

Directed Prayer

Lessons From the Life of Paul

Philippians 2:1-4:23

Introduction

I A Life Marked by Advancement: Philippians 3:13-14

- A. Advancement of the **gospel**: Phil 1:12, 25
 - 1. Prokope: "To beat the breast in grief and advance anyway!"
- B. Advancement of our spiritual life
 - 1. To **press** on - Rom 8:28-30; Acts 20:24; 1 Cor 15:51-52
 - a. To take hold of His God-ordained purpose
 - 2. To remain **focused** on the goal by: - Ps 27:4
 - a. **Forgetting** what is behind - Prov 24:16; Lk 9:62
 - b. Straining toward what is ahead - Heb 12:1-3
 - c. **Pressing** on toward the goal to win prize - 1 Cor 9:24
 - 1. For which God had called him - 2 Tim 4:7-8

Prayer #1:

- 1. What are the "chains" in your life that God can harness for the advancement of the Gospel? Pray for that!
- 2. What is harder -- letting go of the past or reaching to the future? What do you need to let go of today? What future challenges do you need to commit to God?

II A Life Marked by Peace: Philippians 4:6-7

- A. Do not be **anxious** about anything - Mt 6:25-34
 - 1. But in everything
 - a. By **prayer** - Phil 3:13-14; Ps 27:4
 - b. By petition - Matt 7:7-8
 - c. With **thanksgiving** - Eph 5:19-20; 1 Thess 5:16-18
 - 2. Present your requests to God and the **peace** of God:
 - a. Will guard your **hearts** - Rom 5:1; 1Tim 1:2; Jn 14:27
 - b. Will guard your **minds** in Christ Jesus
 - 1. Hearts = Susceptible to wrong feelings
 - 2. Minds = Susceptible to wrong thinking

Prayer #2:

- 1. Share one thing that you are anxious about.
- 2. Take your anxiety to God with your partner using Philippians 4:4-7 as the basis for your prayer.

III A Life Marked by Modeling: Philippians 4:9

- A. Paul wanted them to put into practice - 1 Cor 4:16; 11:1
 - 1. Whatever they had **learned**
 - 2. Whatever they had **received**
 - 3. Whatever they had **heard** from Paul
 - 4. Whatever they had seen in Paul
- B. Paul encouraged the believers to follow his example:
 - 1. "**Imitate** me" - 1 Cor 4:16
 - 2. "Follow my example" - 1 Cor 11:1
 - 3. "Set an **example** for the believers - 1 Tim 4:12

Prayer #3:

- 1. What one thing needs to change in your life for you to be a reliable model of Christ for others?
- 2. Ask God to give your prayer partner the courage, wisdom and love to be able to intentionally and effectively model the Christian life for others.

IV Closing Prayer

- A. Pray for one another's personal prayer concerns
- B. Pray for God's blessing on one another

BOB HALLMAN - THE EPIC LIFE

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