

Welcome to Hope Sabbath School—an in-depth interactive study of the Word of God. We are continuing our series on Inspired Letters from Prison. Today's topic from Philippians: CONFIDENCE ONLY IN CHRIST.

**1) Beware of the dogs**

- a. What impression do you get when you read Philippians 3:1?
- b. Philippians 3:2 Who were the dogs the Philippian Christians needed to beware of?
- c. Were the dogs, the evil workers, and the mutilation, three different groups or three descriptions of the same group?
- d. What were these enemies of the gospel teaching?
- e. Are these same enemies of the gospel active today?
- f. Philippians 3:3 Why is worshiping God, rejoicing in Jesus Christ, and having no confidence in the flesh our best defense against enemies of the gospel?

**2) Trust fully in Christ, not in your own accomplishments**

- a. Philippians 3:4-6 What reasons did Saul (later called Paul) have to be proud from a human perspective? (see also Acts 22:3, 26:4-5)
- b. What are your thoughts about Paul's claim that before meeting Christ he was blameless concerning righteousness which is in the law?
- c. Paul also claimed that, before becoming a follower of Jesus, he was zealous in persecuting Christians. What examples can we find in the Book of Acts of Saul persecuting the church?  
Acts 7:57-8:3, 9:1-2

- d. What was Paul's own testimony about persecuting Christians before he became a follower of Jesus? Acts 26:9-11
- e. How is it possible that Saul thought he was doing the will of God by persecuting followers of Jesus? Note the prophecy of Jesus recorded in John 16:1-2
- f. How did Paul's attitude about his past religious accomplishments change after he became a follower of Jesus? Philippians 3:7-11, 1 Timothy 1:15
- g. What does it mean to be found "in Christ"? 1 Corinthians 1:26-31, Ephesians 1:7-14
- h. When did you come to realize that your only hope of salvation was found through faith in Jesus Christ?

**3) Press on toward the goal**

- a. Philippians 3:12-14 What (or Who) is the goal the Apostle Paul was striving toward? (see also Philippians 3:10-11)
- b. What was Paul's confession at the end of his earthly life? 2 Timothy 4:7-8
- c. How can we keep our attention focused on the Jesus? Hebrews 12:1-2
- d. Who has helped you to keep your eyes fixed on Jesus? (the Holy Spirit, a spiritual friend, etc.)

