

Philippians 2.11-30

Spirit-Empowered Examples

Apostle Paul & team brought Good News Jesus to Philippi / Acts 16

Named for Philip Macedon > son Alexander the Great

Population of 10/15,000 people / status Roman Colony > church formed thru Challenges

Remember PAUL writing from PRISON – 1000 miles away in ROME

Rejoices Jesus Promise Keeper “I will build my church > agnst Hell

Walk in Power HS > Show Jesus to Philippi > All the way to US Here!

1.9-11 my prayer that your love may abound more & more, with knowledge & all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, & so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled w the fruit of righteousness that comes thru Jesus Christ, to the glory & praise of God”

1.27 “let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ... standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel”

Paul presented Sterling Example of Jesus Christ > Lord over All

v. 5 “have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus”

1. Church in Philippi

1st C Roman City – Filled w Idol Temples > worship w Prostitutes / Slaves

Paul > God of Israel – Maker Heaven & Earth, Man & Woman, Monogamous Marriage

v. 12 Therefore...work out your own salvation w fear & trembling,

“Therefore” because of What Jesus Did, Here is what You should Do!

Paul wants Philippians to OBEY as Christ had Obeyed: Fully, Humbly

Emph on BELIEVE Gospel – TRUE – Also called to OBEY the Gospel

Christians called to LIVE OUT the Salvation X has ALREADY GIVEN

‘work OUT’ NOT ‘work FOR > Gift of Salvation motivates Holiness!

Salvation NOT by our Works of the Law > by GRACE thru FAITH

Grace does not destroy Christian’s responsibility to be obedient; rather it makes it possible for us to be obedient in every area of life. Sinclair Ferguson

“much more in my absence” – Carry On WITNESS of Lord Jesus

Who are WE when Nobody is LOOKING? Live for Audience of ONE!?

‘fear & trembling’ > Awe before Almighty God, Creator, King, Sovereign

Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom

Moses to Israel After giving Law “Do not fear, for God has come to test you, that the fear of him may be before you, that you may not sin” Exodus 20.20

v. 13 God who works in you, both to will & to work for his good pleasure.

Admiration INSPIRES us but it cannot ENABLE Us

Person we Admire Cannot ENTER into Lives & LIVE through Us

Jesus death/resurr is PATTERN for our Lives / HS of Jesus is the POWER

v. 13 “for it is God who works in you” > Imitation AND Incarnation

Christian life is NOT series of Ups & Downs > but Ins & Outs

Power of God resides in Us > Spirit leads us to Obedience in Salvation

v. 14 Do all things without grumbling or disputing,

Complaining fuels Dissention > Fractures to Christian Harmony

Constant Temptation to Fall Back into Flesh instead of walking in Spirit

Paul thinking of Children of Israel GRUMBLING in Sinai Wilderness

6 weeks after Walking thru Red Sea > Grumbling agnst Moses & Aaron

Problem for Philippians? Problem for ME! Sinners talk STINK! I DO!

Grumbling: low-tone-of-voice, behind the scenes talk in which someone derides another, expressing discontent, muttering, complaining

Deep Ingratitude – Questioning God instead of Praising – Pride

Lack of Love – Denial of the Grace of God – Refusal to be Humble

Disputing – Taking Sides, Promoting Debate, Open Bickering

Church > All on Same Team working toward the Same Goals > Jesus

Speech > Build One Another Up, Not to Tear Eachother Down

Matthew 15.11 “it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but what comes out of the mouth, this defiles a person”

“it was just talk, I did not mean anything by it” False! Word from Heart

v. 15 “that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life”

Purpose of Keeping Tight Reign on our Speech > Blameless Kids

Paul NOT just NEGATIVE > Not a Parent w Only No and Don’t

If NOT Supposed to Grumble & Dispute v. 14 > v. 15 What should Do?

