POINTS FROM PHIL. 1

I. To take an entire chapter for one presentation is not easy: it's like walking into a cafeteria with all the food before you - what must you leave off with all of it being good?

II. We'll give very minor background, but will seek to see salient points of Phil. 1.

III. 1st, we look at the Preface Phil. 1:1-11.

A. The Salutation.

1. Paul.
   (a) His very name arrests interest as the author.
   (b) Now a prisoner.
   (c) Writing not so much for doctrine as to express gratitude & affection.
   (d) In Rome.
   (e) Got gift from Philippi.
   (f) We see his tender heart.
   (g) Own epistle - 1st person singular.
   (h) Two names:
      Saul - ask, pray.
      Paul - little.

2. Timothy.
   (a) Met on 1st missionary journey.
   (b) Mother Eunice, grandmother Lois.
   (c) Saw how he was treated at Philippi.
   (d) Left c Paul on 2nd journey.
   (e) Bosom companion.
   (f) Delicate mention of 2 names.
   (g) Timothy from 2 GK words = he who honors God.

(a) Bond servant.
(b) Shows dependence, obedience, acknowledged ownership.
(c) Bound to another.
(d) Disregards own interests.

4. Christ Jesus.
(a) Reverses normal usage.
(b) Not as man Jesus proven to be the Christ but the exalted Christ who once became man Jesus.
(c) 8X says "in Christ" in Phil.
    37X in whole letters "in Christ."
    41X in "Christ Jesus."
    43X in "the Lord."
(d) Christianity is Christ.
(e) Christianity is not a form we sustain but a force that sustains us.

5. Saints.
(a) Not holy dead.
(b) Alive & in a wicked city.
(c) Note all - some divisions there but he set self apart from them.

6. Philippi.
(a) Visited 3X.
(b) What they were in Christ would determine sphere of life in Philippi.

7. Bishops.
(a) Used c deacons only here.
(b) Simple organization.
(c) Elder, presbyter = equal.
(d) GK word used in secular pursuits, like repair temple.
(e) Means "to look upon."
(f) Limited to individual congregations.
8. Deacons.
(a) Servant - not so much in relationship to Master as to activity.
(a) Favor done out of pure generosity of heart with no hope of reward.
(b) Action beyond ordinary expectation, therefore commendable.
(a) Lit. "to bind together."
(b) Grace is cause; peace the effect.
8. The Thanksgiving (3-8).
1. We all need our fellowman.
2. Loneliness is a great trial.
3. Note power of memory - by it we "can have roses in Dec."
4. Facts on his memory.
(a) All separate memories taken together as one great whole.
(b) Every - basic for his memory, whole. No regrets in all relationships.
(c) Personal relations are key to almost everything.
(d) People like to be remembered.
5. Public relations a vital part of his life - same for all Christians.
(a) Keynote - happy for various reasons.
(b) This joy due to prayer.
7. That good work.
(a) It will continue till Christ returns.
(b) Must carry gospel to whole world.
(c) Strongest friendships are those in Christ.
(d) God finishes what He begins. Not true of man.
(e) He who made planets is now making men.
(a) Verbal – attorney takes a client off a charge.
9. Record.
(a) One who hears testimony, later word for martyr.
C. The Prayer (9–11).
1. To pray for another renders him the greatest service.
2. Only wants love to be kept in right channels.
(a) Right moral principles.
(b) Practical – experimental, gained by.
(c) Grows richer.
(d) We can have a knowledge even to explain word yet it not be in our life.
4. Discernment.
(a) Ability to apply knowledge.
(b) There are fixed standards.
(c) Right & wrong is definite.
(d) We are not creatures of circumstances ruled by impulse & desire.
(e) Circumstances vary & so do our conscience on approach to matter.
(f) Maintain that delicate sensibility – tender touch.
(g) Phil. are to remain unstumbling amidst obstac
5. Sincere.
   (a) "Judged in the sunlight"
   (b) Purity
   (c) Transparency of character.
   (d) Perfect openness toward God.
   (e) Can stand test of divine judgment.
   (f) Approve - after testing.
   (g) Sincere = w/o wax.


7. Day of Christ.
   (a) Never sets it.

   (a) True relationship c God.
   (b) Fruitful lives the visible outcome.
   (c) Fruitfulness only possible in union c Christ.

   (a) Final result - recognize God.

IV. Paul’s Roman Experiences (12-26).

A. His Imprisonment.
1. We are naturally interested in the affairs of another.

2. Yet he says nothing about his condition that would distress his friends!

3. Peculiar imprisonment - some leniency.
   (a) Yet restrictive to a tireless man.
   (b) Chained 2 yr. nite & day to guard.
   (c) Guard number 10,000 select men of special privilege, double wages & retirement.
   (d) Loudest complainers against God's injustices are watchers not sufferers.
4. Long delay of justice.
5. No words of bitterness or complaint.
   (a) Things don't just happen to saint. They come to results.
   (b) "Furtherance" - to cut before - like pioneers cutting path in woods for army to follow.
   (c) Note his philosophy of misfortune!
6. No end of his ministry - kept going.
   (a) Word passed around as to whom they had in jail!
   (b) What they saw as a retardation was an advance - an acceleration.
   (c) We may be chained to sick bed but can do something for Jesus.
7. 4 results of imprisonment.
   (a) He had reasonable comfort. Life has both prison and palaces.
   (b) His imprisonment gave encouragement to Roman Christian.
      (1) Many - literally - the most.
      (2) Not all Chr. got enthused - few held back.
   (c) Some opposition from certain members of church.
      (1) Not wrong doctrine but wrong motive!
      (2) He rises above petty & personal piques.
      (3) One thing mattered - the gospel was preached!
      (4) No matter what in their hearts the gospel was on their lips.
      (5) God overrules for the ultimate good of His church.
   (d) "What then" - not his attitude! Whatever else was wrong it was right that Christ was preached
(e) It will all turn to his salvation.
(1) Salv. here means well-being.
   Mk. 15:30-31
   Matt. 9:21-22
(2) Paul never endorsed the factionalist remember
   but tolerated them.
8. Results connected to prayers of his friends & the
   agency of the Holy Spirit.
   (a) Made up of 3 words: away, the head, to watch.
   (b) Turned attention from all other objects &
       riveted on 1 thing.
B. His View of Death (21-26)
1. Great philosophy - sum of his life was Christ!
   (a) Ends conflicting aims.
   (b) Restores harmony.
   (c) Laurin Poem from Page 53.
2. Note phrase "To Me".
   (a) Not true of others.
   (b) Some men struggle for other things - wealth,
       rest, etc.
3. No distress as faces death.
   (a) Death gives what's desirable.
   (b) Admits dilemma:
      (1) In narrow place.
      (2) Between 2 walls.
      (3) Can't move - held motionless.
      (4) Hemmed in.
   (c) Depart = unloose, as ship. He infrequently
       uses nautical terms.
(1) Death a short, dark passage to light.
(2) Absent from body at home c the Lord. Doesn't satisfy curiosity but does comfort.
(3) A ship exchanges one shore for another.

