



SERMONS



Pastor Donovan Jacobs



Title: Moving Forwards

26 June 2011

Moving Forward” and not looking behind you , Philipians 1 vs. 8-12: Phil 3:12-13) 26 June 2011

What is my sermon about :

- Using the word tools in Phil 1vs 9-11)
- It is becoming like Christ by forgetting the past and reaching forward in Christ

Some thoughts on the book of Philipians:

- It is a practical letter , it contains very little historical material (there are no Old testament quotes),
- There is no theological instruction other than describing Christ’s humiliation and exaltation in Phil 2 vs. 5-11) **Php 2:5** Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: **Php 2:6** Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: **Php 2:7** But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: **Php 2:8** And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. **Php 2:9** Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: **Php 2:10** That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of *things* in heaven, and *things* in earth, and *things* under the earth; **Php 2:11** And *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
- This passage contains some of the most profound teaching of the Lord Jesus Christ in the entire bible !

Author: Paul the Apostle

Main theme : Pursuing Christ likeness as the most defining element of spiritual growth (Phil 3 12-13)

Where was it written: Paul was in prison when this letter was penned (cf. 1:7, 13, and 16)

Purpose of the letter: multifaceted:

1. it is a “thank you” note to the Philipians for their most recent gift, with a reminder that God will take care of Paul and them;
2. it is a response to the various questions and problems raised by Epaphroditus, including issues of poverty, quarrelsomeness, selfishness, as well as outside opposition to Paul’s gospel;
3. the letter is a diplomatic reintroduction of Epaphroditus in light of the Philipians’ hope that Timothy would be sent

Chapter 1

“Prepared for Eternity, On earth as it is in Heaven”

Pastor.donovan@ecclesia.org.za

Facebook Link: Ecclesia Kingdom



Php 1:9 And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and *in* all judgment;
Php 1:10 That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ;
Php 1:11 Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God.
Php 1:12 But I would ye should understand, brethren, that the things *which happened* unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel;

Primary theme of the new Testament Gospel program for saints is Love

Phil. 1:9–11 The first petition in Paul's prayer is that God would cause the cardinal Christian virtue of **love** to **abound more and more**, and that it would be accompanied by **knowledge** and **all discernment**, so that the Philippians' love would find expression in wise actions that would truly benefit others and glorify God. As Christians grow in their understanding of what it means to follow Jesus, they will increasingly be able to affirm and practice **what is excellent**. Such joyful obedience to God will give them the confidence of being found **pure and blameless** when Jesus returns. This does not imply instantaneous spiritual perfection but rather an increasing likeness to Christ. But **fruit of righteousness** is not produced in the believer's own power. Because that fruit comes **through Jesus Christ**, it will result in the **glory and praise of God**. (ESV Study Bible)

The prayer of Paul leads us from Love to Excellence, to Integrity, to Good works to Glory!

1. **Love:**

Love must exhibit 3 Characteristics

- a) It must abound,
- b) it must in knowledge (full and advanced in knowledge,)
- c) It must have discernment. (Moral perception and insight and the practical application of knowledge.) Love is not blind; it carefully scrutinizes to distinguish between right and wrong)

- Devine Love , Love must be real, Love must be growing , Love must be deep, Love must be discerning:
- Love must be what we wear , by this shall all men know that we are His Disciples , if we have love on to another : **1Jn 4:7** Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. **1Jn 4:8** He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.
- Love must be regulated by a knowledge of God's Word and must be anchored deeply in the truth of God's word
- **The word of God is not A RESOURCE OF TRUTH, it is the Divinely REVEALED SOURCE OF TRUTH!**

2. **Excellence Approve things that are excellent**

- If you are controlled by love , you would also want to seek and approve that which is excellent.
- Paul says in verse 10 we must approve the things that are excellent

Excellence means to differ : **G1308**

Διαφέρω/diapherō /dee-af-er'-o

From **G1223** and **G5342**; to *bear through*, that is, (literally) *transport*; usually to *bear apart*, that is, (objectively) to *toss about* (figuratively *report*); subjectively to **"differ"**, or (by implication) **surpass**: - be better, carry, differ from, drive up and down, be (more) excellent, make matter, publish, be of more value.