Be Like Jesus > Deny Self & Follow Him – Blameless, Innocent, Children
 Great Privilege > God’s Kids, Heavenly Father, Jesus our Elder Brother
 If Truly Know God: Gracious, Kind, Merciful, Forgiving, Patient, Loving
 Spirit of ADOPTION > Sons & Daughters of God – Not SLAVES

Either we DRAW people to Christ – or we DRIVE them Away!

Holiness & Purity happens in Church when Members Obey X by H.S.

Present Generation is Evil, Crooked, Twisted > Need New Creation in X

Pure Church in Stark Contrast w Darkness of Crooked & Twisted World

v. 16 holding fast to the word of life > Moses ‘this word is your very life’

Xtian Obedience to Word of Life SHINES in this Dark World

Paul’s Many Sea Voyages > Guided by STARS – Bright Lights of God

2. Paul their Apostle

v. 16 so in day of X I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain.

Day of X – N.T. version Day of the Lord > Establish & Demonstrate Rule

WHAT we have Seen Pictured in Book of REVELATION

‘did not RUN in vain’ > Great TOIL of Ministry – Hard Work of GOSPEL

Like FATHER “I am PROUD of You!” > Paul was their Father in X

Paul BOASTS in the Lord by boasting in THEM as X works in Them!

If you love me, live in a way that will enable me to say to our Savior,

“Lord Jesus, just look at the fruit of grace in the Philippians!”

v. 17 Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith

‘drink offering’ pagan ceremony, pour out WINE in honor of god/goddess

OT Jews poured out Wine to True, Living God along w/ Animal Sacrifice

Link Sacrificial Offering God’s Glory w Own Sacrificial LABOR for God

v. 17,18 I am glad & rejoice with you all. Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me

vs 17/18 – 4 words for REJOICE > found in X and His Service

REJOICE even IF never Get OUT of Prison > God Building His Church

JOY Not just for Paul but TOGETHER w Whole Community of Faith

3. Timothy their Bishop

Paul called church to HUMILITY > Now here are 2 Great Examples

Salvation is being WORKED OUT in lives of Tim & Epaphroditus

Paul relied Heavily on TEAM > Great Apostle never SOLITARY Man

Acts > Traveling Team, incl LUKE // Jesus walking w His DISCIPLES

v. 19 I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, so that I too may be cheered by news of you.

Paul REMINDS Philippians of Great Young Man / Trusted Delegate

“Like cold water to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country”

Paul WANTS them to Receive Timothy WELL / MODEL for Ministry

I have NO ONE ELSE like him – lit. LIKE-SOULED / Kindred spirit

v. 20 For I have no one like him, who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare.

Tim CARES about Paul AND the church in Philippi

v. 21 For they all seek their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ.

Everyone ELSE Self-Absorbed: 80/20 rule – 80% work of ministry, done by 20% people

1.15 “some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry”

2.4 “look not only to your own interests”

v. 22 But you know Timothy’s proven worth, how as a son with a father he has served with me in the gospel.

‘proven worth’ – TESTED & Approved > Son attentive to his Duty

Close Relationship btwn Paul & Timothy > served w Paul in GOSPEL

Moses/Joshua – Elijah/Elisha – Peter/Mark – Paul/Timothy

First Mark of Leadership is a SERVANT Spirit > Tim was RELIABLE

BAD News so FEW Others who Could be TRUSTED!

Tim // Jesus – Not consider equality w God something to be grasped

Looking Out for Needs of Others > Free from Bondage Self-Absorption

Where did Tim LEARN This? Bet he Learned it from Paul himself!

23 I hope therefore to send him just as soon as I see how it will go w me

‘hope in the Lord Jesus’ – Important theme for Paul > Jesus is LORD

Paul’s Competing Desires – Needs Tim’s Help > Church needs his Help!

4.1 Paul desires to be with the Philippians > REASSURE Them

Paul humbly Admits he has No Control of Future > Trust's the Lord

v. 24 and I trust in the Lord that shortly I myself will come also.

