

“ . . . 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 1:11

Notes

Interpretation

We are ready to take a look at the final phrase in verse 11.

“ . . . **being filled with the fruit of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to**
(God’s expectation) (the grace means)

the glory and praise of God.”
(the ultimate result)

To “give glory to God” is a phrase that Christians can all too easily tack onto the end of almost everything, without really thinking about what it means. The word glory has three basic meanings:

- radiance (the giving off of light)
- splendor (weightiness)
- Fame and honor

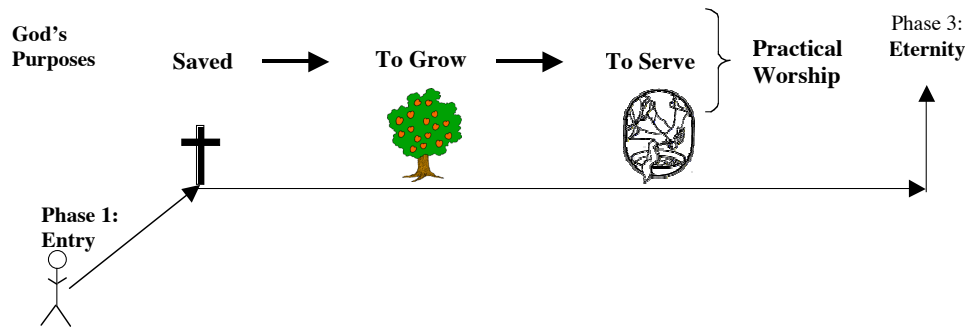
To “give” glory, is therefore to ascribe honor and magnificence to another. This brings us to an immediate question, how is it that verse 11 concludes with glory and praise being given to God? The answer is straightforward—when it is Jesus Christ who works in the life of a believer, resulting in fruit compatible with the righteousness he has given to us—God gets the credit, i.e. the glory. In essence, our lives point to Him! Because he is the standard (his righteousness) and the means by which we produce, the credit for any production in our lives belongs to Him! Although just a few words in the final portion of verse 11, the concept of lives which give “praise and glory” to God is an essential aspect of the Christian Way of Life.

Application

The graphic provided below, shows God’s purposes for the Christian. In summary, we are saved in order to “grow”, i.e. grow in grace and knowledge

through the intake of the Word of God and grow into an ever more dependent relationship with our Lord and Savior. This growth will naturally lead to service, i.e. fulfilling the ministry to which we are called as we exercise our spiritual gifting. The outcome of this is practical worship of God as we offer our bodies as living sacrifices to God. In other words, our lives are a testimony to what God can do in the life of a believer. In this way, we “give” glory to God—bringing us back to our passage in Pp 1:11

Phase 2: The Christian Way of Life in time.



Thus every believer has a choice to make. Will we follow the example of our Lord and choose to serve—developing a dependent relationship with our Savior and appropriating what God has provided to accomplish his plan for our lives? Or will we follow the pattern of Satan, who thought service in God’s kingdom beneath him and acted independently of the will of God in a vain effort to achieve his own glory. In far too many I see an attitude within man that matches the words Milton ascribed to Satan, “It is better to rule in hell than serve in heaven!” Balance this against the words of the psalmist, “One day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.”(Ps 84:10) God will not share his glory with another, and we will receive nothing but blessing for ascribing honor and majesty to the sovereign loving power of this universe.