

“...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 1:6

Notes

Comments

I would like to continue to emphasize the truths of Pp 1:6—the fact that God is at work in our lives—and committed to the process of conforming us to the image of His Son! Here is another aspect of its significance to us.

7. This passage is meant to be both a deterrent from preoccupation with self, and an encouragement regarding God’s work on our behalf.

- Sometimes we get so wrapped up in trying to affect change in our lives that we forget it is not within our capabilities. It is especially easy for failure to lead to obsessive preoccupation with self. Instead of being God-centered, we become self-centered, focusing our efforts to rehabilitate self. Gal 2:20 and Col 3:1-4 paint an entirely different picture of the Christian Way of Life—it is Christ who is at work in us, and Christ who is our life!¹
- It is good to know that it doesn’t all depend upon us. It is encouraging to know that the Sovereign Lord of the universe is both at work and has provided everything we need for life and godliness (1Pt 1:3-4). Consider these comments by William Law regarding the intent of God to be at work in our lives

A root set in the finest soil, in the best climate, and blessed with all that sun and air and rain can do for it, is not so sure a way of its growth to perfection, as every man may be whose spirit aspires after all that which God is ready and infinitely desirous to give him. For sun meets not the spring bud that stretches toward it with half that certainty as God, the Source of all good, communicates Himself to that soul that longs to partake of Him.

(W. Law)

¹We have yet to discuss what, specifically, is the role and responsibility of the believer in the CWL. It is coming, and we will. The book of Philippians is very good at developing themes, and we will follow its progressive unfolding of truth. We will discuss our responsibilities beginning in Pp 1:11 and spend extensive time in Pp 2:12-14.