



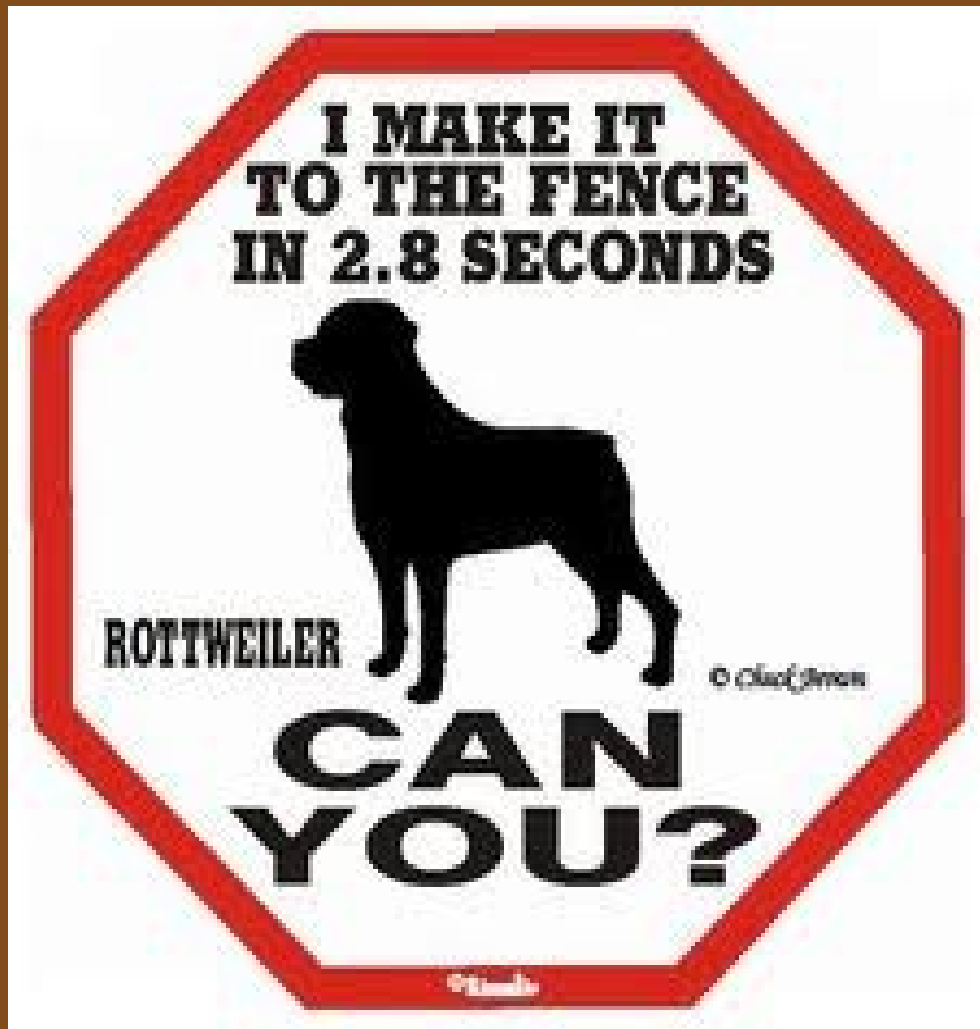
BEWARE

OF

DOGS!

Philippians 3:1-3

Beware of the Dog



- Janet and I were knocking doors during a campaign
- HUGE Rottweiler on the front porch
- This sign at the gate
- We went to the next house

These signs are everywhere



Philippians 3:1-3

- 1 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.**
- 2 Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the mutilation!**
- 3 For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh,**

1 – Beware of Dogs

Dogs are often mentioned in the Bible

Most often in a figurative sense

Most references are in a “bad” sense

Philippians 3:2 – Beware of dogs

1 – Beware of Dogs

Warnings are given about several “breeds” to be aware of:

Abominable – Matthew 7:6 Do not give what is holy to the dogs; nor cast your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn and tear you in pieces.

1 – Beware of Dogs

Warnings are given about several “breeds” to be aware of:

Filthiness – 2 Peter 2:22 But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: "A dog returns to his own vomit," and, "a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire."

1 – Beware of Dogs

Warnings are given about several “breeds” to be aware of:

Growling – Psalm 59:6 At evening they return, They growl like a dog, And go all around the city.

1 – Beware of Dogs

Warnings are given about several “breeds” to be aware of:

Immoral – Deuteronomy 23:18 You shall not bring the wages of a harlot or the price of a dog to the house of the Lord your God for any vowed offering, for both of these are an abomination to the Lord your God.

1 – Beware of Dogs

Warnings are given about several “breeds” to be aware of:

Not in Heaven – Revelation 22:15 But outside are dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practices a lie.

1 – Beware of Dogs

Why are dogs mentioned in such figures of speech?

The Jews used this term to describe Gentiles

Dogs were not domesticated. They were wild, usually in packs.

NT uses this word to discuss those not in covenant with God

2 – Beware of Evil Workers

Not just evil doers; BUT – men who work evil, claiming to work for God

This is wilful, intentional, deliberate

2 Corinthians 11:3 But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

2 – Beware of Evil Workers

Romans 16:18 For those who are such do not serve our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly, and by smooth words and flattering speech deceive the hearts of the simple.

Philippians 3:19 whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame--who set their mind on earthly things.

3 – Beware of the Mutilation

From the same word as circumcision

A – Sign of the covenant under the Law of Moses

B – Teachers were trying to bind part of the Law on Gentile Christians

C – This was doing harm, inflicting injury, cutting off many from the gospel of Christ

3 – Beware of the Mutilaton

There are many (spiritual) mutilators -

Some cut up, cut out, seek to destroy the Bible, the existence of God, the divinity of Christ

They mutilate doctrines, morals, worship, plan of salvation, local congregations

Conclusion

Philippians 3:2

**Beware of dogs,
beware of evil workers,
beware of the mutilation!**

Conclusion

Sign on a fence:

Beware of Dog

Survivors will be prosecuted