

# Philippians

The image shows the archaeological site of Philippi in Greece. In the foreground, there are stone walls and several tall, weathered columns. The background features a rocky hillside with sparse vegetation and a clear blue sky. The text "Philippians" is overlaid in a white box at the top, and "Phil 3:1-3" is overlaid in a dark blue box in the center.

Phil 3:1-3

Alanis  
Morrisette

Ironic

An old man turned ninety-eight  
He won the lottery, and died the next day  
It's a black fly in your Chardonnay  
It's a death row pardon two minutes too late  
And isn't it ironic?  
Don't you think?  
It's like rain on your wedding day  
It's a free ride when you've already paid  
It's the good advice that you just didn't take  
And who would've thought? It figures

Based on Merriam-Webster's  
Collegiate® Dictionary, Eleventh Edition

The  
**Merriam-  
Webster  
Dictionary**

**NEW EDITION**

- Helpful guidance on word usage
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**Irony –**  
the use of words to express  
something other than and especially  
the opposite of the literal meaning

Oh no, I couldn't possibly eat any cake!



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The image shows an archaeological site with several tall, weathered stone columns standing amidst ruins. In the background, a large, rocky hill rises under a clear blue sky. The foreground is filled with stone walls and debris.

Philippians

Ironic Paul

STEP

01

Some things are  
worth repeating!



STEP

02

Beware the dogs!



STEP

03

Paul gets ironic!



STEP

01

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STEP

02

Beware the dogs!



