

AN APOSTLE ON GUARD

Phil. 3:1-11

PAUL
WAS
JEALOUS
FOR
THEIR
JOY.

Intr: Did Paul really expect to end the epistle sooner than he did?

Probably so.

But the mention of trouble aroused his spirit so we have this great passage which could be classed as Paul's spiritual autobiography.

But note: He speaks, not of experiences, but of truth.

I. An Explanation And a Warning (Phil. 3:1-3).

A. The Explanation (Phil. 3:1; cf 4:1-4).

B. The Warning (Phil. 3:2,3).

Coupled with this is an assuring word. GOOD WORKERS IN CH 2; EVIL WORKERS IN CH. 3.

There are always enemies to get us off the track. Part of the Apostle's work was to be on guard. IF THE CERTAINTY OF HEAVEN GUARANTEED EVERYTHING, THERE WOULD BE NO NEED FOR SUCH CONCERN.

II. Paul's Personal Testimony (Phil. 3:4-11). It goes farther, but we will only go this far tonight.

The mention of "the flesh"
introduced all of this.

- This was
the way
of carnal
judgment.*
- A. The wrong way: dependence upon the flesh (Phil. 3:4-6). all religion concentrates on the flesh.
 - B. The right way: dependence upon the Lord (Phil. 3:7-10).
 1. Justification (vv. 7-9).
 2. Sanctification, or the spiritual life (v. 10).
 3. Glorification (v. 11).

Ques: Why was this something which Paul was striving for?

Cf. Daniel in Dan. 9 - his prayer.

Cf. our Lord in Heb. 5:7.

"If by any means," i. e., all that has to do with Christ + the Word + prayer + obedience + the Holy Spirit.