

Only that Christ is Preached

Philippians, Part IV

Philippians 1:12-18 & 3:17-4:7

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I. To Grace How Great a Debtor

Paul models the way in which a _____-centered life enables us to rejoice in any and every circumstance; and he urges the Philippians to follow him as he follows Christ.

II. A Chiastic Outline

Rejoicing is the theme of our section (1:18 with 4:4).

III. Overview

A. Rejoicing in the Face of External Opposition

1. My Chains are in Christ (1:12-14 cf. Rom 8:35)
2. Enemies of the Cross of Christ (3:17-4:1 cf. Ps 17:13-15)

Arise, O LORD, Confront him, cast him down; Deliver my life from the wicked with Your sword, With Your hand from men, O LORD, From men of the world who have their portion in this life, And whose belly You fill with Your hidden treasure. They are satisfied with children, And leave the rest of their possession for their babes. As for me, I will see Your face in righteousness; I shall be satisfied when I awake in Your likeness.

B. Rejoicing in the Face of Internal Dissension

1. Selfish Ambition vs. Love (1:15-18)

By putting _____ and His glory at the center of his life, Paul was able to endure criticism and rejoice in the Lord.

2. Let your forbearance be known to all (4:2-7)

“When Paul writes ‘genuine Syzygus’ he plays on the beautiful meaning of this man’s name. One whose own personal name is Syzygus, ‘Yoked together,’ may well demonstrate the propriety of his name by helping to yoke these two women together, henceforth to pull together and to work hand in hand for the congregation.” (Lenski, 870)

Paul wants us to put _____ at the center of our lives so that we will be able to rejoice in the face of both external opposition and internal dissension.

- A. Opening Greetings (1:1-2)
- B. Thanksgiving & Prayer (1:3-11)
- C. Proclaiming Christ Amidst Opposition (1:12-18)
- D. Magnifying Christ (1:19-26)
- E. Striving & Suffering for Christ (1:27-30)
- F. Godly Ambition in Christ (2:1-11)
- G. Work out Your Salvation (2:12-16)
- F'. Godly Ambition in Christ (2:17-30)
- E'. All things for Christ (3:1-11)
- D'. Pressing toward the Goal in Christ (3:12-16)
- C'. Standing Firm Amidst Opposition (3:17-4:7)
- B'. Exhortation & Thanksgiving (4:8-20)
- A'. Closing Greetings (4:21-23)

IV. Application

A. For whom do you labor? (Lk 9:57-62)

Now it happened as they journeyed on the road, that someone said to [Jesus], "Lord, I will follow You wherever You go." And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head." Then He said to another, "Follow Me." But he said, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father." Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and preach the kingdom of God." And another also said, "Lord, I will follow You, but let me first go and bid them farewell who are at my house." But Jesus said to him, "No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."

We want Jesus to be someone other than who He is – Almighty God whose voice once shook the heavens and whose coming again will transform the world; Almighty God who summons us, “_____ Me!”

B. Seek first the kingdom of God (Mt 6:31-34)

The person for whom I live shapes the goals and aspirations I have for my life.

"Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble."

C. The Peace of God

Does God call us to follow Him unreservedly because He is a tyrannical master who would have us enslaved to His desires? Does God demand our complete obedience because He is some sort of egotistical monster who cannot live without our praise?

The reason God summons us to follow Christ and to seek first His kingdom and His righteousness is because *this is what we were _____ to do*. When we do that, when we follow Christ, we discover that this is our highest joy, our greatest pleasure.

V. Conclusion (cf. Jn 6:53-58)

Then Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is drink indeed. He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood abides in Me, and I in him. As the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so he who feeds on Me will live because of Me. This is the bread which came down from heaven—not as your fathers ate the manna, and are dead. He who eats this bread will live forever."