

“...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 1:3-4 (7-8)

Notes

Observations

This passage of Scripture is a glimpse into the heart of Paul, and is in keeping with the purposes for which God has preserved this letter to the Philippians. Consider just a few of the things we can observe:

- Paul is in regular prayer for those with whom he shares a spiritual bond.
- Remembrance of those with whom Paul had fellowship caused thanksgiving to God and prayers of joy.
- The bond between Paul and the Philippians is based on shared ministry.
- The sharing of ministry results in affections of the heart.

Application

Paul’s tenderness of heart toward those with whom he has shared ministry is readily evident, and provides a great example for us. Consider just a few points of application:

1. Sharing in ministry leads to intimacy of relationship, which in turn can be the basis for genuine friendship. We sometimes turn this around and focus on our desire for friendship, but it is really most appropriately a result or effect. Ministry (service) as unto the Lord and with others is the “cause”; while the outcome or “effect” is the building of intimate relationships.

2. Now of course ministry within a body of believers is bound to lead to a bit of “friction” now and again. How should we respond to this? This passage presents an excellent starting point from which to act. We can start by going to the Lord in prayer and **thanking** him for others—especially those with whom we might be having trouble. This shifts our preoccupation with self to an appreciation for others and their place in the body of Christ. This can turn friction to **joy** as we pray for those with whom we partner in ministry. If we look a bit further ahead in our passage (Pp 1: 9-f), we can find a model regarding the further content of prayer on behalf of others.

The way we think about others in the fellowship of believers and the way we handle the beginnings of conflict is an excellent way to test whether the truth we have learned and the life of Christ are working themselves out within our lives!