V. Some Exhortations (27-30).
A. Be steadfast.
1. Behave as citizens of the gospel.
   (a) Ministers to their spiritual needs.
   (b) Conversation has same root as politic - duties that belong to a body of public nature.
   (c) Colony of heaven on earth.
   (d) Chr. improves our citizenship everywhere - home, work, play, etc.
2. Rule of life - be worthy of gospel.
   (a) Consistently obey it.
   (b) Not a system to be debated but vital principles to live.
   (c) Become = having the weight of another thing; of like value.
   (d) Our manner of life is to weigh as much as the gospel professed.
   (e) Manner gives weight to words.
3. Be in one spirit.
   (a) We must adorn the doctrine.
       Titus 2:10
B. Don't Be Frightened.
1. Speaks of sudden terror.
2. Some fall just because one critic writes one book.
3. From word like startled horse.
4. We are to display courage.
C. Suffer as a Christian.
   1. We suffer in the place of Christ.
   Col. 1:24 "Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you,
   2. Agony - God's athletes. We show stuff we are
      made of.
   3. Chr. is life c a new dimension.
AND SO IT BEGINS
Phil. 1:1-2

I. It starts where we usually end.
   A. Our letters have date, place, salutation, message, complimentary close and signatures.
   B. Theirs start with the signature followed by a spiritual blessing. The date here is not given, but from the message we learn it is a prison message—Paul’s in Roman confinement.

II. Who wrote the letter?
   A. Paul—was Timothy a co-writer?
      1. Timothy included in the greeting—but not an inspired fellow writer.
      2. Starting in v.3 all pronouns are 1st person singular. He never says "we" but "I" (Paul).
      3. It is the mention of a great team.
      4. Why mention Timothy?
         a) Philippians knew him.
         b) He was a splendid worker.
            2:20 "I have no one else of kindred spirit."
         c) Encouraging compliment to Timothy.
   B. Note their titles "Servants of Jesus Christ" (Jesus mentioned 40X in Phil.)
      1. Bond slaves.
      2. Col. 1 he calls himself an apostle and Timothy his brother.
      3. In Phil. 3:4-7 Paul describes himself.
4. Others called themselves bond slaves: James (1:1); Peter (2 Pet.1:1) Jude (Jude 1).
5. Carries the idea of ownership: possession, subjection, loyalty, willing service.
6. Exo. 21:5 gives law about bond slave with ear pierced with an awl--hole in ear symbol of lifetime slave in love of his master. See v.6
7. Oddly Paul 4X in this mentions his imprisonment but never a slave or prisoner of Caesar--always of Christ.
8. He knew Jesus met all his needs. 2 Sam. 15:15 "Your servants are ready to do whatsoever my Lord the King chooses."
9. Only in Phil. and in I Thess. & II Thess. did he not refer to himself as an apostle.

C. This calls for our self-examination: how great is our loyalty to Jesus Christ?
   1. How would I gauge myself?
   2. Which direction spiritually am I moving?

III. To whom is it addressed? "All the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi with the bishops and deacons."
A. Peculiarity of Paul to have Christ Jesus in reverse.
B. He uses "all" 9X.
   1. Complete unanimity.
   2. Comprehensive affection for entire church.
   3. They were unified.
C. Calls them saints.
   1. Means separated, different, set apart, holy.
   2. Not canonized dead martyrs nor super pious--but all.
   3. Consecrated ones.
   4. Do we shy away from the word?
   5. Is there sin in our lives that causes this timidity?
   6. Are we truly holy?
   7. They lived in Philippi--earlier called Fountains, Datum.
   8. Roman colony with all the freedom this conveyed.
   9. Church started about AD 50--this letter AD 63 perhaps.
   10. Internal evidences shows it was written in Rome.
D. Also mentions 2 offices--bishop and deacons.
   1. Episkopoi = overseers, inspectors, superintendents.
   2. Gynonymous with elder--all different words describe the office--presbyter.
   3. Always plural and always experienced
      men.
   4. Deacon means servant.
5. All came from local congregation.
6. No hint of a single superintendent.

E. What does he want for them: Grace and Peace from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.
1. In every Pauline letter this wish is always present.
2. Grace--unmerited favor--comes 1st else no Peace.
3. Peace inward state of harmony. Eirene
4. Tolle said God the source & Son the organ by which it was committed to them.
5. What's our greatest wish for our loved ones?

IV. This demands of me:
A. What kind of servant am I? How deep is my love of Jesus?
B. Do I love all the church?
C. Am I a saint? Where I live?
D. Have I taken any specific assignment?

Neely's Bend BC – 1/11/02
Central Pike BC – 3/12/02
7 GREAT TWINS
Phil. 1:1-5

I. I read the introduction to Philippians with amazement—Quickly saw 7 great twins mentioned.

A. They are:
   2 great men: Paul and Timothy
   2 great Deities: God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ
   2 great offices: Bishops & Deacons
   2 great blessings: Grace & Peace
   2 great synonyms: Remembrance & Prayer
   2 great experiences: Joy & Fellowship
   2 great Times: 1st day, this later day

B. As we examine these 7 twins may the Gospel of Jesus grow sweeter to us.

II. Seven Great Twins
A. 2 great men: Paul & Timothy
   1. Paul: apostle, preacher, writer, servant.
   2. Timothy: son, helper, servant.

B. Two Great Deities
   1. God our Father
      a) Ever existent
      b) Father softens powerfulness.
   2. Lord Jesus Christ
      a) Jesus Christ
      b) Christ Jesus
      c) Mentioned 40X in Philippians.
      d) Mentioned average every 2 or 3 verses.
      e) Paul's life saturated with Jesus.
C. Two Great Offices
1. Elders
   a) From secular context:
      superintendent, inspector,
      magistrate who regulated the
      sale of provisions.
   b) Overseer
   c) Both in plural
   d) Both from local congregation
   e) No hint of single superintendent.

2. Deacons
   a) Had welfare duties.
   b) Dispersed food.
   c) Wm. translation - assistant.

D. Two Great Blessings
1. Grace (Charis)
   a) Normal greeting to two nations
      molded into one.
   b) Greek
   c) Basic idea of joy, pleasure,
      brightness, beauty.
   d) Beauty of a new relationship.

2. Peace (Hebrew)
   a) Total well being, everything that
      makes to man's good.
   b) Peace that has to do with
      personal relationship, to himself,
      fellowman, God.
   c) Peace is born of reconciliation.
   d) God must extend His grace
      before there can be any peace.
   e) Grace - cause; Peace - result.
E. Two Great Synonyms:

1. Remembrance
   a) Often speaks of prayer
   Rom. 1:9 "Without ceasing I make mention"
   1 Cor. 1:4 "I thank my God always on your beh!"
   Eph. 1:16 "Cease not to give thanks—mention"
   Col. 1:3 "Praying always for you"
   1 Thes. 1:2 "Making mention of you in our"
   II Thes. 1:11 "We pray always for you"
   II Tim. 1:3 "Rem. of thee in my prayer night"
   Phil. 1:4 "Always in my prayers"

   2. Prayers—we feel the power of prayer
today continually making entreaty on
their behalf—present participle.
It was comprehensive—"for you all."

F. Two Great Emotional Experiences.

1. Joy
   a) He loves all—no faction.
   b) In prison 4 years & still this
      spirit.

2. Fellowship
   a) Shares in common.
   b) Those for whom he prayed closely
      akin in determination & aims.
   c) Koinonia—participation in
      something with someone.
   d) Shared a common possession—
      furtherance of the gospel.

G. Two Great Times

1. 1st day
   a) When we came into Christ.
   b) Our baptism.
2. Now
   a) Love continues until judgement day.
   b) Continues constantly.
   c) God continues his good work in us until we stand before Christ.
   d) v-6 "Until the day of Christ"

11th Street - 10/01/00
Bethel Ladies Bible Class - 10/13/00
Nashville Road Ladies Bible class - 10/24/00
East Main Ladies Bible Class - 11/8/00
Main Street, Springfield, TN Bible Class - 11/15/00
Kingwood Hgts. BC - 11/28/00
Northside/Trinity Lane BC - 12/5/00
Riverwood BC - 12/6/00
I. We can incorporate in our prayers a compliment to each other.
   A. We do it in praise to God.
   B. We can do it for each other.
      1. We thank elders for years of service.
      2. We thank our preacher for bringing us the truth.
      3. We thank children for loving their parents.
      4. Here Paul thanks the whole church for their devotion.

