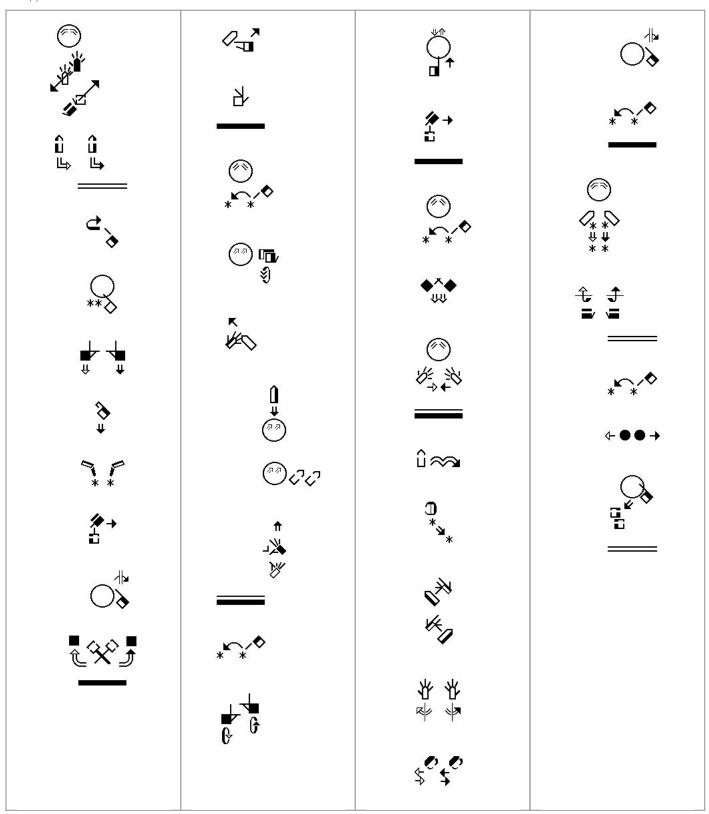
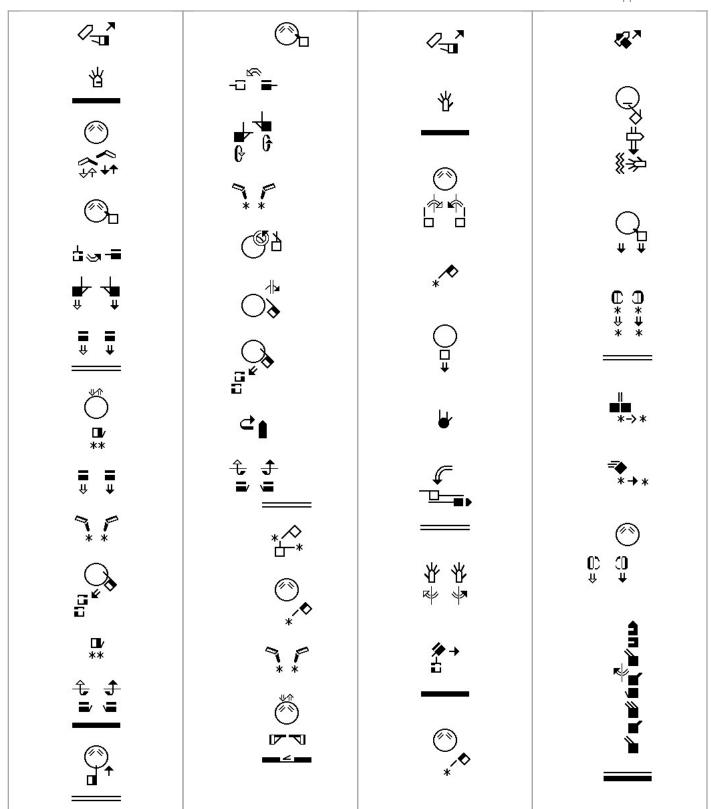


