

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

Scripture Block: Pp 1:12-30

Theme: TO LIVE, IS TO ACCOMPLISH THE PURPOSES OF GOD.

Life verse: Pp 1:27 Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the Gospel of Christ.

Today's passage: Pp 1:19-20

Notes

Interpretation

1. Verse 19 introduces us to both a “result” and a “means”—can you identify them.

“ . . .for I know that through your prayers and the help given by the Spirit of Jesus Christ, what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance.”

- The result: deliverance.
- The means: the prayers of the saints; and the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

2. Before going deeper into the interpretation, let's make some application with respect to the means: prayer and the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Application

1. Can we anticipate facing our own challenges and difficult circumstances, i.e. our own “Nero”?

- If you have lived for any length of time, as a believer, you know the answer is, “Of course!”

2. If so, what is the first line of defense suggested by this passage?

- It is the two-pronged response of prayer and resting in the power of the Holy Spirit.

3. As far as prayer is concerned, let us not forget the truth of Jas 5:16

“The fervent prayer of a righteous man accomplishes much.”

or the unexpected answer of Acts 12:5-15.

Although the fledgling church was earnestly praying for Peter after he was imprisoned, they were so surprised when God answered their prayer by miraculously releasing him from prison, that they initially left him “on the doorstep” in unbelief. Are we any better at coupling together prayer and an expectation of God's answer to that prayer?

4. As for the ability of the Holy Spirit consider the following truths:

- In 1Kings chapter 19, God teaches Elijah the lesson that He is not in those things which give the appearance of power and potential (wind, earthquake and fire); rather, He is manifest in the “still small voice.” This idea is further reinforced by Zech 4:6, which says, “**Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord Almighty.**”

- It is also important to make application within our context, which would include the work of the Spirit in the face of opposition and conflict. It is comforting to know that the Spirit will lead us into all truth, taking what belongs to the Son and revealing it to us (Jn 16:13-f). Furthermore, the Spirit will give us the words to speak when we are in a position to witness to Jesus Christ in the face of hostile opposition (Mt 10:19-20).