II. Look at his first prayer for Phil.
   A. Earlier called them "saints in Christ Jesus" (v-1).
      1. Reverse: Christ (office) Jesus (name)--met him 1st on Damascus Road at Lord.
      2. Uses "in Christ"--48 times in Philippians.
      3. "In Christ Jesus"--34X.
      4. "In the Lord"--50X.
      5. Thus see the converts had not relapsed into idolatry.

   B. I Thank My God.
      1. Amazing attitude--enemies are strong against him.
      2. In prison perhaps 4 years.
      3. Thank = like eucharist--refers to a service of thanksgiving.
      4. Note intimate communion with God.
      5. Often in his prayers the 1st word is thanksgiving--do we start our prayer with a request, want something?
6. Always—continually makes an entry on their behalf.

C. Every Prayer

1. Idea is a petition for another.
2. He asks God for something for someone else.
3. He was not consumed with his own needs—rather for others.
4. Have the spiritual or the material the strongest with us.
5. Comprehensive: for you all recognizes no faction.

D. Making Requests with Joy.

1. Supplication = lit. to want.
2. For others!
3. Check yourself: material or spiritual wants—which is first?
4. How much time in rejoicing in what we and they have.
5. Joy

   (a) Everything gives joy; sorrow at a minimum.

   (b) His joy not dependent on circumstances.

   (c) His joy unwaveringly felt.

   (d) Not dependent on external circumstances such as comfort and safety.

   (e) Marvelous when you consider his being in prison, awaiting execution (?)

E. Fellowship in the Gospel.

1. Fellowship (Koinaia) = to share in common.
2. Denotes cooperation in the widest sense.
3. They participated with the apostle in teaching.
4. Shared with apostle actual labor and keeping busy.
5. We are not called to keep house of the Lord but to work.
6. Uses Fellowship 3X in Philippians.
7. Our fellowship is with God, Holy Spirit, sufferings of Jesus.
8. What they shared was the furtherance of the gospel.

F. From 1st day til now.
1. Recalls the pleasantness of the 1st days with man—though not the sufferings.
2. Always a triumph over circumstances.
3. Days for us: Baptism 1st and judgement last.
4. 1st day—when we came to Jesus last day—judgement.
In between He loves and works for us.
5. Nothing shows his haste, or his being impatient.
6. He's in charge.

III. Of This I Am Confident!

A. Confident.
1. Good works started by God and He'll complete them.
2. Insult to God to tell Him He can't complete it.

I can't clean kitchen table!
3. Assured God's work cannot be thwarted.

B. Perform
1. Will perfect.
2. Complete used 6 other times.
3. God does not merely initiate a work and leave it—He stays with it, directing us and manipulating circumstances, restrains us at one time and urging on at another.
4. Our enthusiasm lasts a day or two and we quit—not God!

C. Day Again
1. This the most excellent day we'll ever know.
2. Sin will be no more—we'll be delivered.
3. He mentions day of Christ at least 20x.
4. Day Christ returns and Judgement comes.

Neely's Bend BC - 1/27/02
THANKS FOR EVERY REMEMBRANCE

Phil. 1:1-6

I. What better compliment could come to a congregation than one to say, "I'm thankful for every remembrance of you" (my whole recollection).

A. That covers years, visits, experience, work.

1. Regards Christians with affection and familiarity.
2. Nothing done that caused Paul pain.
3. In sweet fellowship—communication.
4. He often thought about them and spoke of them, doing it with joy and in prayer.
5. With thanksgiving—a part of every prayer.
6. Thought of them dispells gloom.
7. They were partners in the work and remembered him with gifts, showing love.
8. Thankfulness, partnership, doing good works. Thanks in every epistle except Galatians.
9. Even his stripes???

B. To all the saints in Christ Jesus.

1. All used repeatedly, no one omitted.
2. Thus mentions church before elders and deacons.
3. May have had some difference but loved the whole church.

Phil. 2:2-3

4. All the saints—meanest, poorest, least gifted.
5. All of you seven times, no factions, all are dear to him.

C. Saints in Christ Jesus
1. Jesus two times in first verse.
2. Saints—all Christians.
3. Set aside, holy.

D. Associates
1. Paul and Timothy
2. Didn't use apostles—no need to show power.
3. Paul's highest honor to be a slave of Jesus.

E. Elders and Deacons
1. Only letter of Paul's where elders and deacons addressed.
2. Paul's in prison kept away, elders and deacons so vital.
3. Plurality of both.
4. No other officials named.
5. Only Pauline's letter sent to elders and deacons.

F. His wish—grace, peace from God and Jesus.
1. Same greetings in every letter thus must be most important thing for church to have.
2. Grace is God's redeeming and forgiving love.
3. Grace received by faith exercised.
4. Peace thus comes.

II. Thank my God upon every remembrance of you with joy (my whole recollection of you), thus ever praying for you.
   A. Love reigns in joy.
   B. You want nothing that's wrong.
   C. Fellowship in the furtherance of the gospel.
      1. That's all you are pushing.
      3. Fellowship (konoma—to make common).
      4. Uses two prayer words:
         (1) Entreaty of real need, urgent supplication.
         (2) That which I have asked for, adequate plea.
      5. Fellowship from first day until now.
      6. All in Christ Jesus 87 times, Jesus Christ 78 times.
   D. What God's started he'll complete.
      1. You are not fair weather friends—hold on!
      2. See future in confidence—you'll keep on!
4. Until the day of Jesus Christ, used day 20 times.
a) He will return.
b) Matthew 25:31

Neely's Bend C/C -- 9/27/09
Franklin C/C -- 9/27/09
(Franklin, KY)
WE STUDY GREAT CHURCHES THAT WE MAY BECOME A GREAT CHURCH
(Phil. 1:3-6; Rev. 2:8-11; Acts 13:1-3)

I. Like begets like.
   A. Tell of visit with Ronnie Fletcher, O.U. quarterback under Bud Wilkerson.
      1. Record at Cotton Bowl c Lance Renzel--even had to hitchhike to Dallas to do it.
      2. Record at Orange Bowl & Gator Bowl--Tenn. once & Ala.
         (a) 95 yards touchdown pass.
         (b) Little - 155# - 5' 8".
         (c) How, as I saw him with Night Club Namath. "All in the wrist, float that ball, quick release, note the high arch as it sails over head of defensive lineman.
      3. If I was 5' 8" & wanted to be a quarterback, I'd ask this great Chr. how to do it.
   B. Similarly, if I wanted to be a part of a great church, I'd read of others who are and follow their path.
      1. That's the burden of this lesson.
      2. We shall study 3 great churches.

II. First, look at Philippi.
   A. Look at the city.
      1. A secular city. 2. On great highway.
      3. Krenidas (or else CC) original name - from many springs there.
4. Phillip, Alex's dad, heard there was gold around, took city named it for himself.

5. 42 BC Brutus & Cassius for Octavius Augustus & Marc Antony - B. committed suicide in 1st C. in 2nd battle.

6. Town knew culture, Aristotle, sophistication. "Little bit of Rome in a foreign land!"

B. To town Paul came.

1. Said, "God was in Christ reconciling the world."

2. What if east instead of west had been the call.

3. Meet Lydia.
   (a) Barclay says look at cross section of those won for Christ. She's at top.
   (b) Immediately she extend the open door policy.

4. Slave girl - interfere with the way a man makes money & you've got trouble.

5. Philippian jailer.

C. To church a letter.

1. "Capture the cities for Christ" on his terms.