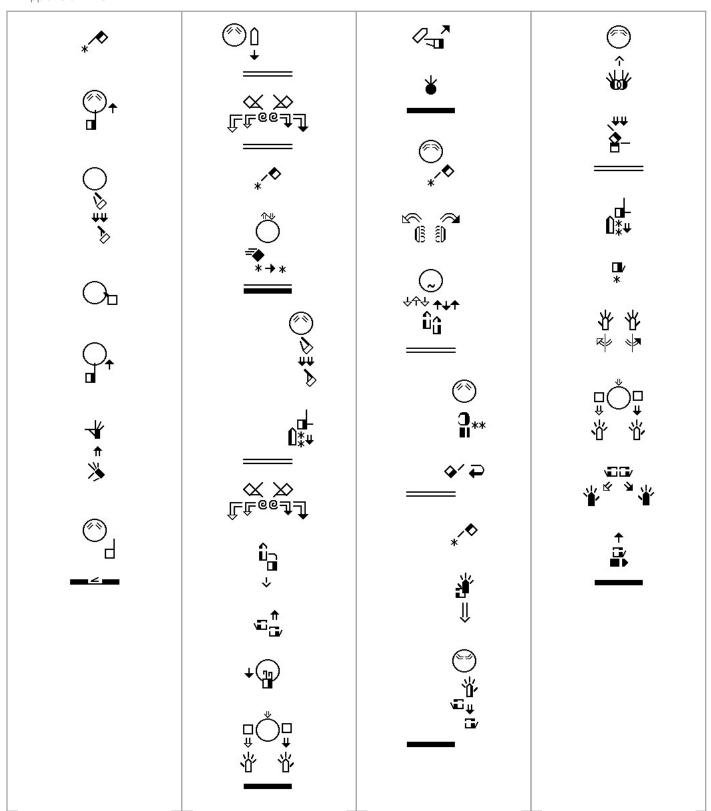
Chapter 3. Whatever happens, my dear brothers and sisters, rejoice in the Lord. I never get tired of telling you these things, and I do it to safeguard your faith. Verse 2. Watch out for those dogs, those people who do evil,



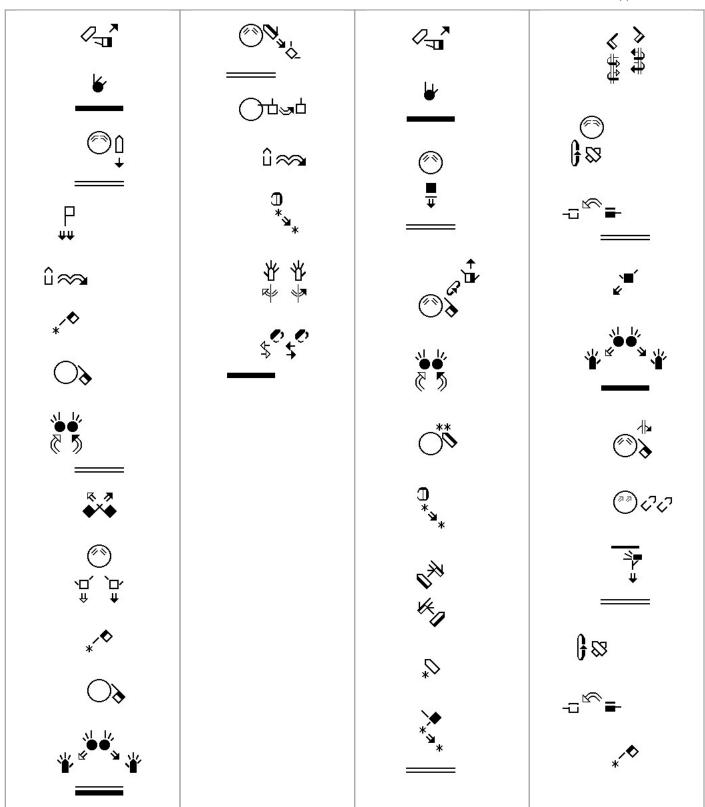
those mutilators who say you must be circumcised to be saved. Verse 3. For we who worship by the Spirit of God are the ones who are truly circumcised. We rely on what Christ Jesus has done for us. We put no confidence in human effort,