- It goes beyond what is right and wrong , good and evil, truth and error, but Paul wants believers to distinguish between what is BETTER and what is BEST . (Jim Collins Good to Great).
- We have to come to a place where we respond with integrity , with our minds and not impulsively with our emotions.

E.g.: Media age: Has created a mindless mass of young people , who sways to the music and compare the video clips with girlfriends and wives and not the leading of the Spirit. Worship services , people don't want to think anymore , they just want to feel. **No more I get to, but I have a right to!**

- We should be different in our thinking , in our serving , in our view of life:

Some scriptures helping us to think !

"Prepared for Eternity, On earth as it is in Heaven"

Pastor.donovan@ecclesia.org.za

Facebook Link: Ecclesia Kingdom



Rom 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God

Eph 5:8 For ye were sometimes darkness, but now *are ye* light in the Lord: walk as children of light:

Php 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things *are* honest, whatsoever things *are* just, whatsoever things *are* pure, whatsoever things *are* lovely, whatsoever things *are* of good report; if *there be* any virtue, and if *there be* any praise, think on these things.

1Th 5:21 Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.

3. Integrity : genuine/sincere and without offence

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

Sincere :Genuineness of Character, Blameless

G1506/εἰλικρινής/eilikrinēs /i-lik-ree-nace'

From εἴλη heilē (the sun's ray) and **G2919**; **judged by sunlight**, that is, tested as *genuine* (figuratively): - pure, sincere.

- E.g. of potter that puts wax in the cracks of the pot to fool the people. The way to avoid being defrauded was to hold the pot in the sunlight to see if wax was put in the cracks!
- **Sine Cera (Without wax/without offense/blameless): When they hold us up to the sunlight can we say Sine Cera?**
- Integrity must always be tested with pressure : Tyres , airplanes , waterproof, and sin prove ?

Our sincerity and blameless must not have its confidence in the world or the things in the world or the people of this world! (2 Cor 1vs 12)

2Co 1:12 For our rejoicing is this, the testimony of our conscience, that in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom, but by the grace of God, we have had our conversation in the world, and more abundantly to you-ward.

4. Fruit of Righteousness= Good works

When we pursue Integrity according to the biblical pattern ,it will eventually lead us to good works or fruit of righteousness

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

G2590 /καρπός /karpos

kar-pos'

Probably from the base of **G726**; *fruit* (as *plucked*), literally or figuratively: - fruit.

The bible speaks of two different types of fruit that the believers must have or produce

1. The fruit of Souls (Rom 1verse 13 and Romans 15 vs. 28)
2. The fruit of righteous deeds or works and attitudes **Eph 5:9** (For the fruit of the Spirit *is* in all goodness and righteousness and truth;) Gal 5 vs. 22-23: 2 Cor 9:10)

Our Good works should be **through Jesus Christ** and not of ourselves . It should be divine and not human. Otherwise we will have **regret in giving!**

5 Unto the Glory and Praise of God

Php 1:11 unto the glory and praise of God

Everything we do , must be for the praise and Glory of God!

“Prepared for Eternity, On earth as it is in Heaven”

Pastor.donovan@ecclesia.org.za

Facebook Link: Ecclesia Kingdom



1Co 6:20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

Joh 15:8 Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.

Eph 1:12 That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.

Eph 1:14 Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

Mat 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

- **Godly people are disciplined people. You will never find a mature person in Christ without discipline.**
- **There is a discipline to the anointing of God**
- **The glory that we are after is not of this world**
- You cannot expect the Glory of God , if you are not Godly. The glory of God is not for ungodly people but for God's people !

The ultimately end of Paul's prayer is that Christ be glorified , be lifted up! Be lifted higher

"Prepared for Eternity, On earth as it is in Heaven"