STEP

03

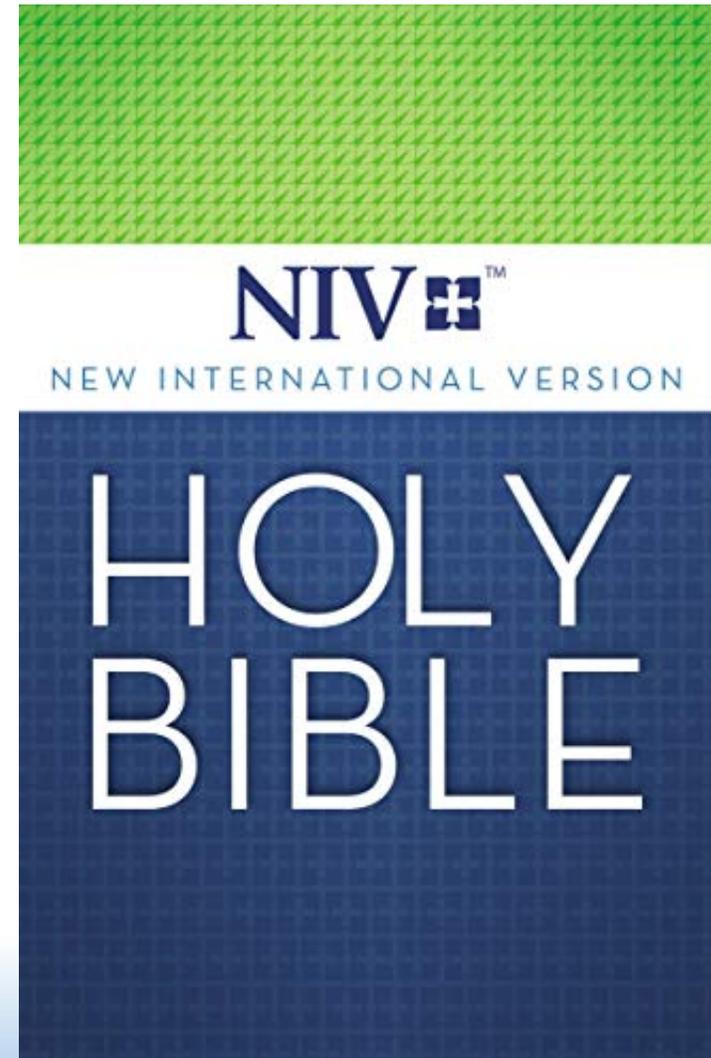
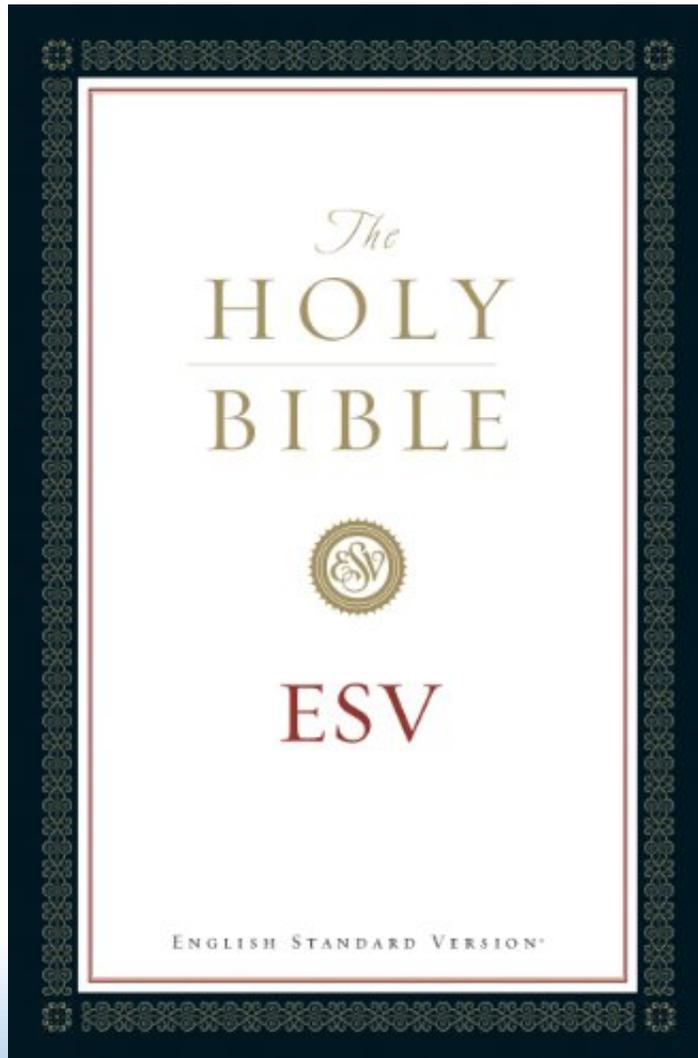
Paul gets ironic!



Phil. 3:1 Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you is no trouble to me and is safe for you.

Phil. 3:1 Τὸ λοιπόν, ἀδελφοί μου, χαίρετε ἐν κυρίῳ. τὰ αὐτὰ γράφειν ὑμῖν ἐμοὶ μὲν οὐκ ὀκνηρόν, ὑμῖν δὲ ἀσφαλές.

Ever wonder why there are different translations?



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“Finally” *to loipon* (Τὸ λοιπόν): Classical Greek “finally”

“Finally” *to* “finally...” or “next point...” next point...”

Phil. 3:1 Finally, **my brothers**, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you is no trouble to me and is safe for you. (ESV)

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Phil. 3:1 Further, **my brothers and sisters**, 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. (NIV)

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“rejoice” *chai-rete* (χαίρετε): “rejoice” “hail” you.