2. Tenderest of all epistles.

3. Power of women - at prayer - and a church came to be. Note prominence of women.

4. There was joy in this church.

   Phil. 4:4 Rejoice in the Lord always
5. A generous church.
   (a) To poor tho "their deep poverty abounds".
   (b) Gave of their own accord.
   (c) They wanted to give - beseeching us.
   (d) Gave continuously.
   Phil. 4:15-16
7. Earthquake shook them - what moves us

III. Now Smyrna  Rev. 2:8-12

A. The City.
   1. 40 miles from Ephesus.
   2. On Aegean Sea. Had small land lock harbor - could close c a chain.
   3. Founded 1200 BC - still there - still a great seaport.
   5. Surrounded by fertile land.
   6. City called "Lovely one", "Crown of Ionia", "Ornament of Asia". Called her bldgs. on the hills a crown.
   7. Destroyed by earthquake & fire 600 BC - like Jesus, "was dead & is alive again".
   8. Last city to fall to Moslems - 1402 AD.
   9. Today it's Izmir of Turkey.

B. The church.
   1. Don't know origin.
   2. Ignatius there 20 yr. after Rev. of John
   3. Fought c the Jews. Polycarp died here of fire.
4. No criticism of church by John.
5. It knew criticism - some say they are Jews & are not. David Livingston said the creature in Africa that gave him most trouble was not lion or elephant but gnat.
   (a) Had tribulation.
      Affliction = lit. press beneath wt.
   (b) Knew poverty - abject - had nothing at all.
   (c) Their morality attacked.
   (d) Its future was not too hopeful - Devil is busy!
6. It was a rich church.
   (a) Their wealth was Jesus. All other honors are second - even to this great city.
   (b) They had a spirit that casts out fear.
   (c) They had convictions worth dying for; thus a purpose in life.
7. It was a faithful church c/a promised crown.
   (a) Clip on heart disease.
IV. Antioch.
   A. Here Christian 1st used.
      1. Disciple, brethren, followers of the way earlier used.
      2. Came in a major elegant city.
      3. Men of Cyrene & Cyprus came to preach here.
(a) How do we do converting our International Students?

B. 3 things mark this church.

1. Evangelism.
   (a) It is presenting the claims of Christ & pressing for a decision.
   (b) It was done by all as they went not as professionals.
   (c) Today Moslems have more converts in Africa than Chr. Physical birth outnumber the new birth everywhere we are concerned.
   (d) Alexander clip.

2. It was Missionary.
   (a) Jerusalem was sending investigating committees but Antioch was sending missionaries - Avery Lee.

3. It was benevolent.

V. Let's Total Some Things.

A. Exalt Jesus & come to Him on His terms baptism & all.

B. Utilize the power of women.

C. Radiate a joy.

D. Be generous in giving.

E. Be solid in conviction, yet use charity to learner as from babe he becomes man.

F. Withstand persecution - criticism - lies - being faithful to death.

G. Evangelistic at home.
H. Mission minded to all.
I. Benevolent.
(a) Do we have these 10 features.

These End 2-28-71

Johnson Park Church, Borger, Tex. 4-6-71
Brainerd Church, Chattanooga 4-18-71
HEART DISEASE—Church

A Johns Hopkins Univ medical researcher says the incidence of fatal heart disease among infrequent churchgoers is twice as high as for men who attend church at least once a week.

The findings by Dr George W. Comstock, Prof of hygiene and public health, were reported in the Jn'l of the American Medical Assn.—AP,11-30-70
HOW DO YOU DO IT?

A critic once told Charles Alexander, "I don't like the way you do personal work". Alexander, a well-known preacher, replied, "Neither do I. Tell me, how do you do it?" Rather ashamed that he brought the subject up, the critic admitted that he didn't do much of it. Then Alexander observed, "I still like the way I do it better than the way you don't."

Method is not the greatest problem we face in doing personal work. A far greater problem is our timidity. We use as our excuse the fact we don't have much confidence in our ability or our method. However, if the truth were known, our "hang up" is that we are so afraid of "offending sinners," that we would rather see them be lost than to make them mad at us. Now that's putting it rather bluntly, but it is the truth nonetheless.

Personal work is not so difficult. All a person needs is a little common sense, a knowledge of God's will, and a determination to do all he can to save souls. Training in personal work so that you might develop a good method is to be desired but do not let your lack of "polish" stop you. There is no possibility
I. One cannot read this text without seeing a great outpouring of love.
   A. It's unique in all Paul's letters.
   B. Via inspiration it presents the human side of inspiration.

II. Such is the same for me relative to Sister Raymond (Wilma) Thornton.
   A. I've known her since June, 1942--65 years a long time to love a gracious lady.
      1. One of the longest and most gracious of my life.
      2. With such powerful contributions how could I ever remotely thank her?
   B. Began with 6 women and 2 men in the court house beginning of the Sheridan church.
      1. Puzzled by Sheridan and Grant in the deep south--Sheridan an architect of "the Burning."
      2. Only couple with leadership--the Padgetts faithful as the Zinns, Marie Fike and others.
      3. Betty and Raymond our teens and preteens.
      4. Betty and I unmarried and often in Thornton home.

C. Things we learned:
   1. Value of hospitality and how to extend it.
a) Always welcome  
b) Good food  
c) Profitable conversations  
d) Affluency meant little but character & goals did!

2. Saw courageous work of two teachers—determined to raise education to higher standard.

3. Saw the beauty of:  
a) Child rearing  
b) Harmony  
c) Industry  
d) Overlapping of love—Thorntons and Stephens.

4. I saw how to take success in stride.

5. Church grew and so did our fortunes.

D. Blessing of sustained love. 
1. Funeral of Brother Thornton and I lost one of the greatest wisdoms of my life.  
2. Education and achievements of children.  
3. Marriage of Betty and Evan.

E. Success of Wilma's brothers and their benefit to whole South.  
1. Jack, chairman of Augusta's golf event.  
2. Only one of two pictures in Heritage Center.  
3. Called back to Sheridan as church grew.
F. School of Education named for her—even as building for her son-in-law.
   1. Raymond's many assignments as Supreme Court—but I got him gas as served in House of Representatives.
   2. Humility ever there as they recognized improvements (not achievements)—she was still picking out pecan meats.

G. Her name in two places:
   1. Harding's Education only to be one day erased by return of Christ.
   2. Lamb's Book of Life.
   3. Maintained her code of living.

Phil. 4:4-7

H. Promises

Rev. 21:4
   :27

Wilma Thornton Funeral   9/3/07
AN APOSTLE'S GOAL FOR LEADERS
Phil. 1:9-11

I. "If it's good enuf for Paul it's good enuf for me," preacher told Dickson elder about KJV. (It's also good enough as a prayer aim) (Broadview on preacher)

A. Let's see what Paul wanted.
B. Then let's see how close we are to it.

II. First, see the praying Paul.

A. 700 miles away yet feel buoyant spirit. (R. C. Bell)
B. Spiritual babies need to grow.
   1. Show them
   2. Teach them
   3. Pray for them (go around elders)
C. Prayer
   1. He wrote down what he prayed for.
   2. Prayerless = selfishness & cold heart. (MacArthur)
   3. Kindred spirits in different parts of world are able by their prayers to send vibration of holy energy into our souls—we make our supplications with joy. (Meyers)

III. Now See What He Wanted

A. Abounding Love
   1. Agape
   2. Love of choice or will, not via attraction, emotions, or beauty.
   3. He is tenderly affectionate.
   4. Love wins many.
   5. Abound
      a) Grow
      b) Overflow, wave upon wave.
c) Cascade like a waterfall.
d) Pour over as bucket is filled from the spring pipe.
e) Do we go home from work & flood the place with our joy so that all the family is glad to see us?

