**The Study of Philippians: A Discourse in Joy**

**Warning about false teachers - Philippians 3:1-14**

**Hermeneutics, Literary Digression.**

Writers use literary digression for impact or to clarify a point.

When interpreting scripture, the observer should notice these digressions.

The interpreter need not try too hard to make the digression fit in the flow of the central theme.

**Paul’s Warning about Synergistic Salvation.**

*"Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you is no trouble to me and is safe for you. 2 Look out for the dogs, look out for the evildoers, look out for those who mutilate the flesh. 3 For we are the circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh.”*

(Philippians 3:1–3)

**Look out for the false teachers. Philippians 3:2**

Dogs, evildoers, and mutilators of the flesh describe the same people. These were the false teachers of the law and grace, requiring new converts to Christianity to be circumcised.

**Know your identity in Christ, Philippians 3:3**

Paul declares that true believers are the spiritual circumcision.

**Paul Denounces His Privilege.**

Privilege: Privilege means that you have access to unique opportunities, advantages usually by means outside your control. Paul uses his privilege to refute the Judaizers.

**Privilege Declared. Philippians 3:4-6**

1. Paul has a superior confidence in the flesh.
2. Paul uses his privilege to gain credibility with the false teachers.

**Privilege Redefined. Philippians 3:7-8**

1. Paul's understanding of the privilege paradox, gaining and losing privilege.
2. We are to set aside privilege to know Christ.
3. Paul counts privilege as expendable and even rubbish.

**Privilege Reimagined. Philippians 3:9-12**

1. Paul gives a new perspective on privilege apart from the law.
2. Paul points out the privilege of the resurrection.
3. Paul has a new owner of his life (from the law to Christ.)

**Privilege Forgotten. Philippians 3:13-14**

1. We are called to the intentional setting aside of the past.
2. We are called to the intentional pressing toward life in Christ.

**It is essential to live the Christian life with a proper perspective; The accomplishments are not of the flesh but of the spirit. The “forgetting” and the “looking forward” principles are essential for spiritual growth.**