

Scripture: Deuteronomy 5:1-21 & Colossians 1:1-14
Singing: 10:1, 3 – 435:9 – 428:2-3 – 90:2-3 – 356:1, 3

Let us study Philippians (10)

Paul's Growing Points for Saints (2)

1. Increased faith
2. Increased joy
3. Increased holiness
4. Increased steadfastness
5. Increased unity
6. Increased courage

I & II in Review

A. No grace is more important than *grace of faith: mother all other graces*

B. Besides faith, there is another booster of joy: *increased holiness*

III. Increased holiness (vs. 27a)

A. Holiness is to be a priority to every believer (1 Peter 1:13-17)

1. "Only" is very emphatic

2. 'Conversation' is related to 'our citizenship

3. 'becometh the Gospel of Christ' is worthy of the Gospel of Christ

a. What is the worthiness of Gospel of Christ?

b. What happens when we peer deeply upon Him?

B. Holiness will not come without hard work, but it is possible to attain it

1. Holiness requires the honest work of prayer for strength: Col. 1:10-11

a. compare Romans 8:13; Eph. 3:20; Col. 1:29

2. Holiness requires the consistent work of *being in the Word* (2 Cor. 3:18)

a. being in the Word is being in presence of God

3. Holiness is possible to attain though it will never be perfect in this life

a. compare God's record of

- Zachariah/Elizabeth (Luke 1:6)
- Job (1:8)
- Thessalonian believers (1 Thess. 1:9)
- Timothy (Phil. 2:20-21; 1 Tim. 4:12)
- Paul (Phil. 3:17)

b. God's saints may be marked as abundant in the fruits of the Spirit

c. yet NONE of them experience *perfection* (Phil. 3:20-21)

- Paul's 'only' is an exhortation; not an attainment (Phil. 1:27a)

Living the Truth ...

A. Be encouraged, saints of God!

B. Continue to strive to be holy, knowing it is pleasing to God *even if it falls short*

And whatsoever we ask, we receive of Him,
because we keep His commandments,
and do those things
that are pleasing in His sight.
1 John 3:22

FOOD FOR MORE THOUGHT & DISCUSSION

Holiness has its own rewards (Thomas Brooks)

Man's imperfect holiness is *now* his greatest happiness
But in heaven man's greatest happiness will be his perfect holiness. (T. Brooks)

Sow holiness and reap happiness,
even if the sowing attempts remains thin. (G. Swinnoek)