

Philippians 4
Scooby Doo
April 25- Roger Miller

Introduction: 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.

²Watch out for those dogs, those men who do evil, those mutilators of the flesh. ³For 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— ⁴though I myself have reasons for such confidence.

If anyone else thinks he has reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more:

⁵circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for legalistic righteousness, faultless.

⁷But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸What 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
Philippians 3:1-8

Paul gives us a real shocker in Verse eight with the word Rubbish as translated by most modern translations. The word rubbish in the Greek is Skuvbalon, this is the only place it is used in the New Testament! There is two schools of thought, of what this rare Greek Word means. . . .

1. non-excrement used by the rubbish' (ESV, NRSV, NKJV, NIV, NAB, REB) or 'garbage' (TEV, NJB, TNIV) for the term.

a. rubbish, refuse

b. table scraps, leavings

2. excrement (KJV,) Filth (Darby Trans)

a. dung (without strong shock value)

b. crap, the s- word (with strong shock value)

“Skuvbalon took on the nuance of a vulgar expression with emotive connotations (thus, roughly

equivalent to the English “crap, s**t”) is probable. . .” <http://bible.org/article/brief-word-study-skuvbalon>. If you study the use of this word outside the Bible especially in the first Century it is most often used as a general term for excrement! Second Paul in several places uses shock to make a point. Lastly, Paul uses terms as word plays. In verse two Paul starts current contexts by calling false teachers Dogs- then in verse eight uses general term for excrement. But what is the worst type of excrement? What type of animal is being talked about in context? Dog! I believe to shock the philipi church into how serious this threat of false teaching about human effort-Paul is saying it is dog-do-it is Skuvbalon.

It is my theory that **Skuvbalon**, is where the creator of Scooby-Doo, got the cartoons name! How many remember the cartoon Scooby Doo? How well do you know your Scooby doo?

Scooby Doo was always solving some mystery. The mystery to me is after the reality of human weakness, and how little life makes us-How we still act like human goodness can save us! To that Paul would say Skuvbalon! So let’s look at What Paul would have us trust in.

*Look out for Scooby-doo **Philippians 3:1-11***

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my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ ⁹and 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. ¹⁰I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.

Exposition

These “dogs” and “wicked men” were very likely Judaizers—Jewish Christians who wrongly believed that it was essential for Gentiles to follow all the Old Testament Jewish laws, especially submission to the rite of circumcision, in order to receive salvation. Many Judaizers were motivated by spiritual pride. Because they had invested so much time and effort in keeping their laws, they couldn’t accept the fact that all their efforts couldn’t bring them a step closer to salvation.

Paul criticized the Judaizers because they looked at Christianity backward—thinking that what they did (circumcision—cutting or mutilating the flesh) made them believers rather than the free gift of grace given by Christ. What believers do is a result of faith, not a prerequisite to faith. This had been confirmed by the early church leaders at the Jerusalem council 11 years earlier (Acts 15). Who are the Judaizers of our day? They are those who say that people must add something else to simple faith in Jesus!

NFL Draft

NFL Players are Some of the strongest most disciplined athletes in the world-and exactly who you would want to walk with you down a dark alley! But look at Michael Vick and Big Ben and you know for a fact they are weaklings against sin! They are a worthless savior! It is a reminder that all human striving to save self is Scooby doo in God’s Eyes!

If you were like me you were glued to the T.V. Set on Thursday to watch the NFL Draft. The first pick was ___ - to __. But even the best in College do not make it in the NFL here is three recent draft busts. . .Jamarcus Russell, Joey Harrington, and Mike Williams. Leading up to the Draft, one of the

Specials ESPN had was Jon Gruden critiquing the top draft picks-And he found plenty wrong with each of them! But this is John Gruden and not God! It is a reminder even the most loving-sweet grandmother standing before God will be declared a sinner in need of a Savior.

What's the Best you can do? I have a little human pride that I played semi-pro ball at 32 against college age kids-but in God's economy it's Scooby Doo! It was one of my finest moments-It was one of my best efforts-but it's not good enough to over come all my sin and all my weakness- so Paul say it's dog dung-compared to the riches that come from Christ's sacrifice! Now back to Scooby doo-if you remember the cartoon-the bad guys were always smarter than the mystery crew-yet they always stumble! So what I challenge you to do is look at you one moment in the sun? A moment you thought you were good? Now project yourself standing before the Throne of God on judgment-honestly is your best in any sense measure up to God's greatness?

