

“...walk worthily...” from the Book of Philippians

Scripture Block: Pp 1:1-11

Theme: GOD’S EXPECTATION OF FRUITFUL SERVICE

Life verse: Pp 1:9-11

Today’s passage: Pp 1:2

Notes

Interpretation

So we bear the title of saint—those set apart unto God, by virtue of our union with our Lord Jesus Christ. To be sure we understand the elevated nature of our calling, consider 1 Pt 1:13-14.

According to the standard of holiness of Him who called you, so be holy in all you do; for it is written, “You will be holy as I am holy.” 1Pt 1:15-16 (my translation)

Just spend a few minutes meditating on this verse and letting it sink in. We are called to be holy¹, set apart, according to the standard of **God’s holiness**. This is an impossible standard, and yet it is clearly declared to be God’s ultimate end for each of his children. Furthermore, given the perfectly righteous nature of God and the fact he must condemn anything that falls short of his holy/righteous nature, at just what point should we expect to interface with God?

If I focus on my personal failings, it doesn’t take too long until I develop a certain sense of apprehension about my relationship with God—about how he views me and intends to interact with me. Yet this is to forget my position in Christ and the Biblical message about how God intends to interrelate with me. Verse 2 of this first chapter of Philippians will put us back on solid footing and clarify God’s intent.

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

There is nothing else like Christianity. On the one hand, God desires (and provides the means) that we be holy as he is holy—giving us an incredibly high calling. On the other hand, he knows we will fail and will need to constantly turn to him for daily continuance. What do we find when we seek the Lord? Grace and peace!

Application

I want to expand on the concept of grace in the next day’s lesson, but for now, let me leave you with a brief description of each term.

- Peace carries the concept of wholeness of relationship. You see we were God’s enemies, objects of his wrath. And yet, through the work of his Son, we can return to a wholeness of relationship with God that has always been his intent for mankind.
- Grace is that which God provides to man that we desperately need, but do not deserve. We often think it just applies to the concept of salvation, but what I want you to see is its applicability to every need we have throughout the Christian Life.

¹ The Greek word for holy is basically the same as the word for saint. Both have the connotation of being set apart unto special service.