Paul expects Tim to Encourage Church > 'cheered by news of you'

4. Epaphroditus their Pastor

25 I've thought it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus my brother & fellow worker and fellow soldier, and your messenger and minister to my need

SENT by church – likely w Monetary Gift – to Care for Paul's Needs

Faithful Example – PASTOR/Leader in Philippi – 5 terms Endearment

Paul WILL send Epap – He carries the LETTER back to Philippi

When M returns Home Sooner than Expected WHISPERS can be Loud!

So piles the Praise on this Humble Servant > Likely was Embarrassed!

26 for he has been longing for you all and has been distressed because you heard that he was ill.

27 Indeed he was ill, near to death. But God had mercy on him, and not only on him but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow.

Paul wants Epap to be WELCOMED Back > Fulfilled Mission, Success

Paul wants to Reassure church – their Brother is Well, Coming Home

church Heard Reports > Epap was SICK, DIED? > Dire Illness

Death Defeated > but Still an Enemy – Separation – End Earthly Service

Christian Life is HARD – Struggle for Life & Death > Faithfulness!

v. 28 I am the more eager to send him, therefore, that you may rejoice at seeing him again, and that I may be less anxious.

Words remind Us of Jesus praying in Garden of Gethsemane

No such thing as a risk-free life of faith. But one thing is certain – Jesus Christ. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. It is no gamble to rest our hopes on him. Sinclair Ferguson

v. 29 So receive him in the Lord with all joy, and honor such men,

Paul & church MORE JOY in Epaphra SAFE Return Home!

Paul's words are a beautiful reminder of the gratitude and admiration we should have for the graces and gifts of the Spirit in the lives of our fellow-Christians. Sinclair Ferguson

v. 30 for he nearly died for the work of Christ, risking his life to complete what was lacking in your service to me.

Outstanding DEBT of church to Father in Faith > Honor Parents!

Timothy & Epa Examples of Loyal Sons & Faithful Servants of Gospel

Work of X = work of Lord > Do we CHAMPION others Work for God

Dietrich Bonhoeffer – Lutheran pastor Germany 1930's > USA Preach

Made Great Impression on many American Xtians

Hitler rose to Power > How can we get Bonhoeffer OUT of Danger?

Invited to Conf in USA June 1939 or So Letter to Nazi Gov't Said VISIT

Arrived – Told VISA Good until Hitler is Gone > Safe in America

“Dietrich Bonhoeffer made the hard choice – a choice that left some of his friends in America surprised and disappointed – because he knew it was the choice that the advancement of the gospel demanded. He is an outstanding example of a theologian who lived out his theology, who interrupted the sensible course that the world had mapped out for him in order to respond to God's clear direction. In following Jesus he lost his life, but, in losing it, gained it again”

Frank Thielman

Psalm 80 // Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock. // **You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.** // Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh, stir up your might and come to save us! // **Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved!** // O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers? // **You have fed them with the bread of tears and given them tears to drink in full measure.** // You make us an object of contention for our neighbors, and our enemies laugh among themselves. // **Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved!** // You brought a vine out of Egypt; you drove out the nations and planted it. // **You cleared the ground for it; it took deep root and filled the land.** // The mountains were covered with its shade, the mighty cedars with its branches. // **It sent out its branches to the sea and its shoots to the River.** // Why then have you broken down its walls, so that all who pass along the way pluck its fruit? // **The boar from the forest ravages it, and all that move in the field feed on it.** // Turn again, O God of hosts! // **Look down from heaven, and see; have regard for this vine,** // the stock that your right hand planted, and for the son whom you made strong for yourself. // **They have burned it with fire; they have cut it down; may they perish at the rebuke of your face!** // But let your hand be on the man of your right hand, the son of man whom you have made strong for yourself! // **Then we shall not turn back from you; give us life, and we will call upon your name!** // Restore us, O Lord God of hosts! // **Let your face shine, that we may be saved! Amen and Amen.**