

MORNING SERMON OUTLINE

BEWARE THE DOGS !

Philippians 3:1-3

1. “*Watch out! ... Watch out! ... Watch out! ...*”

Strong (even insulting) language, triple warning = a SERIOUS warning. Paul, as a faithful shepherd of Christ's flock warns of the wolves - warns repeatedly! (an earlier letter or letters??)

Why?

Wolves are sneaky & sheep forget (legalism is a default setting).

2. The true character of Law-preaching wolves

Ironic (sarcastic) language – “dogs,” “workers,” “cutters” (*concion*). Who? “Judaizers” – Jews who profess faith in Christ as the Messiah, **but** teach that His work was not enough to save – need ours too. They are the “dogs,” “evil workers,” “mutilators” – not true Christians. But they want followers, and those who follow lose their ability to “*Rejoice in the Lord.*”

A recurring danger all through church history and today.

3. The marks of God's true people (“the circumcision”) -

Their worship of God comes from hearts made new by the Spirit (“circumcised” in heart, Rom.2:28f, in Christ by new birth (Col.2:11), fulfilling Jesus' word in John 4:23,24.

They glory in Christ alone, and not in their works (flesh).