



## INTRODUCTION

Throughout scripture God has used the characteristics and dispositions of the animal kingdom to describe the characteristics and dispositions of men in the human social and spiritual order. Since God does all things well (**Mark 7:37**), the use of the word “dogs” in our text to describe a group of teachers and how they conduct themselves is not just “name calling” and doesn’t describe groups of teachers exclusively for that time in history. (Just as God is not bound by space and time, His word is not bound by space and time.) We must be careful to follow the instructions in our text to the letter and not go any further to remedy the situation. It is apparent that there are battles that God wants to handle on His own. Read **II Chron. 20:15** to see an example of that.

### Philippians 3:1-2 (NKJV)

<sup>1</sup> Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. For me to write the same things to you *is* not tedious, but for you *it is* safe.

<sup>2</sup> Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the mutilation!

**<sup>1</sup> Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. For me to write the same things to you *is* not tedious, but for you *it is* safe.**

For some, this command is easy to follow but only as long as their situation or circumstances merit it. However, this command does not have the addendum to rejoice in the Lord “as long as things are going well!” In fact we should follow the instructions found in **Isaiah 61:3 (NKJV)**

<sup>3</sup> To console those who mourn in Zion, To give them beauty for ashes, The oil of joy for mourning, The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; That they may be called trees of righteousness, The planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified.”

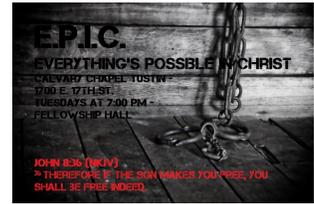
In the last part of the first verse in our text, Paul assures the Philippian church that the things of God are not tiresome or irksome for Paul no matter how many times they are repeated. He wants to assure them that if the Holy Spirit is instructing him to repeat a truth it is for the edification of the body in that this particular instruction to rejoice in the Lord is the best defense against error in their lives.

### Nehemiah 8:10 (AMP)

<sup>10</sup> Then [Ezra] told them, Go your way, eat the fat, drink the sweet drink, and send portions to him for whom nothing is prepared; for this day is holy to our Lord. And be not grieved *and* depressed, for the joy of the Lord is your strength *and* stronghold.

**<sup>2</sup> Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the mutilation!**

Here the word of God is telling us to beware of people who act like dogs, evil workers of unnecessary medical procedures. Beware, in our text, is better defined as “watch”. If the Lord describes these false teachers as dogs, then these false teachers possess some characteristic of a dog. There are different breeds and types of dogs, but the dogs mentioned in our text must be easily recognizable. Based on our limited amount of knowledge of breeds of dogs let’s see if we can pin point some of them for easy recognition.



A kind of dog one can easily recognize is the blood hound. The blood hound can be recognized by sight and sound. The blood hound always has its nose to the ground sniffing out someone on the run or who is lost. The blood hound has a very distinctive bark. You can hear from a far off, but they can't help but let you know they are coming.

Another kind of hunting dog is a pointer. This dog never captures what the hunter is seeking; this dog just points the game out.

Then there are alley dogs that aren't of a particular breed or pedigree but are always in the back side of the building poking around in the garbage. They are always looking for things that are overlooked or discarded.

Our instructions however are to just watch these dogs. We're not to engage them in doctrinal debate. We're not to challenge their theology. We are to just watch them! This is going to be a hard task for some and an easy task for others, but the command is the same. Watch those dogs!

Then there are those that are just evil workers. Paul describes them in his second recorded letter to the Corinthians, chapter 11 and verse 13. **2 Corinthians 11:13-15 (NKJV)**

<sup>13</sup> For such *are* false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ.

<sup>14</sup> And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.

<sup>15</sup> Therefore *it is* no great thing if his ministers also transform themselves into ministers of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works.

### **2 Corinthians 11:13-15 (AMP)**

<sup>13</sup> For such men are false apostles [spurious, counterfeits], deceitful workmen, masquerading as apostles (special messengers) of Christ (the Messiah).

<sup>14</sup> And it is no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light;

<sup>15</sup> So it is not surprising if his servants also masquerade as ministers of righteousness. [But] their end will correspond with their deeds.

Don't bother these evil workers just watch them!

The last part of Paul's admonition is to watch out for those who would tell you that the ritual of circumcision is necessary for the salvation of your soul in addition to the blood of Christ. We don't have to worry about that ritual today, but it has reappeared disguised as

- water baptism or
- worshipping on Saturday
- additional books of God not contained in the Bible that would be needed for your salvation
- the blood of Christ isn't sufficient in and of itself for total cleansing. They say once you die you may have to spend some time in another place to get additional cleansing in order to reach heaven.



All of these beliefs are contrary to written word of God and they are not harmless. The additional books of the Latter Day Saints lower the status of Jesus Christ to a created being and at the same time elevates men to the level of gods (little “g”). Both ideas are false. These ideas do not line up with the gospel.

The Bible says in **Galatians 1:8 (NKJV)**

<sup>8</sup> But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed.

**Colossians 2:11-12 (NKJV)** says:

<sup>11</sup> In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ,

<sup>12</sup> buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with *Him* through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.

**2 Corinthians 5:8 (NKJV)** says:

<sup>8</sup> We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.