

8-14-24 – Philippians – Week 6

Intro. Living w/ mind of Jesus... servants of God. Stand out. No grumbling.

Phil. 2:15-18 – NIV – “Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky ¹⁶ as you hold firmly to the word of life. And **then I will be able to boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor in vain.** ¹⁷ But even if I am being **poured out like a drink offering** on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you. ¹⁸ So you too should be glad and rejoice with me.”

- Paul’s pride at the end of his life will be his **impact** on others.
 - o Not his power... wealth... travel... that he could lead others to follow Jesus / be lights that shine on a hill. **Same for us! Only thing lasts.**
 - Knowing he **did not labor in vain.** 2 points:
 - **1)** His life’s work had lasting purpose: salvation. Heaven. Life.
 - o Spent his time in labor for something that truly mattered.
 - **2)** He could boast b/c lives were changed. Success. Difference.
 - o He was willing to be “**poured out**” so others would give service/faith.
 - **Last words.** Heaven is goal. Be glad. Rejoice, don’t cry. The prize.

Phil. 2:19-30 – NLT – “¹⁹ If the Lord Jesus is willing, I hope to send Timothy to you soon for a visit. Then he can cheer me up by telling me how you are getting along. ²⁰ I have no one else like Timothy, who **genuinely cares about your welfare.** ²¹ All the others care only for themselves and **not for what matters to Jesus Christ.** ²² But you know how Timothy has proved himself. Like a son with his father, he has served with me in preaching the Good News. ²³ I hope to send him to you just as soon as I find out what is going to happen to me here. ²⁴ And I have confidence from the Lord that I myself will come to see you soon.

Paul Commends Epaphroditus

²⁵ Meanwhile, I thought I should send Epaphroditus back to you. He is a true brother, co-worker, and fellow soldier. And he was your messenger to help me in my need. ²⁶ I am sending him because he has been longing to see you, and he was very distressed that you heard he was ill. ²⁷ And he certainly was ill; in fact, he **almost died.** But God had mercy on him—and also on me, so that I would not have one sorrow after another.

²⁸ So I am all the more anxious to send him back to you, for I know you will be glad to see him, and then I will not be so worried about you. ²⁹ Welcome him in the Lord’s love and with great joy, and give him the **honor** that people like him deserve. ³⁰ For he **risked his life for the work of Christ,** & he was at the point of death while doing for me what you couldn’t do from far away.”

- Timothy & Epaphroditus - rare individuals. Served God fully... risking life... “almost died for the work of Christ” . . . opposite of most of us.
- Paul knows: most care only for themselves, not what matters to Jesus
- It’s the same today. Unfortunately.
 - We almost got off couch... made it in person for worship/B.S... Almost prayed public... Almost told someone our source/hope... Almost praised God... Almost invited someone... shared/meal... Almost gave to poor... Almost visited one sick... almost went to that funeral/give comfort... almost... **Apathy.**
 - Life changed since **COVID**. Didn’t come from China, from hell. **Covid is thief – came only to steal and kill and destroy. Jn. 10:10**
 - Thief... stole our joy... energy... passion.
 - Killed desire to join together... out to eat/not church.
 - Destroyed families, relationships... church fellowship.
- We ought to honor those who serve God like Timothy/Epaphroditus.
 - But truthfully, we should all be co-workers for Christ.
 - **1 Cor. 3:9** – “we are co-workers in God’s service; you are God’s field, God’s building.”
 - **Matt. 9:36-37** - Jesus looked at the crowds of people & had compassion on them. He said to his disciples, “The harvest is great, but the workers are few.”
 - Look around... people are lost... this life is not all there is.

Phil. 3:1-9 – NLT “Whatever happens, my dear brothers and sisters,^[a] rejoice in the Lord. I never get tired of telling you these things, and I do it to safeguard your faith.

² Watch out for those dogs, those people who do evil, those mutilators who say you must be circumcised to be saved. ³ For we who worship by the Spirit of God are the ones who are truly circumcised. We rely on what Christ Jesus has done for us. We put no confidence in human effort, ⁴ though I could have confidence in my own effort if anyone could. Indeed, if others have reason for confidence in their own efforts, I have even more! ⁵ I was circumcised when I was eight days old. I am a pure-blooded citizen of Israel and a member of the tribe of Benjamin—a real Hebrew if there ever was one! I was a member of the Pharisees, who demand the strictest obedience to the Jewish law. ⁶ I was so zealous that I harshly persecuted the church. And as for righteousness, I obeyed the law without fault.

⁷ I once thought these things were valuable, but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done. ⁸ Yes, **everything else is worthless** when compared with the **infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus** my Lord. For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ ⁹ and become one with him.

- This is the meat. We spend so much time laboring in vain.
 - We work so hard for what won't last.
 - Almost all we do is loss, not gain.
 - **Mark 8:36** – “what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul?”
 - Things we think are important are **garbage in Jesus' mind**.
Mindset of Jesus – some things are important, others not.
- **Luke 10:38-42** - ³⁸ As Jesus and his disciples went on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha welcomed him in her home. ³⁹ She had a sister named Mary, who sat down at the feet of the Lord and listened to his teaching. ⁴⁰ Martha was upset over all the work she had to do, so she came and said, “Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her to come and help me!”
- ⁴¹ The Lord answered her, “Martha, Martha! You are worried and troubled over so many things, ⁴² but just one is needed. Mary has chosen the right thing, and it will not be taken away from her.”
 - Too often, we chose the wrong thing.
 - We fill the wrong bank. Priorities are reversed, misguided.
We spend time on things that won't last.
 - Instead, **sit at the feet of Jesus**. Be filled. **Refreshed**.
 - Then focus on living as He did. Follower of Jesus.
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- **Song of Week – “Look for Me at Jesus' Feet” – by Booth Brothers**