

The Book of Philippians

Lesson 2

Study Notes

Paul's Prayer for the Philippians

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Text: Philippians 1:6-11.

Introduction: The Apostle Paul felt a strong and special attachment to the members of the Church at Philippi. They had nobly stood by him when others had forsaken him. This display of affection and loyalty deeply moved Paul and created a special bond between them and he will express his love and prayer for them. Love that does not act fails to meet the standard set down in God's Word. Paul felt secure in the love of the Philippians, because for almost a _____ they had expressed their love in acts of kindness and support.

Philippians 1:6 Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:

A. Paul's Confidence.

Being confident of this very thing, Paul here has been persuaded and has no doubts about their _____ and _____. The Greek perfect tense signifies past completion action with present existing results. Paul had no trouble persuading himself that God had begun a good work in the Philippians. He could see plenty of proof that they were soundly _____. Their outward good works were evidence of the inward good work begun in their hearts by the Holy Spirit. The good work of God begins in us when the Holy Spirit takes up permanent _____ in our hearts.

"He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:" This is a good work because God has wrought it. The good work has its initiation in regeneration; has its continuation in sanctification; and will have its consummation in _____. In the past there is God's unchangeable purpose; in the present there is God's unlimited power; and in the future there is God's _____ promise. The day of Christ is the day when Christ will come and receive His church to Himself by the way of the rapture and we will appear at the judgment seat.

There are other "days" that are mentioned in Scripture: man's day, **1Corinthians 4:3 *But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged of you, or of man's judgment: yea, I judge not mine own self.***

Man's judgment here literally means "_____ day" the day in which man is exalting himself and judging while God remains silent. *The day of the Lord* is mentioned _____ times in the Old Testament and four times in the New Testament. The day of the Lord embraces the coming period of judgement and the millennial age, and concludes with the cataclysmic dissolution of the universe. The day of God is mentioned in **II Peter 3:12: *Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?*** this the eternal state beyond all the events of time when God is "_____."

The word "perform" means to _____, to bring through to an end. The Holy Spirit never loses sight of the end of His work. His work will not end until He has made us just like Jesus. We can be confident that what God begins, He will finish.

Philippians 1:7 Even as it is meet for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart; inasmuch as both in my bonds, and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel, ye all are partakers of my grace.

B. Paul's Partners.

It was no light thing to be charged with insurrection against Rome and the Caesar. Paul had them in his heart because they paid no attention to the _____ of being associated with him. They boldly stood by Paul. They were brave indeed, for the Caesars were not known to be tolerate toward those suspected of acts of treason, and the imperial spies and secret _____ were everywhere.

Paul's mention of his "bonds" refers to his shackles of imprisonment; but also refers to the bonds that bound Paul to these _____. With all that they had done for him, he could not think of anyone else.

Defense is our word apology or apologetics; but not with the idea of apologizing. It is a Greek judicial term referring to an _____ verbally defending his client with the result being the charges are dropped.

Defense is the _____ side and confirmation is the _____ side of establishing the gospel. Defense means clearing away the objections and removing the obstacles; confirmation means the aggressive advancement in proclaiming the gospel.

"Ye all are partakers of my grace." Literally they were partakers with him of grace. The Philippians loved Paul as the Lord's prisoner as devotedly as they had loved him while he was with them preaching the gospel of the marvelous grace of God. Such enduring love is true evidence of the heart being right with God. True love is begotten only through _____.

Philippians 1:8 For God is my record, how greatly I long after you all in the bowels of Jesus Christ.

With God as the one who bears his testimony; Paul had a deep inner love and affection for these Philippians, and his desire was if it were possible, he would visit them again. Paul loved the Philippian Christians with a love such as only _____ could put in the heart of a mortal man.

C. Paul's Prayer.

Philippians 1:9 And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment; (understanding).

Paul's prayer and desire was that their love would be without _____. The word "knowledge" means whole, complete, precise, and correct knowledge, knowledge gained by experience. "Judgment" means perception, delicate discernment, and spiritual understanding. Knowledge deals with the _____ principles; judgement deals with the discriminating of those principles. A Christian can have "_____ " knowledge of the Word of God, that is, he is able to explain its meaning to others, without having an "experiential" knowledge of the same. It can be said there is a difference between a young convert and a matured believer, the matured believer has lived long enough to live out the Word of God in his life.

Philippians 1:10 That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ;

The word "approve" means to test, scrutinize, prove, recognize as _____ after examination, to sanction after testing. It is used in reference to testing the purity of _____. Paul's idea is that they should carefully examine things and approve them only if they pass the test. This word refers to the ability of the saints to sift or test a certain thing and thus recognize its worth and put their stamp of _____ upon it.

"That ye may be sincere" The word sincere means unmixed, unalloyed, pure, free from falsehood, sincere. God wants us to be sterling Christians, not those who are merely plated with _____ religion.

In Paul's day if an unscrupulous sculptor carved too deeply into the marble, he would put wax in the cut to hide his mistake. Since the wax looked like marble, the craftsman could deceive his customer until the statue was tested by _____. The hot Mediterranean sun would soon melt the wax and the customer would discover that his statue was not of unmixed substance. So wise customers learned to write "without wax" into their contracts to purchase marble sculptures. Thus, demanding that the workmanship be _____. It was said that the Romans collected pieces of art from the Greek empire; and sometimes the pieces would have cracks and be broken. The repair would be made by wax and once the person purchased the item and put it on display the hot sun would melt the wax and reveal that the piece of art was not sincere. A good reputable art dealer would put on his piece "without wax" meaning that this was a _____ piece. I believe God wants men and women of transparent character, clear as crystal, so that the world can see Christ in our character and our _____.

The word sincere can also be associated with pottery. Sometimes when pottery was put in a kiln, the fire would crack the pottery. The potter, if he was dishonest would fill the crack with _____ and cover the crack. When the buyer would look at the pot, he would ask the potter if it was genuine, so as to be tested by the sunlight. When held up to the sunlight if there was a crack the sunlight would expose it as not being sincere or genuine.

"Without offence" Having nothing for one to strike against, not causing to stumble, without offense. The word means both the idea of not stumbling and of not causing others to _____. We should be stepping-stones not stumbling blocks.

"Till the day of Christ;" This is a reference to the Lord's coming for His church in the Rapture. This is the second time reference is made to the Rapture in this epistle. A child of God should walk in the light of the imminent return of Jesus Christ at all times.

D. Paul's Praise.

Philippians 1:11 Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God.

This fruit cannot be produced by human power and effort; but only by the power of the Holy Spirit as the believer is in vital union with Christ. The Christian does not live righteous to earn his salvation, to win the applause of men, his motivation is the glory and praise of God. Paul prays for the Philippians to be superlative in the devotion to Christ, sound in their doctrine of Christ, and sincere in their demonstration of Christ.