present imperative

Mt 5:12

Mt 28:9

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2 Cor 13:11

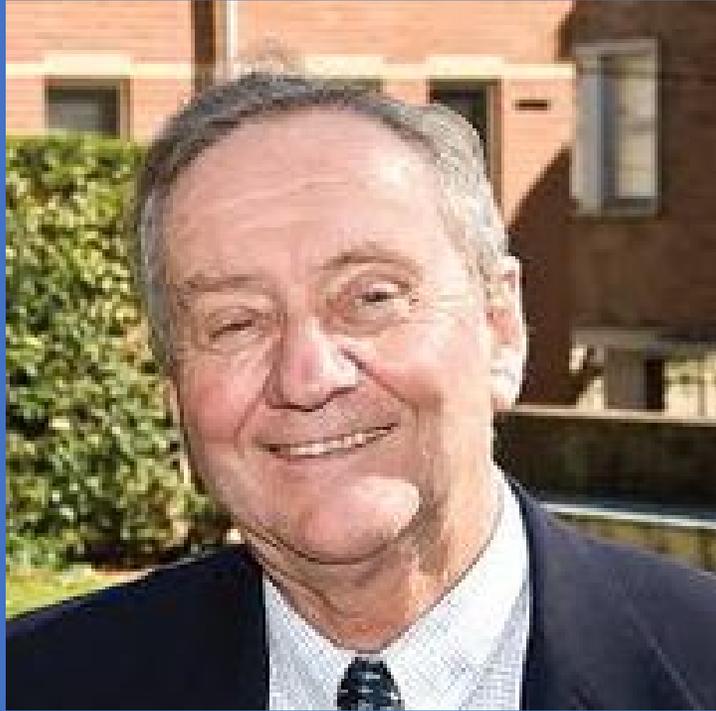
Phil 2:18

Phil 4:4

1 Ths 5:16

Was Paul suggesting some fantasy world?





Peter Thomas O'Brien

“This was not an admonition to some kind of superficial cheerfulness that closes its eyes to the surrounding circumstances... It recognizes God’s mighty working in and through those circumstances to fulfill his own gracious purposes in Christ.”

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1 Pet 4:13

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Option 1: We rejoice  
because of who God is...



Option 2: We rejoice  
because we are in Christ



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“trouble” *okēron* (ὀκνηρόν): “reluctant”  
“lazy” “idle” “shrinking from something”

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Points to Ponder:



Rejoice in the Lord!  
(Phil 3:1)

STEP

01

Some things are  
worth repeating!



STEP

02

Beware the dogs!



Phil. 3:2 Look out  
for the dogs, look  
out for the  
evildoers, look out  
for those who  
mutilate the flesh.  
(ESV)

Phil. 3:2 Βλέπετε  
τοὺς κύνας, βλέπετε  
τοὺς κακοὺς  
ἐργάτας, βλέπετε  
τὴν κατατομήν.

Phil. 3:2 Watch out  
for those dogs,  
those evildoers,  
those mutilators of  
the flesh.  
(NIV)

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*blepō* (βλέπω): “to see” present imperative

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Paul saw all of life through the prism of the death of Christ

All of life

This is core gospel living

Paul's view

The "gospel"

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Who were the dogs?



Who were the dogs?



A photograph of a brown dog standing in a field of green grass. The dog has a visible wound on its back, which appears to be a deep laceration or tear in the skin, exposing red tissue. The dog's tongue is hanging out, and it is looking towards the right. The background is a dense field of green grass.

Who were the dogs?

2 Kgs 9:36?

Dogs were vicious scavengers  
detested by society and  
unclean to Jews

1 Sam 17:43

1 Sam 24:14

Mt 7:6

2 Pet 2:22

Points to Ponder:



Look out!!!  
(Phil 3:2)

