

“...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

Interpretation

I have tried to make a strong case for God’s ongoing commitment within the lives of his children: to abide with them, fellowship with them and actively work to conform them to the perfect character of His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. We have not yet been specific about the precise role of the Christian within this process. Although this is the most reasonable of questions to raise, I am going to wait just a bit longer. Since the book of Philippians itself develops topics in a progressive fashion, I am going to follow the same pattern. If you look ahead, you will see that the answer to this all-important issue is coming: first in Pp 1:11, and then more thoroughly in Pp 2:12-13. So we will set this topic aside just a little bit longer.

In the meantime, I would like to close this section with one last thought. Can we resist the plan of God? In other words, can we resist the promise of Pp 1:6? The easiest way to answer that question is by asking a few more. Can we, the human race, reject the saving work of Christ on the cross? You know the answer is yes—many will. Can believers “grieve” and “quench” the Spirit? You know that the Scriptures warn us against doing just that, so it must be a real possibility (Eph 4:30, 1Th 5:19). You see, what we have in verse 6 is the plan of God from His perspective—He intends to be at work in our lives. If we, as Christians, resist we will lose the blessing of what God desires to do in our lives. It is important to note, our resistance does not hamper the plan of God one bit—it just causes us to lose out on the blessing he intends to be ours as we become experientially more holy. This should be all the more reason to continue our study together, as we look ahead to the specifics of the role we play in accomplishing the will of God for our lives.