B. Knowledge & Judgement
1. Real, advanced knowledge
2. Discernment (we get "aesthetic" from that GK word.)
   a) Moral perception, insight.
   b) Moral application.
   c) We are to be discriminatory.
   d) Of quick understanding.

C. Approve Things Excellent
1. Note our priority scheme.
2. Approve
   a) Assay metal to determine property and purity.
   b) Know worth of money.
3. Excellent
   a) "To differ" thus to establish priorities.
   b) Not good or bad but better, best.
   c) Things that matter.
4. We'll detest anything that hurts or offends.
5. Lay aside all that's not good.

D. Sincere and Without Offence
1. Genuine
2. From sifting grain
3. To judge in the sun.
4. Pottery without wax.
E. Day of Christ
1. Reward of believers
1 Cor. 3:12
1 Cor. 4:5
2. 2 days
   a) 1st baptism
   b) Judgement--last--God perfects us till that last day.
   c) God finishes what He starts.
F. Fruits of Righteousness
1. 2 fruits
   a) Winning people
Rom. 1:13
   b) Right action & attitude
2 Cor. 9:10
2. Lawrence of Arabia's folk took London faucets to stick in desert sand.
G. To Glory
1. By Jesus
2. Glory sum total of all God's perfection.
3. Excellency, integrity, good works of man bring him glory.
4. God is the only God that's loved.
John 15:8
Elders, Preachers/Wives Dinner, Harding - 9/30/91
A man stopped on a weighing machine. His wife picked up the card that fell into the slot and read aloud: “You are a brave, strong leader of men, endowed with unusual creative powers and striking appearance.” Then the wife looked again at the card and said, “It’s got your weight wrong, too.”

The Modern Handbook of Humor

At the Saints and Sinners party in Washington, when then-Secretary of Defense Charles E. Wilson, was initiated, there was a skit of Wilson in his Pentagon office. An aide came in to say a life insurance salesman was waiting to see him. “Send him in,” said the actor portraying Wilson. “You don’t really want to see an insurance salesman, do you?” the surprised aide protested. “I certainly do,” said Wilson. “He’s the only guy I’ve been able to find around here who has a definite policy.”

Liz Carpenter

On, it’s nothing,” said the driver. “This is only a one-ton truck and I’ve got two tons of canaries on it. I have to keep half of them flying so I won’t break down with an overload.”

********

A gingery old grandpa who had just celebrated his golden wedding, was told by a crony, “I heard all the women folk at your reception talking about how good you are to your wife.”

“Well, it’s just the last forty years I’ve been that way,” grandpa confessed. “The first year I was onery. Once I even raised my hand against her, and then couldn’t look her in the face for a week. By then I could see a little out of one eye.”

********
Tired of being the conference doormat, the college president decided to lend a hand in recruiting. He toured a number of school gridirons, and then returned and called in his coach.

“How did you make out?” asked the coach.

“Well, I saw one team that went through a 12-game schedule unbeaten, untied and unscored on. The amusing thing is that their line averaged just 145 pounds, their backfield 135 pounds, and they had no passer or kicker.”

“Well,” said the coach, “You didn’t waste any scholarships on them, did you?”

“No,” replied the president. “But I hired their coach as your successor.”

A woman telephoned a friend. “How are you, dear?” she asked.

“Simply awful,” came the reply. “My migraine headache is back, my feet are killing me, my back is almost breaking in two, the ironing is piled to the ceiling, the house is a mess, and the children are driving me out of my mind.”

“Now you listen to me,” said the friend on the other end of the line. “You just go and lie down and rest. I’ll be right over and cook lunch for you and the children and get your ironing done and whisk up the house a bit and watch the children while you get a bit of rest. By the way, how is John?”

“John?” queried the complaining housewife.

“Yes, John,” said the caller. “John, your husband.”

“My husband’s name isn’t John.”

“Gracious,” gasped the caller, “I must have the wrong number.” »
WEARY OF THE constant disorder in her sons’ room, a mother laid down the law: For every item she had to pick up off the floor, they would have to pay her a nickel.

At the end of one week, the boys owed her 65 cents. She received the money promptly, along with a fifty-cent tip and a note that read, “Thanks, Mom, keep up the good work!”

Lunch with Peg

WHEN WE were kids, my younger brother Alec and I used to spend summers with our grandparents in Minnesota. One memorable Saturday, my grandmother invited her best friend Peg over for lunch. My grandfather, however, was not a big fan of Peg. Before she arrived, he grumbled about her a little, ignoring the fact that five-year-old Alec was listening.

As we sat down to lunch, Peg launched into a detailed account of a movie she’d just seen. Alec regarded her intently as she spoke. After a minute or two, he blurted out: “I don’t see a blue streak when Peg talks!”

— Timothy Smight

3448 Hill Canyon Ave., Thousand Oaks, CA 91630

Raging Mother

MY MOTHER, Agnes, and her aunt, Maud Harlowe, were shopping in Marshall Field’s Department Store one day when my grandfather arrived to pick them up. Unable to locate them, he decided to have them paged. Over the speaker the shoppers heard, “Will Agnes Jackman and Maud Harlowe please go to the Information Booth.”

My mother and her aunt, never having been paged before in their lives, laughed.

“Imagine that,” my mother said, “two other people who have the same names we do!”

— Debbie Sheldon

1931 E. Stearns Ave., Orange, CA 92666
I. We use various standards to decide the acceptability of matters.
   A. A man said if food tastes good I spit it out.
   B. In our entertainment we have standards – PG or R movies.
   C. Finances – it's either sound to us or risky.
   D. For Life:
      1. As a Christian if it's good I use it, if it's bad I reject it. But that's not enough!
      2. As for me it's either good, better, or best as I want things that are wholesome – but even that is too low.
      3. Our texts calls for the highest--it is the superlative--it needs to be "excellent" – nothing less.
      4. Let's study these words:

Phil.1:9-11  "And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment."

5. If we truly strive for this it will revolution our lives and make this church superior.
II. I am not the least shocked that Paul first tells them for this he prays.
A. "And this I pray -"
   1. It follows a prayerful pattern.

v.3 I thank God.
v.4 Always in every prayer.
v.4 For you all making requests with joy.
v.7 I have you in my heart.
v.8 For God is my record-long after you all in the bowels of Jesus Christ.

2. Thus he begins the citation of this standard with "and this I pray."
   a) Are we praying for elders?
   b) Are we remembering all the new members?
   c) Are we praying for Norman?
   d) Are we praying for the ones Brother Smith tells us about?
   e) Before citing Paul's specific wish for the church - what specific thing are you asking for at Neely's Bend?
   f) Do you pray for our brotherhood?

3. Now note his special things:
   a) Love may abound.
   b) More knowledge and judgment.
   c) Approve things that are excellent.
d) Be sincere and without offense the Day of Christ.
e) Filled with fruits of righteousness by Jesus Christ.
f) Unto the glory and praise of God. WOW!! Great Six!

B. Eight recorded prayers by Paul.
   Eph. 1:17-23
   3:14-21
   Col. 1:9-14
   I Thess. 3:10-13
   II Thess. 1:11-12
   2:16-17
   3:16
   above in Philippians.

C. Nothing short of spiritual growth will satisfy Paul. "The fire of the apostle never says enough (Moule).

III. Prays Love May Abound.
   A. Love = AGAPE
      1. Highest and noblest kind of love.
      2. Love of choice, will.
      3. It does not depend on attraction, emotion, sentiment, or beauty.
      4. Love is the only solution to our fracture and fiction.
      5. It is always abounding, keeps growing.
      6. Abound = overflow, wave upon wave cascading like a waterfall (Tolle).
B. Love Abounding.
   1. Abound a favorite word of Paul.
   2. First part of prayer to:
      a) Abound in knowledge and discernment.
      b) Live free of hypocrisy.
      c) Look forward to natural results that they be filled with fruits of righteousness.
   3. More and more – never enough! Men fail in works by loss of means, power, change of purpose dependence on others, death.