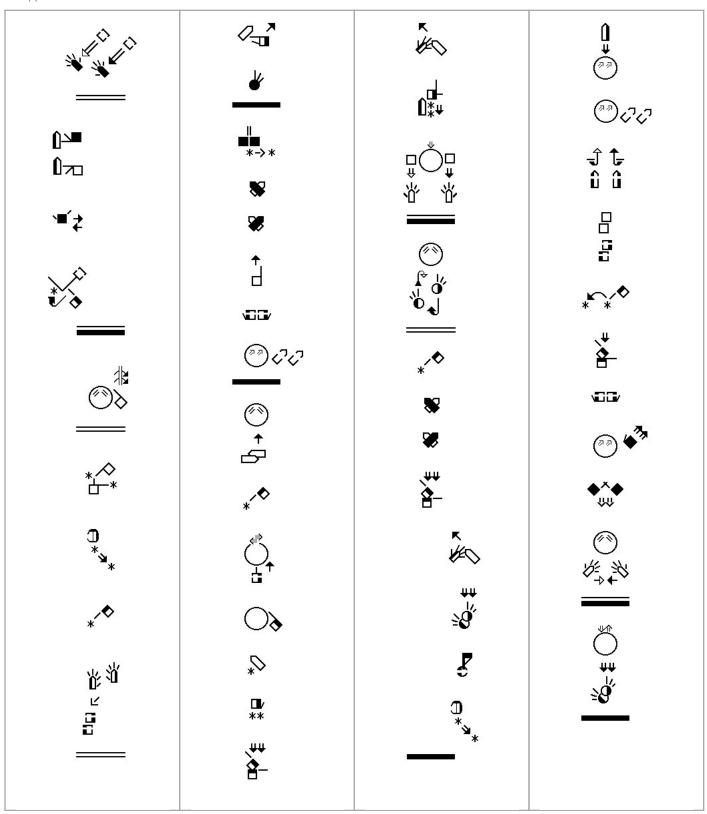
Verse 4. though I could have confidence in my own effort if anyone could. Indeed, if others have reason for confidence in their own efforts, I have even more! Verse 5. I was circumcised when I was eight days old. I am a pure-blooded citizen of Israel and a member of the tribe of Benjamin --



a real Hebrew if there ever was one! I was a member of the Pharisees, who demand the strictest obedience to the Jewish law. Verse 6. I was so zealous that I harshly persecuted the church. And as for righteousness, I obeyed the law without fault. NLT