Paul was speaking to group who were professional athletes of Judaism who were the best of the best! Paul then points to himself and says; you think your good look at my record-**If anyone else thinks he has reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for legalistic righteousness, faultless. Phil 3:4-6** Paul is telling them he is the Heisman winner of the religious world, yet on his own his righteous act is dung-it is only his faith in Christ that makes him worthy of God's forgiveness and Eternal life.

All of this is true-but we do not believe it! Pause Even regular church goers act as if all that is Required for us to enter into heaven is to be a good person! We are often heard saying: so and so is in heaven I know because they are a good person-if you have said those words you are a judizer! You are comparing human effort-human goodness to other human goodness saying one is worthy another is not worthy! Paul is saying our standard is not other humans, but Jesus Christ! Unless you are sinless as Christ-unless you are as perfect as God the father-unless you are as pure as the Holy Spirit-with out Christ you will be condemned eternally to hell! Paul says

the only thing that will save us is a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, based on faith!

Look out for the Clues to the Wealth of Christ Philippians 3:12-16

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. ¹³Brothers, 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, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

¹⁵All 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. ¹⁶Only let us live up to what we have already attained.

Have you every wondered what Paul was like, before he met Jesus on the road to Damascus?

Philippians says he was someone who had always put all his confidence in his flesh. He had always put all his confidence in his own human ability, his religion, his sincerity, his race, his tribe, his rank, his self-righteousness. And he was confident that is was enough to please God! And that's where all his confidence was for salvation. He believed that he was saved because of his religious privilege and his religious achievement. The Judiazers in this chapter had the same viewpoint!

In Paul's day there was also gentiles, who trusted in False God's and their efforts would grant them favor. Just like today, many believed this life was all there was, so live it up now!

Today, there are very few trusting in good works-we just have a mantra-don't judge me! Meaning no right or wrong, just what works for me. Today's false God's are not found in a pantheon but on ESPN and the Big Screen! In Scooby Doo it was not Scooby or Shag's strength that solved, it was their bumbling self-stumbling onto the truth! The truth we all need to stumble onto is only Jesus Saves!

But, when Paul all of a sudden came face to face with Christ, the Spirit of God gives him

understanding and he sees Christ for the first time as the only thing that matters. That Jesus is the only true value, the real pearl, the treasure. And then he sees the loss that is in this column he once identified as assets and good works he's willing to throw the whole thing into one bag and and flush it down the toilet!

Paul said that his goal was to know Christ, to be like Christ, and to be all Christ had in mind for him. This goal took all of Paul's energies. This is a helpful example for us. We should not let anything take our eyes off our goal—knowing Christ. With the single-mindedness of an athlete in training, we must lay aside everything harmful and forsake anything that may distract us from being effective Christians. What is holding you back? What False gods are you clinging to-pleasure-sports figures- or human goodness? Have you believed the lie that the whole point of Jesus-is to make us good boys and girls-then you are a person who trusts in his goodness to save them. Do you know what Paul would say to you? It's just Scooby-Doo! The only thing that matters is Jesus! Are you willing to flush away all you trust in-to cling to Jesus alone!

Look for True Wealth Philippians 3:17-21

Join with others in following my example, brothers, and take note of those who live according to the pattern we gave you. ¹⁸For, as I have often told you before and now say again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things. ²⁰But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹who, 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.

Len Sweet a Methodist preacher tells how he complimented a woman in Rustin, Louisiana, on her jewelry. She smiled and said, "Thank you. I collect gems." I agreed and said, "It shows." "No," she insisted. "I don't collect those gems. I collect real 'gems' I have a gem of a husband, a gem of a daughter, a gem of a friend, a gem of a pastor. Those are the real 'gems' I invest in."

How is your gem collection doing? Who are the gems in your "crown of joy?"

Gem of Relationships

Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. Philippians 3:13

Paul delighted in the relationships he established and maintained throughout his far-flung ministry.

In his letter to the Philippian church reveals that even while he was under house arrest, far away from those he cared about, he was comforted by the mere thought of these brothers and sisters. They were his "joy and crown" in chapter four verse 1. Despite the fact that Paul was always on the road, that he had no place to call "home," that he sometimes went years between seeing or hearing about those whom he called "friend," the apostle still rejoiced in all his personal relationships and was strengthened and nurtured by them. Despite the fact he spent years in prison isolated from the Gem of personal relationship he wrote letters and prayed for those he loved! Maybe-because he had faced death so many times and spent so much time in isolation, it gave him the correct perception that friendship was worth sacrificing everything for!