IV. Knowledge and Judgment.
A. Knowledge
   1. Good sense.
   2. Advanced knowledge.
   3. Real, full knowledge.
   4. Intelligence, practical affection—giving money to a beggar may make him lazy.

B. Judgment
   1. Disconcernment.
   2. Discrimination.
   3. Work for aesthetic—only time used in Scripture.
   4. Moral perception, insight, practical application of knowledge.
V. Approve Things Excellent.
   A. Approve
      1. To test as with metals.
      2. Test, in order to determine their nature.
      3. Assaying metal to determine properties and purity.
      4. Also test if money is counterfeit.
   B. Excellent
      1. Distinguish things that differ.
      2. Things that differ.
      3. Have a sense of what is vital.
      4. Not just present good lessons, but excellent ones.
      5. Perspective power.
      6. Love is excellent – has a priority.
      7. Not just difference between good and evil – anybody can do that – but between better and best.

VI. Sincere and without offense.
   A. Defined.
      1. Without deception.
      2. Without hypocrisy.
      3. Examine in sunlight and be found without flaw, speck, or blemish.
      4. Without wax.
      5. Be transparent character.
      6. Genuine
a) Have, like in grain, impurities of life sifted out.
b) Or sun and judge – test by sunlight.
c) Sine cera – without wax.
7. We are what we appear to be.

B. Without offense.
1. Literally without stumbling blocks.
2. Try not to stumble and try not to make others stumble, thus no one misses Heaven.
3. We get sucked into world by accommodating it. We stop being shocked by world's morals and tolerate its values and wickedness.

VII. Day of Christ – Fruits of Righteousness
A. Judgment
1. Live hourly aware of it.
2. Appear before Him without being ashamed.
3. His return an incentive to right living.

1 John 3:2–3
4. Time of reward for believer.

B. Filled with fruits.
1. Gave so we can go to Heaven and demonstrate Christ while making the journey thus glorify Him.
2. Fruitful life, full of obstructions.
3. Open before God and man.
4. Both faithful and fruitful.
5. Fruit is singular.
6. Not some fruit, but filled with it.

John 15:8  "Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples."

7. Honor God with life and lips.
8. Fruit - total product of holy life.
9. Righteousness is not just faction, but right conduct.

VIII. In Jesus to Glory and Praise of God.
A. In Christ.
   1. Believer has no yearning apart from his Lord.
   2. Pulse beats with the pulse of Christ. (Coffman)
   3. Have to be in Jesus to be fruitful.
   4. Right conduct comes through Jesus.
   5. Branch must be with the vine (John 15:4).

B. All brings glory (doxa) to God.
C. God receives the glory.
D. No selfishness here - never points to self, but to God!

Neely's Bend BC - 2/3/02
I. With this section in Philippians we face two unusual questions:
First, Do circumstances rule the gospel's effectiveness?
Second, Can the preacher's motives control the gospel's spread?

II. Using this as our foundation, is it possible for even bad circumstances to tie our hands?
Tell story of Busby and West Texas meeting when all curtains were pulled down.
A. We plan a special day and it rains torrents.
B. We plan a marriage seminar and the city is put under marshall law.
C. Are we not asking: Who is God – the Lord or circumstances?

III. See the status of events at Philippi.
Read 1:12-15
A. I would have you understand, brethren.
   1. Heard of imprisonment in Caesarea
   2. Later know about same at Rome.
3. Naturally apprehensive about how this could help evangelize the gospel.
4. Do calamities shatter good plans?
5. Who is more powerful—God or circumstances?
6. Can the power of the word be nullified by human means?
7. Can God's providence turn road blocks to stepping stones?
8. Wants them to defy discouragements.
9. Note simplicity of "brethren."

B. Things happened unto me.
   1. Last half of Acts tell it.
   2. Cite 2 Cor. 11:23-30.
   3. Don't dwell on it, but rejoice to see results.
   4. It can help spread the gospel.
   5. Prison or prosperity—how would it uphold?

C. All adds to furtherance of gospel.
   1. Progress is figure used in the military.
   3. "The cloud, while it obscures the sun, sends down the fertilizing shower."
4. "Furtherance" literally to "cutting before."
5. Pioneers cut trees to make their way.
6. Obstacles can be overcome!

IV. See the End Results – Bonds Manifested and Brethren are Encouraged.

A. My Bonds.
   1. Paul was bound because of his relationship and loyalty to Christ.
   2. Recall his type of imprisonment.
      a) Lived in rooms of his own at times.
      b) Housed in temporary lodging at first.
      c) Later rented his own quarters.

B. He sanctified the bonds by being in Christ.
   1. Three times says he was a prisoner of Christ – not of Rome.
   2. In his own lodging he could receive all who came to him.
   3. It became generally known that his imprisonment was not connected to any crime--only his faithfulness in preaching the gospel.
   4. Your attitude means much to the quality of your work.
C. True in all palaces.
   1. 10,000 picked men of Italian birth composed the guards.
   2. First law said serve 12 years increased to 16.
   3. At time bound to the guard's hand, thus referred to himself as ambassador in chains (Eph. 6:20).
   3. Used different words—coupling chairs—news of such spread throughout city.
   4. Again—if God can so use an imprisoned apostle, what can He do with you if greater freedom?
   5. News spread to other places.

V. How does it affect my brethren?
   A. Many brethren in the Lord.
      1. This expression found only here in all the Bible.
      2. Note simplicity of brethren.
   B. Waxing confident by bonds.
      1. He inspired them.
      2. "If he can do it there, surely I can here."
   C. Boldly speak the word without fear.
      1. "Mose" implies some did not go with it.
      2. We differ in our reactions.

Neely's Bend BC - 3/10/02
LET THE GOSPEL BE PREACHED
Philippians 1:12-18

I. Like cholestrol--some is good and some is bad.
   A. So is preaching: some from good hearts--some from bad hearts.
   B. Yet one criteria remains--is Christ preached in truth?
   C. What if some preach Christ of goodwill--and others preach Him of envy and strife?
   D. If both sides are brethren, and if in spite of motivation both brethren preach the truth, is the cause helped? Is good done? Can the church be furthered? What should my attitude be?
   E. Paul's answer.

v-18 "What then? Notwithstanding, every way"
   1. Let's study this strange situation.
   2. The end result will be a deeper appreciation for the power of the gospel.
      a) The package is more important than the "packager."
      b) The gospel is more important than the gospeler.

II. As the Passage opens we see the imprisoned Paul ready to express his spirit.
   A. He is in bonds.
   B. He's been assaulted by brethren.
   C. Still he sticks to the Philippian theme--Rejoice--Phil. 4:4.
   D. Raises questions for me.
      1. What does it take to have your joy stolen from you?
2. Can circumstances make you better?
Ps. 51:12 "Restore unto me the joy of thy sal."
James 1:2-3

3. Paul asked for a prosperous journey to Rome (Rom. 1:10); yet he went not in prosperity but as a shipwreck prisoner—was he resentful?