STEP

01

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STEP

02

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STEP

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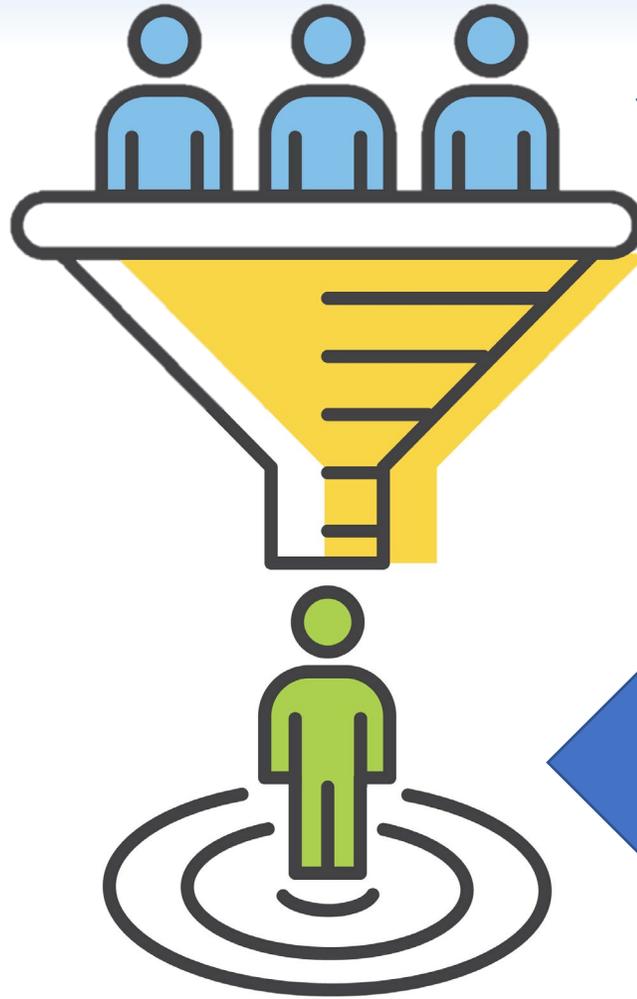
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Judaizers!

