

“...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:	n/a

Notes

Comments

Let me remind you of the purposes for which I think God has preserved the letter to the Philippian Church.

- to display the life of a servant;
- to reveal the thinking (heart) of a servant; and
- to emphasize the great care needed to guard one’s servant heart!

We are ready, or nearly so, to turn out attention to a detailed study of the epistle. However, I want to describe the approach I am going to take. As you can see by the header, I am going to break the book of Philippians into “blocks” of material built around a theme—which we are going to emphasize over and over. My goal is that by the time we are done with our studies, you will be able to break the book down into eight or so major themes. In addition, we will work hard to master a memory verse(s). Something we can add to our collection of “life verses”, and that corresponds to each block of Scripture. The end result I have in mind is simple—I want you to be able to recall (and apply) the truths we discover from this great book, long after we are done with our study. In this way, we have truly “hid God’s Word in our hearts” that it might be material ready for application as the Sword of the Spirit.

Application

Before we begin our verse by verse investigation, I want to address our theme, GOD’S EXPECTATION OF FRUITFUL SERVICE, from a different angle. Specifically, what kinds of things might keep us from accomplishing the service (and production) God has in mind for each of us? We will do this by taking a look at the three kings that followed David, as their failures kept Israel from accomplishing “fruitful service” in keeping with God’s expectations for his people. Please consider the following:

THREE THINGS THAT MIGHT KEEP US FROM FRUITFUL SERVICE:

1. Consider Solomon. 1 Ki7:1-8 gives us two pieces of information. First, Solomon spent 13 years building his palace; and 2nd, he married Pharaoh’s daughter. If you look back into the closing verses of chapter 6, you will see that he spent 7 years building the Temple. As his power and fame grew, he reached the point of building the most grandiose structure ever built in Israel as his own home, and disobeyed God’s decree about not

marrying foreign women. As time goes on, 1 Ki 11:1-8 reveals the outcome. Solomon has over a thousand wives and concubines whom he loved—every relationship has a morale commitment¹ and Solomon was no exception. His commitment to these foreign women allowed them to lead him into idolatry—even that related to child sacrifice. Worse yet, Solomon took the nation with him!

IN SOLOMON WE SEE THE UNTAMED PASSIONS OF A GIFTED MAN! What a platform and ministry to the world Solomon had. All compromised because he could not tame his passions. We too need to be on guard that we have not settled into patterns which excuse a certain area of sin in our lives—imagining that it will not impact our ministry. It is never too late to appropriate the Lord’s provision that we might grow ever more pure in our walk that we might be used by the Lord to accomplish all that he has planned for us—to His glory.

(This is a two-part devotional, which I will continue in Day 8.)

¹ I have heard this phrase repeated often by R. Zacharias and want to attribute it to him. It is well worth thinking about in terms of our relationships with others and the effect those relationships might have on our walk with the Lord.