

The Preacher's Heart

Introduction

Scripture Reading: Philippians 1:3-11

1. In **verse 7** of our reading, we see into Paul's heart:
 - A. A genuine love of the gospel and willing to suffer to uphold it.
 - B. A Love of the brethren who share this commitment!
2. This is the spirit of every true Bible Christian.

Paul's Unselfish Commitment to Serve God

1. Chapter 1 reveals Paul's unselfish commitment to serve God, save the lost, and to edify the saved:
 - A. **Verses 3-8 – Thankful to God and the brethren for the privilege to preach the gospel of Christ.**
 - 1) He showed a heart filled with Prayer and Thanksgiving.
 - a. "Pray without ceasing"
1 Thessalonians 5:17
 - 2) Did he count his blessings or complaints?
 - a. He was always striving to grow nearer to the heart of God.

3) Fellowship: he strove to have Spiritual unity, a relationship with Christ and others, and active participation in the gospel.

- a. Verses 5, 7 “Fellowship in the gospel,” “partakers of my grace.”**
- b. With the Father, the Son, and all the Saints.**

1 John 1:3 what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may **have fellowship with us**; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ.

B. Verses 9-11 – A concern for Spiritual growth and maturity of the Brethren.

1) To grow in Love, Knowledge, and Judgment.

- a. The context of true growth: LOVE-the unselfish spirit of serving God and man.**
- b. Striving to seek more knowledge in love.**
- c. Our judgment and discernment grows from having love and knowledge.**
 - 1. One learns facts, then concepts and then practical day to day application.**

- 2) He approve the things that are excellent, Distinguishing the things that differ.
 - a. That which is right and wrong, and good and evil.
2 Timothy 2:15
 - b. Learning the matters of revealed faith and matters of personal conscience.
- 3) The result of maturity – it bears fruit of righteousness.
 - a. All fruit of the Spirit, all the Christian characteristics, result in a life that is a blessing to all men.
 - b. A lack discernment: fruit will be sin, apostasy, friction, disruption.
- C. **Verses 12-18 – A focus on the spreading of the gospel above his own personal trials.**
 - 1. A Spirit of Joy Overshadows any personal suffering.
 - 2. Verses 12-14 – Trials Caused by Unbelievers.
 - a. The result: Paul preaching in bonds while other men were preaching not in bonds.

3. Verses 15-18 – Trials When Betrayed by Brethren.

- a. **A spirit of competition: criticizing Paul to promote themselves.**
- b. **As far as Paul was concerned there was NO competition, no bitterness, no retaliation.**
 - 1. **The result: The gospel being spread by men of right and wrong spirits.**
 - 2. **Paul rejoiced! Why? How? His heart was filled with an unselfish spirit, He defended the gospel not self!**

D. Verses 19-26 – He always sought to magnify Christ in Life and in death.

- 1) **One magnifies Christ by serving Him.**
 - a. **How? As one lives to teach, strengthen, and encourage the brethren.**
 - b. **Also by serving our brethren.**
- 2) **One magnifies Christ if one dies in faithful service to Him.**
 - a. **A Great reward that has been greatly desired!**
 - 1. **“To die is gain” – to be with Christ is far better.**

3) Christ is magnified by a Life of unselfish service.

a. Selfish life:

- 1. Seek to be served, immediate gratification, to use, manipulate, or deceive others.**

b. Unselfish life:

- 1. Yield, delay our wishes, our preferences, and our advantages to serve others.**

E. Verses 27-30 – He urged the saints to stand fast, to be united!

- 1. To live godly lives, demonstrate a firm faith, being united in our efforts to spread and defend the Gospel.**

- 2. To fight together for the truth.**

a. We should fight Satan, not each other.

b. Defend the gospel, oppose false doctrine.

2. Do not be discouraged by persecution.

A. If we are being persecuted then we must be striving to live godly.

2 Timothy 3:12

- 1. Christ suffered.**
- 2. Paul suffered.**
- 3. The Saints at Philippi suffered.**
- 4. Saints today suffer.**
- 5. Be steadfast in our suffering: It points to our final victory!**

Conclusion

1. Let God fill and mold your heart:
 - A. Be thankful to serve God and the Brethren.
 - B. Make it your aim to be concerned for Spiritual growth.
 - C. Focus on the spreading of the Gospel to others.
 - D. Magnify Christ in life and in death!
 - E. Stand fast and stand united (**1 Corinthians 15:58**)

Place

Date

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