

Questions for Consideration—*With the Master In Fullness of Joy*

Lesson 15 — Rejoice and Beware! — Philippians 3:1-3

1. (a) Read Philippians chapter three listing all the warnings Paul gives. (b) Why do you think he mentions each one?

2. Memorize Philippians 3:2.

3. Paul says in Philippians 3:1, “rejoice in the Lord”. (a) Read Nehemiah 8:1-12 and discover the principles for being joyful in the Lord. (b) How could you use what you have just learned to help someone who is struggling with being happy in the Lord?

4. (a) What do the following verses say about “dogs”: Deuteronomy 23:18; Psalm 22:16; Psalm 59:5-7; Isaiah 56:10,11; Matthew 7:6; Matthew 15:26,27; Revelation 22:15? (b) What else do you learn about Judaizers (false teachers) when looking at the metaphors used in these verses?

5. (a) Read Romans 4:1-12. Did Abraham believe God before or after his circumcision? (b) What do these verses tell you about Abraham’s faith? (c) Was his faith alone or was it accompanied by works? (d) Does Abraham qualify for those whom Paul mentions in Philippians 3:3? (e) What is the danger of thinking we can do good works (even circumcision) to gain favor with God?

6. (a) Paul lists several character qualities of those who are truly circumcised in their hearts in Philippians 3:3. What other things should be present in the lives of those who truly know God according to the following passages: Deuteronomy 10:16; Deuteronomy 30:6, and Jeremiah 4:4? (b) Are these things present in your life?

7. (a) Make a list of the things that cause you to lose your joy. (b) What changes can you make in your life so that you will be able to rejoice in the Lord regardless?

8. (a) Have you been circumcised in the heart? (b) Can you honestly say that you serve God from the heart as well as obey Him from your heart, and not from mere duty or obligation, or to be seen of men? (c) Do you think you could recognize a false teacher?

9. Prayerfully reflect over questions 6 and 7 and come with a request to share.