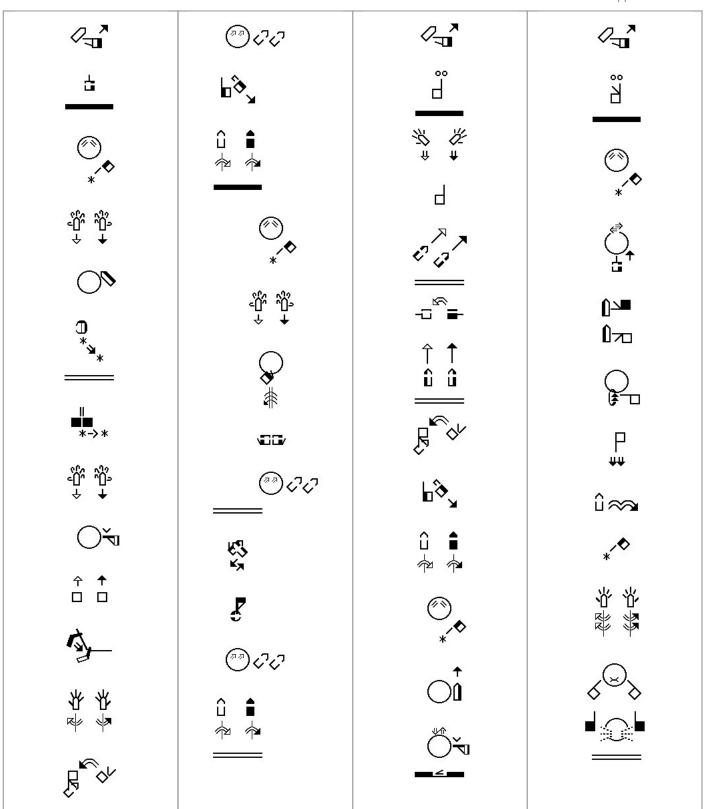


Verse 7. I once thought these things were valuable, but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done. Verse 8. Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have NLT

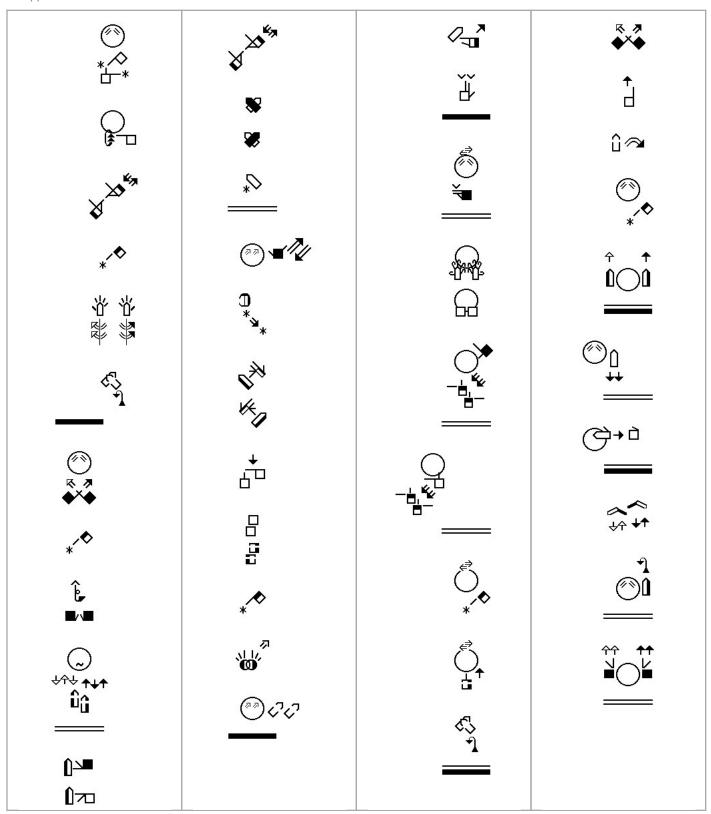


discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ Verse 9. and become one with him. I no longer count on my own righteousness through obeying the law; rather, I become righteous through faith in Christ. For God's way of making us right with himself depends on faith.