Have you noticed it is getting harder and harder to make genuine human connections during the regular course of our days. We cash checks and make deposits at ATMs, pump our own gas and pay for it electronically outside. We use elaborate computerized menus on phone calls so that we get the information we want and leave messages just by pushing the right phone buttons. All these high-tech tactics for getting things done work efficiently most of the time. But they leave us with a huge void in our lives where there used to be human interactions.

I don't know about you, but somehow I've never been convinced that the gas pump really means it when it tells me, "Thank you, have a good day."

When the Bible defines God as "love," and defines us as created in God's image, the Bible is tipping us off to something extremely important. "Love" means "relationships." God made us to be in relationship.

But the show Scooby doo-taught us that bad-guys were always there trying to scare us off from the treasure. The bad guy scaring us off from loving relationship is HURRY! It is The biggest and baddest. It

destroys our outward, social relationships by causing us to commit one of the greatest possible sins against our neighbors ignoring them. We grab our packages from the grocery clerk and run. We pack so many errands into our 45-minute lunch "hour" that we are already halfway out the door before any of our transactions are even completed.

Here is a little "Joy and Crown" test to see how deep and rich your life is in personal relationships:

When is the last time you looked a salesclerk directly in the eyes as you took your package and said, "Thank you," like you really meant it?

What color eyes does your child's teacher have?

Does the receptionist at the doctor's office own a dog? If so, what's its name?

That kid handing you your hamburger out the drive-up window had a name tag what did it say?

You can have personal relationships with each person you encounter in your life. A

"relationship" is not defined solely on the length of its duration. A relationship is established when a genuine connection is made. What is the one thing you can take with you to heaven?

Anyone? Those you related too-you have loved into the heart of Jesus! The Gem of relationships is true wealth!

Gem of Heaven

Paul tells us in vs. 10, "I want to know Christ & the power of His resurrection & the fellowship of sharing in His sufferings, becoming like Him in His death, & so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead."

What is he reaching for? What is his goal? Paul's goal is the resurrection from the dead. His goal is eternal life with Jesus. That is what he is reaching for & striving for every day. His goal is heaven.

Now here is the point. If our goal is heaven; if our goal is eternal life with Jesus Christ; then all these little setbacks in life are only stepping stones getting us closer to the time when we will be with Jesus.

There will be disappointments in life, but every day that passes is one day closer to the time when we will be with Jesus. If that is our goal, then Romans 8:28 is true. "All things" do "work together for good to

those who love God & are called according to his purpose."

Gem of Jesus

What will you have to show for your life when you stand before Jesus Christ?

A good job?

A college degree?

Money in the bank?

Lots of friends?

A large reputation?

A successful career?

The praise of others?

A winning record?

A bagful of awards?

Departmental chairman?

President and CEO?

If that's all you've got to show for your life, then you really don't have much going for you.

If that's all you have to show for 60 or 70 years of life all you have is Scooby-doo! Sooner than you think, you'll be lying in a box six feet underground with grass growing over your head. And all the things of this life won't matter at all. Someone else will have your money and your job.

Your fame will fade, your glory will disappear, and everything you now own will belong to others (and someone else will be sitting in your pew at church). You will eventually be forgotten except by those people who stumble on your gravestone 100 years from now and say, "I wonder who this guy was." Unless you have a gem of Relationship with Jesus-Then you are promised eternal rewards and reunion with your loved ones!

Conclusion: The problem so many people have is that they are still playing in the rubbish heap of life and their hands are covered with the dung of earthly gain that counts for nothing compared to knowing Jesus Christ. Two thousand years ago the Lord asked the question this way: "What will it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul?" ([Mark 8:36](#)).

We're all on a journey from time to eternity. Sooner than we think, we'll be in a casket and people will be weeping over us. What will they say about you then? What will they put on your tombstone? "He spent his life on things that didn't matter" or "He met Jesus and his life was never the same." Do you know Jesus?

Five finger Exercise?

Christ- and become one with him. I no longer count on my own righteousness through obeying the law; rather, I become righteous through faith in Christ.^[c] For God's way of making us right with himself depends on faith. Philip 3:9

Faith-Trust Philip 3:9

Repentance- Godly sorrow brings **repentance** that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death. 2 Corinthians 7:10

Confession- For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you **confess** and are saved. Romans 10:10

Baptism by Immersion- We were therefore buried with him through **baptism** into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. Romans 6:4

Live by Faith The righteous will **live** by **faith**. Romans 1:17