

BIB 271 Church Epistles

Lesson 9 Philippians

Intro. The Philippians are the church that Paul seemed to have the closest affection with. They were the church that had given to him financially when no other church did. This was the first church established in Europe and one in which he was imprisoned and beaten severely. However, he sees the conversion of a woman in Lydia, a slave girl possessed by a demon, and a Roman jailer.

In this letter which is the epistle that is most written as a letter to friends, he is not writing solely to correct a doctrinal error. The likely purpose for his writing the letter was to thank them for their generous giving. However included in this short book are two of the most valuable passages in the epistles: the “Kenosis” passage of chapter 2 and his personal testimony and defense of salvation by faith in Christ in chapter 3.

The theme of the book is: the joy of a Christ-like mind

The key verse: 2:5 “Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus”

I. The Joy of a Gospel Mind (1)

A. The Fellowship of the Gospel 1-11

1. Thankful prayers of appreciation 3-7
2. Thoughtful prayers of affection 8-11

B. The Furtherance of the Gospel 12-18 - there had been many correspondences between Paul and the church; some estimate as many as five. Word had been received that Paul was imprisoned and were fearful that his ministry had come to a stop. He assures them that being chained for hours to the Praetorian Guard provided ample opportunity to preach the gospel. Also that it gave others boldness to preach since he wasn't there. He rejoiced that Christ was preached.

C. The Fullness of the Gospel 19-26

1. Paul's perspective of life 19-21
2. Paul's prospects of life 22-24
3. Paul's purpose of life 25-26

D. The Faithfulness of the Gospel 27-30

1. The behavior of faithfulness 27-28 standing and striving together with the same mind
2. The benefit of faithfulness 29-30 to suffer - “rejoice and be exceeding glad for great is your reward in heaven”

II. The Joy of a Godly Mind (2)

A. The exhortation to have a godly mind 1-4

B. The expression of a godly mind 5-8

1. A selfless mind
2. A serving mind
3. A sacrificial mind

C. The exaltation of a godly mind 9-11

D. The expectations of a godly mind 12-16 to follow the example of Christ

E. The examples of a godly mind 17-30

1. The Martyr - Paul 17-18
2. The Minister - Timothy 19-24
3. The Messenger - Epaphroditus 25-30

III. The Joy of a Glorified Mind (3) Paul's testimony

- A. Paul's pursuit of a holy condition 1-9
- B. Paul's pursuit of a holy conformity 10-21

IV. The Joy of a Gracious Mind (4)

- A. maintains proper concord 1-4
- B. maintains proper control 5
- C. maintains proper concern 6-7
- D. maintains proper contemplation 8
- E. maintains proper conduct 9
- F. maintains proper contentment 10-13
- G. maintains proper communication 14-19
- H. maintains proper contact 20-23

Conclusion

The mind of a Christian. How important it is to be transformed by the renewing of our minds. These principles need to be lived and taught in the church. Paul and his companions were followers of Christ in exemplifying this mind. How churches and Christians suffer because they have not the mind of Christ.