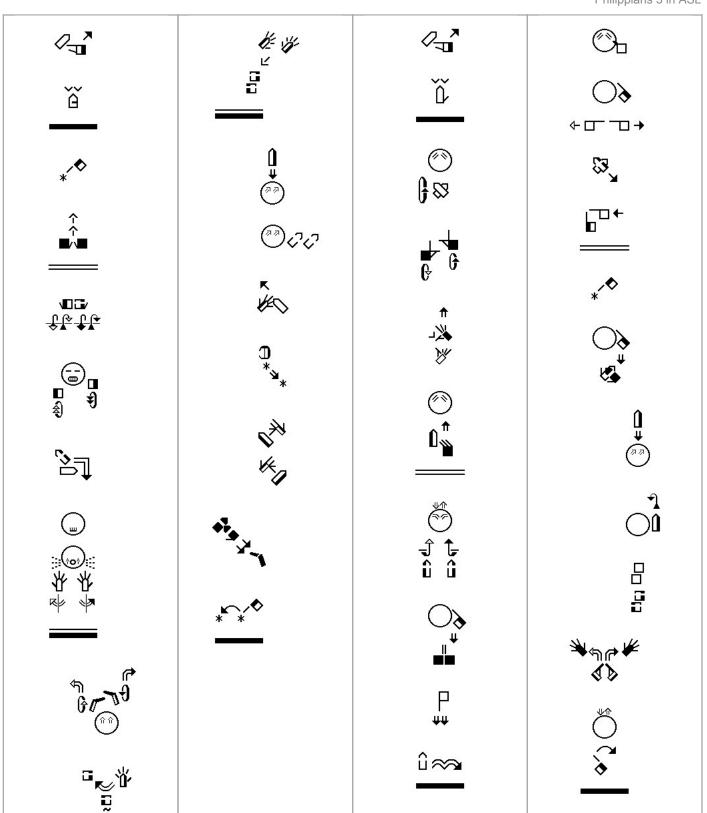
NLT



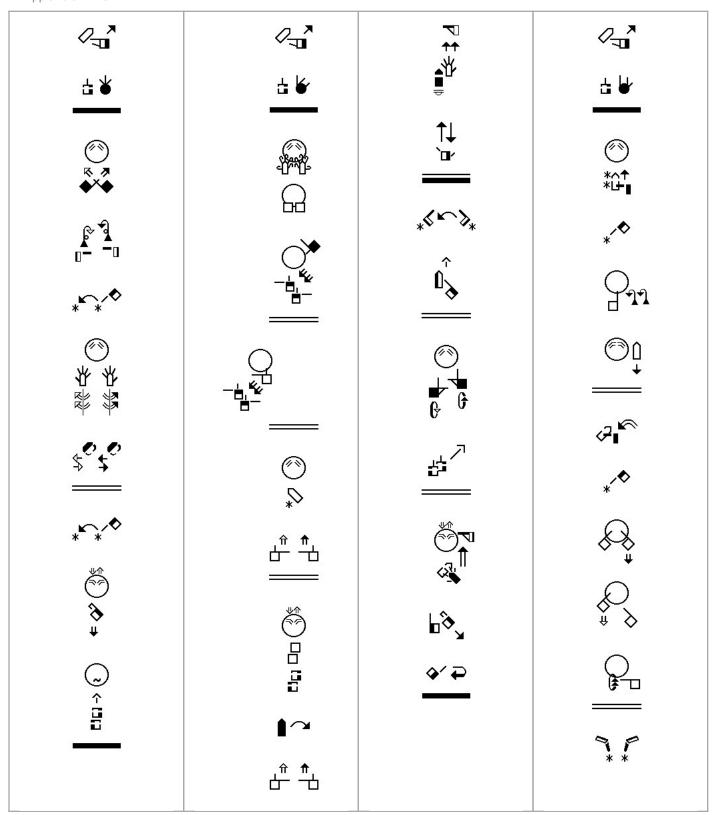
Verse 10. I want to know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised him from the dead. I want to suffer with him, sharing in his death, Verse 11. so that one way or another I will experience the resurrection from the dead! Verse 12. I don't mean to say that I have already achieved these things