4. MacArthur asks to what is your joy tied?
   a) Pleasure
   b) Possessions
   c) Freedom
   d) Prestige
   e) Success
   f) Reputation
   g) Good health

5. Absence of this, can you rejoice?

E. This makes us examine our own attitude.

III. Paul explains the situation.
A. I would that ye should understand, brethren.
   1. Wants them to grasp the situation.
   2. He is not discouraged so they should not be over his imprisonment.
   3. They must see the progress of the gospel is not impeded.
   4. Boice points out what adversity can do to us:
      a) Awaken us to needs & feelings of other people.
      b) Be instructive as we are molded into image of Christ.
c) Some permitted by sovereign God to make the gospel spread.
5. World not asked to understand this, but it is expected of brethren.
a) Used many times:
   1:12; 1:14; 3:1; 3:13; 4:1
b) Some brethren have the wrong motive but still my brother.
c) "Brethren in the Lord" found only here (1:14).

B. Understand that what has happened is for the furtherance of the gospel.
1. Progress of the gospel was the passion of his life.
2. Furtherance--progress--army cutting down trees that would hinder its advance.
3. To me the meanest flower that blooms can give
   Thoughts that do often lie too deep for tears.
   (Wordsworth)
4. Repeatedly uses "brethren" and "gospel."

C. Bonds manifest in Christ.
1. His crime--preaching gospel.
2. Chained to a guard who is rotated perhaps every 6 or 8 hours.
3. Escape impossible.
4. Privacy not existent.
5. Never by himself for 1 minute.
6. Complete absence of all that makes life comfortable.
7. Faces the "slings and arrows of an outrageous fortune."
8. Lesson: whatever you are chained to, live the gospel.
9. Don't ask why God allows such.

D. Manifestation of Bonds.
1. Men intended to curtail--God intended to enlarge.
2. Bonds well known by guard and visitors.

Acts 28:23-31
3. His crime: preaching Christ.
4. Palace vs Praetorian guard.
   a) It's folks not a place.
   b) Caesar's corps.
   c) God's providence a way to reach the guard.
5. See guard exposed to the faith & brethren receive encouragement to speak boldly.

E. Brethren Wax Confident
1. Who's responsible to teach--brethren or staff?
2. Brethren will embrace some unsavory actions.
3. Not all brethren impelled by same motives.
4. Some brethren actually his opponents.
5. Wax confident.
   a) Not intimidated but emboldened.
   b) Earlier reluctant to speak.

Acts 28:22
   c) What we do in adversity affects many others.
d) Don't overlook reality of adversity.
e) He's in chains—word is not.
f) Not only did the gospel not stop—it's advanced.

F. Speak Word of God Without Fear
   1. Usage of Word:

Word of the Cross
1 Cor. 1:18
Word of Truth
Eph. 1:13
Word of Life
Phil. 2:16
Word of Christ
Col. 3:16
Word of the Lord
1 Thess. 1:8

2. Extended

IV. All Preachers Have Not the Right Motive—Yet Good Results Come.

A. Some preach Christ even of envy and strife — v-15.
   1. Do people see a secondary loyalty in us?
   2. Everyone not impelled by pure motives, perhaps only God actually knows.
   3. Some merely pretend to be concerned for the gospel.
   5. May be selfish ambitions = to work for hire.
6. May be to advance themselves, as self is promoted at all cost.
7. But many times say, "preach Christ."
8. Some of Envy
   a) Paul's critics were his brethren.
   b) His prominence a menace to his distractors as they tried to displace him.
   c) My dad used to say you are never criticized by a better man.
   d) Yet a selfish preacher can be used of God.
   e) Truth is more powerful than its package.
   f) Power lies in the gospel not the gospeler. (Eades)
   g) Listener knows nothing of the preacher's motive, thus concentrates on the message only.
9. Some of Strife
   a) The church comes into being because a number of people have heard the message, the same truth, believed it and accepted the same faith--this is the theme that brings them together. It is not formed out of nationality or continent but the acceptance of the same faith. (Lloyd Jones)
10. Some of Goodwill.
    a) Means satisfaction and contendedness.
b) Be sure you lay a foundation of integrity & credibility.
c) check your own motives.

11. Some of contention, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to bonds.
a) From to lie, recline, appointed, destined.
b) Teaching and life not confirmed with word.
c) Try to tear down reputation of others.
d) Note critics were his brethren.
e) Hugh Peters preached before the House of Parliament Thanksgiving, April 2, many years ago, and he spoke of his brethren arguing over translations. He made the comment, "Though I could wish some of my learned brethren's quarreling hours were spent rather upon clearing the originals, and so conveying over pure scriptures to posterity, than to mend ends scratching others with their sharpened pens, and making cock-pits of the pulpit."
f) Plan and scheme to add opposition.

12. Add Affliction (gall, rub)
a) Make Paul suffer more.
b) Wanted to aggravate, friction.
c) Lit. "add pressure to my chains."
d) How would preaching Christ hurt Paul?
e) Charges:
   (1) He's being chastened.
   (2) He lacks God's power.
   (3) He's being replaced.
   (4) He's playing politics; otherwise, already be executed.

f) Things that discourage the most:
   1) Backsliders and 2) false accusations.

B. Paul's Reaction

1. Some preach out of love--and we rejoice.

2. Remain set for defense of gospel.
   a) Appointed--used to placing a soldier on duty.
   b) Defense = apologetic.
   c) Nothing for self.

Phil. 2:3

d) Proclaim with authority.

   e) Contend for clear and definite faith.

   f) Gospel so important.

3. v-18 "I rejoice--the gospel is preached."
DOES THE MOTIVE FOR PREACHING DETERMINE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE GOSPEL?
Philippians 1:14-18

I. This lesson puzzles me.
A. Let's put it in another field.
   1. If a clerk is not sincere, can I get the proper merchandise?
      (Please note in all of this that the product is genuine.)
   2. Can a doctor be effective in healing me if his motives for practicing medicine are purely mercenary?
   3. In our study can the preachers drive be wrong and I still can be converted by the doctrine he preaches?
   4. A Baptist preacher asked me "what do you preach you do not believe?"
   5. I repeat, he preaches the truth but his motive is money, acclaim, laziness, pride.
B. On all of this Paul says provided the truth is preached it will still be effective.

II. Cut to the chase.
v-15 "Some indeed preach Christ"
A. Paul admits mixed motives.
   1. The mere fact a man preaches Christ is not proof of his personal salvation.
2. Corrupt motives can arise: money, tradition, position, influence, some for victory in theological contests.

B. He cites envy and strife.
1. Guilty of a fractional spirit.
2. They wanted to outdo the apostle.
3. All parties active in preaching but differed in their heart.
4. Contention moves one, love another--party spirit fires him on whereas love guides another one.
5. Envy is displeasure in another's good.

C. Some preach of strife.
1. Rivalry which seeks the good that belongs to another.
2. James Tolle wrote well of this: "Those referred to in verse 15 were not preaching Christ because of any desire to exalt him, but because of their envious and contentious attitude toward Paul. Because of Paul's success in preaching the gospel, the influence of those who hitherto enjoyed great promise in the field had faded. This was their grievance, they resented his presence in Rome even in chains. Instead of thinking of themselves as co-workers, they thought of themselves as his competitors. They desired to
outdo their brethren in the work of the Lord and thus to gain greater prominence than they had in the brotherhood. They desired to exalt themselves, not Christ."

3. We are not given the details as to how they did this envy-strife preaching.

4. Tolle further wrote:
"Whether jealousy arose from Judaizing elements of the church opposing Paul's teachings, or from certain leaders of the church in Rome who found themselves eclipsed by Paul's success and influence through winning many converts in the praetorian guard and even the palace is impossible to determine."

