

PAUL'S DESCRIPTION OF HIMSELF AND TIMOTHY AND THE PHILIPPIAN CHRISTIANS

1. His description of himself and Timothy. Verse 1
  1. He does not style himself here as an apostle.
  2. Paul and Timothy are alike: "Servants."
  3. The name "Servant" is a lofty title.
2. His description of the Philippian Christians. Verse 1
  1. He calls them "saints in Christ Jesus."
    1. Saints are such only by being in Christ Jesus.
    2. The living branch abides in vital union with the vine. John 15:1-8
      1. God taketh away the unfruitful branch: the unfruitful branch is the ungodly Christian, a branch without fruit, withered, dead and ready to be cast into the fire and burned. John 15:6

PAUL AN EXAMPLE TO ALL CHRISTIAN SERVANTS      Philippians 1:3-8

1. Thanksgiving for their fellowship with him in the gospel. Verses 3-5  
See also Phil. 4:10-19
  1. How often and how much they sent we have no way of knowing.
2. Occasions of his Thanksgiving. How often?
  1. "Upon every remembrance of you." Verse 3
  2. "Always in every prayer of mine." Verse 4
  3. Gratitude is always fed by pleasant memories. This memory of the Philippians by Paul had been going on at least ten years since Paul's last visit to Philippi.

PAUL'S PRAYER FOR THE PHILIPPIANS      Philippians 1:9-11

1. "That their love may abound more and more." Verse 9      The areas:
  1. "In knowledge and in all judgment (Discernment)."
    1. We need a knowledge and thorough grasp of practical truth.
    2. Such knowledge is needed in order to correctly feed love.
      1. We cannot love an unknown person in the real sense.
      2. We cannot love an unknown gospel no more than we can love an unknown Redeemer.
  2. "That ye may approve things that are excellent." Verse 10
    1. Love issuing out of right knowledge coupled with spiritual discernment causes one to recognize, to test and to prove things that are excellent.
    2. The Christian then is able "to prove all things and hold fast that which is good." 1 Thess. 5:21
  3. "That ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ." V.10  
We call attention to two words here. They are:
    1. Sincere "That ye may be sincere."
      1. Pure, unadulterated. Honest; free from hypocrisy. A sincere friend.
      2. A sincere man has all the strength that springs from an undivided heart. "Ye cannot serve God and mammon." Matt. 6:24  
1. Cor. 5:8
    2. Offence "Without offence till the day of Christ."
      1. Without giving offence (causing stumbling) to others.  
Romans 14:21; "It is good neither to eat flesh, nor to drink wine, nor anything whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or made weak."
  4. "Being filled with the fruits (fruit) of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God."
    1. "The fruit of righteousness... which fruit is by Jesus Christ because it is bound up with the life of Christ"  
See John 15:8 and Gal. 5:22,23

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3. Being filled with the fruit (fruit) of righteousness, which are love, peace and good will towards men, Gal. 5:22

6. "The fruit of righteousness, which shall bring forth the life of God,"

Gal. 5:22-23 and Gal. 5:22-23

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PAUL'S EVALUATION OF THE PROGRESS OF THE GOSPEL IN ROME. Verses 12-20

1. A general increased publicity. "But I would ye should understand, brethren, that the things which happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel. Verse 12

This was done in two ways:

1. Increased publicity

1. "So that my bonds in Christ are manifest in all the palace, and in all other places." Verse 13 To all the rest throughout Rome.

2. Increased courage in his companions. "And many of the brethren in the Lord, waxing confident by my bonds, are much more bold to speak the word without fear." Verse 14

2. THE TWO GROUPS and their motives. "Some indeed preach Christ even of envy and strife; and some also of good will." Verse 15

1. From this we learn:

1. That men may be orthodox (preach the truth) as a matter of policy and for party purposes.

2. Some preached from "envy and strife."

3. Their aim or motive: To "add afflictions to my bonds." Verse 16

4. That other men preach Christ "of good will." Verse 15

1. The motive, "of good will," and "of love" must be the spring of all gospel preaching.

2. Three things involved in successful preaching and teaching:

1. Love for Christ and his cause.

2. Love to the truth as revealed to us in the Bible.

3. Love for the souls of men.

3. Magnification of Christ by Paul in life or in death. Verses 18-20

Three avenues of magnification for Christ are:

1. "In my body." Verse 20

1. "By life, or by death" in my body.

2. "By life." Verse 20

1. One's life must be consecrated to the work of the Lord.

3. "By death." Verse 20

1. The one in Christ can face death with: calmness, resignation, with out fear of the otherwise "dark valley" itself.

4. Paul's conviction about the whole matter. "I know that this shall turn to my salvation." Verse 19

1. Two things involved in Paul's confidence.

1. "Through your prayer." The intercessions of the good. *James 5:16*

2. "The supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ."

1. Paul was made more earnest, more spiritual, more faithful to Christ by his imprisonment. *Rom. 8:9*

2. Paul seems to count the prison "as the path upwards to heaven."

LIFE HERE AND HEREAFTER Verses 21-26 Two thoughts on life and death:

1. The ideal life. Verse 21

1. "For me to live is Christ." Verse 21 Most people say:

1. For me to live is: Money, pleasure, fame ETC. To this we can say, "Thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead." Sardis, Rev. 3:1

2. The ideal death. Verse 21 "To die is gain."

1. The eye of true life with Christ can look clear through the dispensation of dying and behold the "gain." 2. It can see straight through the troubled night of the final act of man on earth, and gladden itself with the sight of the morning glory that falls forever on the hills of heaven.

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PAUL URGES A LIFE OF CONSISTENCY, UNITY, AND COURAGE. Verses 27-30

1. THREE WAYS THIS GOAL MAY BE REACHED.

1. There must be consistency of conduct.

1. "Let your conversation (manner of life) be as becommeth the gospel of Christ." Verse 27
2. You profess to believe in Christ: walk worthy of a true disciple, be docile toward government, be studious, be loyal.

2. There must be "unity of life" among the members. How obtained:

1. "That ye stand fast in one spirit." Verse 27 Verse
2. "With one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel." 27
3. This would involve:
  1. Unity of heart: one spirit, one mind. Verse 27
  2. Unity of labor: "Striving together." Verse 27

3. There must be fearlessness of soul.

1. "And in nothing terrified by your adversaries." Verse 28
2. Two things are suggested in this Christian fearlessness:
  1. It bodes evil for the adversaries. Verse 28
  2. It is salvation to the genuine disciples of the Lord. Verse 28

2. BELIEVE, SUFFERING, CONFLICT. Verse 29, 30

1. Paul their example in all of these.

1. "Having the same conflict which ye saw in me, and now hear to be in me."
  1. They actually saw the great conflict of Paul with his enemies at Philippi as in Acts 16:19-34
  2. Through this letter they now hear of Paul's suffering and his conduct in suffering.

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    2. It is salvation to the anxious disciples of the Lord. Verse 28

2. REEVALUATING CONFLICT. Verses 29, 30

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  1. "Having the same conflict which ye saw in me, and now hear to be in me."
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