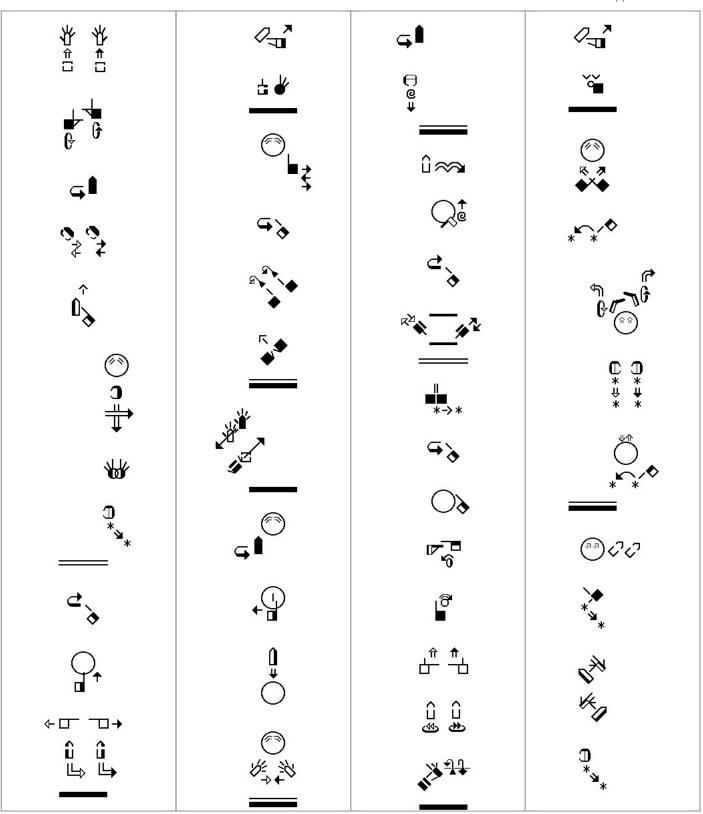
or that I have already reached perfection. But I press on to possess that perfection for which Christ Jesus first possessed me. Verse 13. No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead,



Verse 14. I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us. Verse 15. Let all who are spiritually mature agree on these things. If you disagree on some point, I believe God will make it plain to you.

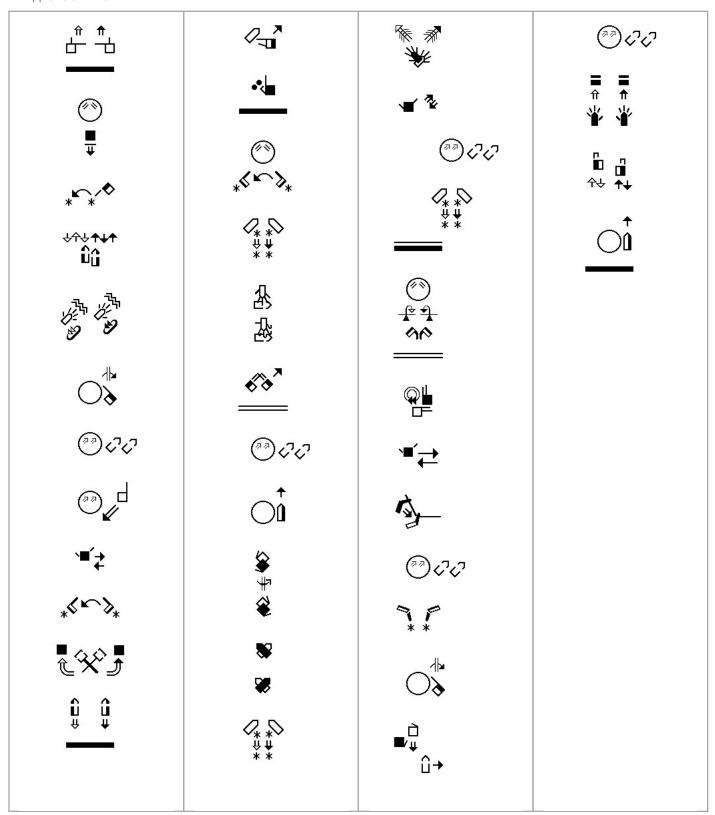


Verse 16. But we must hold on to the progress we have already made. Verse 17. Dear brothers and sisters, pattern your lives after mine, and learn from those who follow our example. Verse 18. For I have told you often before, and I say it again with tears in my eyes, that there are



many whose conduct shows they are really enemies of the cross of Christ. Verse 19. They are headed for destruction. Their god is their appetite, they brag about shameful things, and they think only about this life here on earth. Verse 20. But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ

NLT



lives. And we are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Savior. Verse 21. He will take our weak mortal bodies and change them into glorious bodies like his own, using the same power with which he will bring everything under his control.