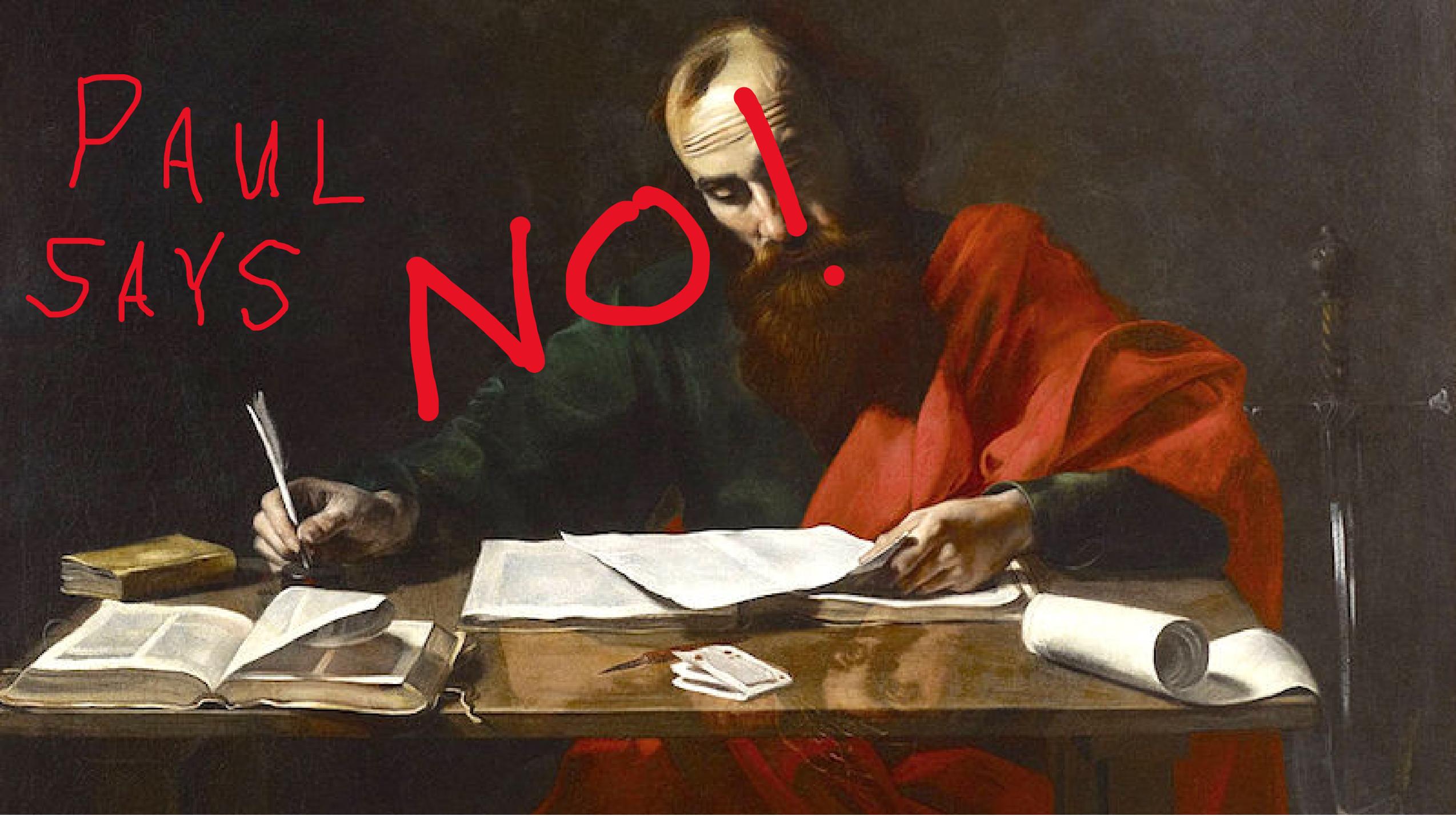
Key Jewish  
Rituals



Gentile believers

Someone in covenant  
of Abraham

PAUL  
SAYS  
NO!



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Phil. 3:2-3 Look out for the dogs, look out for the evildoers, look out for those who mutilate the flesh. For we are the circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus, who put no confidence in the flesh—

Remember: dogs are “unclean” and a derogatory term for “Gentiles”

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κύκ ἐν

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*peri-tomē* (κατα-τομή): cut around (i.e. circumcise)

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The Judaizers were trying to circumcise the Gentiles (dogs), but in the process the Jews were merely mutilating the flesh and becoming dogs themselves

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*latreuontes* (λατρεύοντες): Worship/serve

*But in a priestly way!*

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*kauchaomai* (καυχάομαι): take pride in, boast, brag

## When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

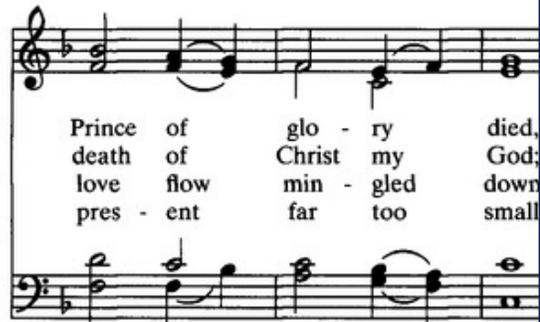
HAMBURG

Isaac Watts, 1707



1. When I sur - vey the wond -  
 2. For - bid it, Lord, that I  
 3. See, from His head, His han -  
 4. Were the whole realm of na -

When I survey the wondrous cross on which  
 the prince of glory died, my richest gain I count  
 but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride



Prince of glo - ry died,  
 death of Christ my God;  
 love flow min - gled down  
 pres - ent far too small

Forbid it Lord that I should boast save  
 in the death of Christ my Lord.  
 All the vain things that charm me most,  
 I sacrifice them to his blood.



count but loss, And pour con - tempt on all my pride.  
 charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to His blood.  
 sor - row meet, Or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?  
 so di - vine, De - mands my soul, my life, my all.



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*See the Trinity?*

## Points to Ponder:



Rejoice... Look out...  
Glory in Christ alone!

(Phil 3:1-3)

Time for church!

