

BELIEVERS

PHILIPPIANS 3:2-7

BACKGROUND: “The word believe means to rest in the worth of another, to give oneself up, to surrender to another.” Malcolm Smith, How I Learned to Meditate, p.33. “Faith is a human response empowered by God’s grace.” G. Walter Hansen, The Pillar New Testament Commentary: The Letter to the Philippians, p. 242.

WATCH OUT FOR LEGALISM. You, a believer, belong to God because you were saved by faith. Christian legalism restricts your experience of your relationship with Jesus Christ and may even cast doubt about your salvation. The Holy Spirit in you will help warn you of those who want to capture you to the false theology of “Christ plus something.” (**Philippians 3:2, fn 3:2-3[1st], fn 3:2-3[2nd], Galatians 2:19-21, fn 2:21, Galatians 2:1-5, fn 2:4-5, Philippians 3:8-9, fn 3:9**) *What should you, as a believer, watch out for?*

SERVE BY THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. The presence of the Holy Spirit helps give you evidence that you are God’s child. A believer is saved by trusting Christ alone and the Holy Spirit gives you joy, resulting in boasting in the work of Jesus Christ for you and in you. (**Philippians 3:3, fn 3:3, Romans 8:9-17, fn 8:9, John 14:15-20, fn 14:15-16, fn 14:16, fn 14:17, fn 14:18, I Corinthians 1:30-31, fn 1:28-31, Ephesians 1:13-14, fn 1:13-14,**) *What is Christ doing in your life that you could talk about in your small group?*

PUT NO CONFIDENCE IN YOUR CREDENTIALS. “Although national identities and sacred ceremonies are not viewed so bad in themselves, they are rejected as the foundation for one’s relationship with God or with believers.” Hansen, p. 222. (**Philippians 3:4-7, fn 3:4-6, fn 3:7, Isaiah 64:6, fn 64:6, Jeremiah 9:23-24, fn 9:23-24, Ephesians 2:8-9, fn 2:8-10**) *What was your conversion based on?*

Are you taking time to experience the presence of the Holy Spirit with the Living Word teaching you and giving you His joy, His love, and His peace?