is the reason why Paul said that everything is rubbish after he realized the surpassing greatness of knowing Jesus Christ.

/A rice kernel grows inside the skin. / When it is time, the skin must be peeled off. / Without skinning it, the kernel is useless. / It would be a waste.

/The skin was once necessary, but as the kernel ripened, the skin needed to be peeled off. / The kernel cannot be eaten if the skin remained.

/The flesh that is worthy to be boasted of is like the skin of rice. /What is important is the kernel. / If we found the spiritual world, we must throw away the skin because it is harmful to us.

/Fourth point. Verses 9-11. Efforts to participate in the power of Christ's resurrection.

/Verse 9. / and 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.

/Paul said, “and be found in him.” / This refers to becoming like Jesus Christ.

/One who lives with Christ and has been found in Him / has worthy faith. / How happy is a gold miner when he finds gold? / He must mine for it and take it.

/He strives to obtain gold. / Likewise, we must strive to find Jesus Christ and be found in Him. / We must strive to be found in Him. / We have become righteous because we received the righteousness of Jesus Christ.

/Paul was filled with thanksgiving because he received that righteousness. / He tried hard to build himself in his joy.

/Verses 10-11. / 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, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.

/It says, “to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings.” / Paul strived to participate in Christ's power of resurrection. / To participate in the power of resurrection, we must first participate in His suffering.

/There can be no glory of resurrection without the suffering of cross. / We can participate in Christ's power to the amount we participated in Christ's suffering. / If we participate greatly in Christ's suffering, then we will have that much power.

/The suffering that comes when we obey God's Word is the suffering of Christ. / We must

participate in that suffering. / First, it is the suffering that comes when we obey God's Word.

/The lesser the obedience, the lesser the suffering. / The more obedience there is, the more suffering there will be. / The current of water a big fish and a small fish swim through is different.

/The big fish swims against bigger currents. / If it tries to swim up the whole river, all the water will be against the fish. / In this way, great obedience to God's Word bring much suffering.

/However, because the suffering is great, the person will also receive greater power. / Second, participation in the suffering of Christ. / It refers to the suffering of the church, the body of Jesus Christ.

/Those who suffer greatly for the church can participate in the glory of Christ.

/Now, the fifth point. Press on. Verses 12-17.

/Verse 12. / Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.

/Paul did not obtain all of these, but he pressed on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of him. / What is the purpose behind Jesus holding onto us? /He holds and leads us to help us reach the goal.

/We must follow Jesus. / It says, "I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me." / The purpose is written in verse 14. / It is to press on towards the goal. / The goal is to resemble the image of Christ.

/Verse 13. / Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead,

/Paul said, "I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it." / Like Paul, we must forget what is behind and look forward by setting Jesus as our goal.

/We must forget the faults of the past and run towards what is ahead. / We must not boast of the things done in the past and press on in the present. / “What is ahead” refers to the goal.

/What lies ahead is Jesus Christ, and it means to strive to resemble the image of Christ.

/Verse 14. / I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

/In other words, we must resemble Jesus so that we may receive rewards before God.

/Verse 15. / All of us who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you.

/It says, “All of us who are mature should take such a view of things.” / There are people who think that they are doing everything right. / There are people who ignore the law and say, “I have achieved everything.”

/It is wrong to think such thoughts. / The verse says, “God will make clear to you.” / There will come a time when God will make clear of things that we think wrong.

/When we strive to know things properly and press on, God will make things clear to us.

/Verse 16. / Only let us live up to what we have already attained.

/The verse means that we must keep pressing on in the race of faith wherever we are.

/Verse 17. / Join with others in following my example, brothers, and take note of those who live according to the pattern we gave you.

/Because Paul resembled Jesus and became the model to the believers, / he said, “Join with others in following my example.”

/Can we say to others, “Follow my example”? / We must be able to become a model to other believers, just as Paul was.

/Sixth point. / Enemy of the cross. Verses 18-19.

/Verse 18. / For, as I have often told you before and now say again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ.

/It says, “many live as enemies of the cross of Christ.” / There may be enemies of the cross among churchgoers. / There are churchgoers who tempt and test other people.

/This is why Paul warned them in tears. / Who are the enemies of the cross in the church?

/Verse 19. / Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things.

/First, their god is their stomach. / Their god is food and materials. / Instead of worshipping God, they go around to eat. / They consider their stomachs more important than God.

/Second, they glorify shameful things. / They do not know shame. / They boast and have pride in those things.

/Third, their minds are set on earthly things. / It says that their destiny is destruction. / Materialism, gluttony, /and fleshly desires, / corrupt the church.

/Also, their glory is in their shame. / They drink and live a life of debauchery. / They boast about such things. / They fall to hedonism. / These things corrupt the church.

/Yet, they boast those things. They block the glory of God. / The verse also says that their minds are set on earthly things. / Instead of thinking about heavenly things, they think only about earthly things.

/This is worldly and realistic. / The church is becoming more and more secularized. /They do not walk down the path of suffering that Jesus walked. / They live only for the pleasures of

the flesh.

/We must make sure that we do not become like them. / We must always walk down the path Jesus walked down, which is the path of suffering of the cross of Jesus.

/Next, the seventh point. Our citizenship is in heaven. Verses 20-21.

/Verse 20. / But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ,

/We Christians believe in heaven, the afterlife. / Yet, realism has entered the church and the church has become more centered on the flesh. / Self-indulgence and debauchery has entered the church.

/The church has become more secularized. / Yet, we are not a part of the movement of the world but the movement of heaven. / It is not a movement of the flesh, but a spiritual movement of faith. / We must prepare for the Second Coming of Christ while we hope for heaven.

/Verse 21. / who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

/It says that Jesus will transform our lowly bodies to be like His glorious body when He returns. / Can you imagine how glorious we will be if we transform to be like Jesus?

/We will have the same resurrected body as Jesus has. / Then we will live before God for all eternity. / This world is temporary.

/We prepare for heaven while we are here on this earth. / This world is a place of discipline. / It is like morning mist that fades away after a moment. / The place we will go to is the glorious and eternal heaven.

/We must have this hope and cleanse ourselves daily. /It says, “who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control.”

/The power that enables him to bring everything under his control. / Everything has come under the control of Christ through the redemption of Jesus Christ. /All of creation will one day completely submit to Christ.

/This means that everything will happen by the power of Jesus Christ. / Our lowly bodies will be transformed into glorious bodies. / “Our lowly bodies” mean that we are God’s creation.

/It is a cursed body in this sinful world. / The body is lowly. / The body will rot. / The body is a body of the flesh and is cursed.

/Jesus will transform these lowly bodies to be like His resurrected body. / Also, when Jesus returns, we will also be resurrected through His power.

/Then with the holy and glorious bodies, we will live with God in heaven for eternity.

/With this we will conclude the tenth lecture on the prison epistles. / Thank you.