5. Strife is fractious rivalry.

D. Some preach of "goodwill."

1. This attitude implies a correct one toward the Lord & Paul.

2. They want to see success through endeavor of all.

III. He Reverts to Further Contrasts.

A. Some preach of contention.

1. It's illogical to conclude that those who preached with a wrong motive presented a different doctrine. The difference is in their preaching but not in substance only in purpose.
2. A perverted gospel would be powerless to save.
3. The wrong motive in preaching the unadulterated gospel does not nullify its saving power.
4. A good act may be prompted by a bad motive--we give only to get the deduction in taxes.
5. Every man is responsible for his own conduct.
6. "If I please to work with men who are heretical on some point of theology but are right in the point in which I work with them, I am not responsible for their wrong belief but only for the part which I take."

B. Contrast with those who preach sincerely.
1. Unmixed emotions.
2. Practice no error.

C. Some seek to add affliction to my bonds.
1. They wanted to add more suffering to Paul.
2. Vaulted their success over his.
3. Perhaps irritate Nero and his officers against Paul.
4. They sought to steal part of Paul's glory.
5. They could steal a march on him since he was unable to go as they could.
6. Thought Paul would be jealous of their achievements.
7. Make Paul feel the helplessness of imprisonment.
8. Lit. "add pressure to my chains."

C. He still saw some preach out of love.
   1. They wanted to exalt Christ.
   2. Felt they were co-workers with him.

D. Paul was set for the defense of the gospel.
   1. Condemnation comes of faint-heartedness and backsliding cause much trouble.
   2. Set - positioned, a military term.
   3. Note repetition of "gospel."

IV. Conclusion--what then?

A. Whatever you are chained to live the gospel.

B. Never criticized by a better man--he'll help you.

C. Not withstanding
   1. Truth so precious no man can present any part of it and it not bear its fruit.
   2. Better bad men preach truth than it not be preached at all.

D. Pure gospel will be effective.
Those who speak for Christ in face of death, inspire others
If you can, I can
storms cannot ship wreck the gospel
only visit it forward
Does not attack preachers who have inferior motives
Difference is motive
Affection = rub raw a chain
Notice his "soulseat"
Make miserable, make glad
Purpose in all that happens tells
Acts 5:20
He's in chains, word is not
Truth more powerful than its package
Listener does not know speaker's motives

Neely's Bend BC - 2/17/02
IN'S THAT OUGHT TO BE OUT!
Phil. 1:15-18
1. The church is a thermostat.
   A. If it is, it controls thoughts. We thus are a people who mold an opinion.
   B. If a thermometer — it merely reflects what's current around us & so records.
   1. We do not change, rather we register.
   2. Pope that as much c his poem on Vice.
II. There are things that are "in" & are accepted — they should be "out". The purpose of this lesson is to examine a few of these & see how we react.
   I'm not talking politics, tho Jeffries clip makes me wish I could & Orben clip.
A. The 1st "in" to get out is Indifference.
   Acts 2:42 "And they continued steadfastly in the apost
   1. See steadfastly.
   2. Note continued.
   3. Hear "apostles' doctrine".
   4. But do you hear "fellowship".
   Eph. 4:2 "Forbearing one another in love
   Col. 3:13 "Forgoing one another, and forgiving one
   5. We are a family & families have differences.
   Eph. 4:32 "Be ye kind one to another
   I Pet. 5:14 "Greet ye one another c a Kiss of charity
   I Jn. 3:13-18 (Read).
Rom. 12:10 "Be kindly affectioned one to another with
   6. Carroll Harkness said, "It is not proper to bring a child in the world either physically or spiritually & then in essence think that if the child wants love, they know where the loving place is so
let them crawl (to it)."

B. Our second "in" is "infidelity."
1. In 1960, ave. age at 1st marriage 22.8 for men, 20.3 for women.
3. Divorce clip. #3
4. White clip. Marriage knot. #4
5. Surely God wants permanent homes.
Matt. 19:3-9 (Read).

C. 3rdly, we need to get rid of Indecision.
Isa. 5:20 "Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet,..."
1 Kings 18:21 "How long halt ye between two opinions?"
Ecc. 3:1 "There is a time to every purpose under the heaven.
Eph. 5:16 "Redeem the time, because the days are evil.
Rev. 1:3 "The time is at hand."

1. Tournier Clip. #5
2. What about your "I will some day" spirit.
3. Terry Bell, "Someone has described the ave.
American as one who daily takes just enuf pep pills, balanced by just enuf tranquilizers to enable him to make his weekly trip to the psychiatrist."

D. 4thly, let's Vote out "Iniquity."
1. Seen in covetousness - note Parsons article.
2. Entertainment.
   (a) Griffith card. #7
   (b) Fonda Clip. #8
   (c) Monopoly Clip. #9

E. Lastly, vote out "Inability."
2 Tim. 2:15 "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, Eph. 2:10 "For we are his workmanship, created in Chr
1 Thess. 4:11 "And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your hands, as we have commanded you; 2 Thess. 3:10 "For even when we were with you, this was our comfort and joy." Card on Positive proof. Tired waiting for a living.

2. "I'm a sick woman"
BOB ORBEN: "The Ayatollah Khomeini is a good indication that we should never underestimate any man who gets his ideas from the 7th Century; his methods from the Inquisition; and his clothes from Forest Lawn." 1-Q

DIVORCE RATE

The notorious US divorce rate may be leveling off — but not necessarily because marriages have suddenly become more stable. As more couples live together instead of marrying, fewer breakups get counted officially. Moreover, fewer married couples in the population are now at the stages of marriage when divorce is commonest.

From 1968 to 1976, divorces jumped an average 8 per cent a year. In 1977, they increased only 1 per cent, the smallest annual increase since 1962. Final 1978 figures will not be available until early next year, but the National Center for Health Statistics estimates an increase for that year of only about 3 per cent. — Psychology Today, 12-79.

Page 4  January 6
The marriage knot should be tied tight enough to prevent easy loosening but not tight enough to feel like a noose. — J Gustav White, Antique Wit Exchange.

Paul Tournier, the Swiss physician and theologian says, "Indecision is a poison as far as the person is concerned. It always arises from some inner conflict which one has not had the courage to resolve, or even to become aware of. It is common among those who have been kept in a state of dependence by domineering parents. It can persist through life long after the death of the parents. Such people will tell us quite openly that they do not even know what their tastes, their beliefs and their aims in life are. As soon as they have made a decision they begin wondering if they have not made a mistake."


"Encouragement A Wife's Special Gift" — By Ruth McRoberts Ward
THE CANCER
OF COVETOUSNESS

Have you heard of the fly that landed on a nice strip of gooey, sweet-smelling fly paper? Quickly surveying the situation and not seeing a challenger in sight, he happily announced, "My fly paper!" Sinking his nose in the syrupy stuff he dined sumptuously. Then, he blissfully snoozed in an "after dinner siesta." Afterward, deciding to leave, he began hopelessly beating his wings against the air ... and the paper announced, "My fly!"

That's often the way it is with a man and his possessions. Man surveys his accumulations and proudly says, "My possessions!" The possessions knowingly wink at each other and whisper, "Our man!"

Covetousness stands over against life. It is defined as "inordinately eager to acquire and possess." It reaches after things of earthly existence. Jesus declared, "Take heed and beware of covetousness; for a man's life consisteth not of the abundance of things which he possesseth." (Luke 12:15).

Jesus used covetousness to describe one being consumed in the pursuit of a desire until it becomes an idol. Many are so busy pursuing "things" they have no interest in the spiritual. If we could solve the problem of covetousness we

PERSONAL NOTES

SYMPATHY:
To brother Paul Hembree and family on the death of his sister, Mrs. Ellen Lavender, whose funeral was held Saturday in Lebanon, Tenn.
To sister Marie Burkhalter, sister Nita Hammonetree and families on the death of their brother-in-law, brother Jimmy Fowler whose funeral was held Monday, (Nov. 19) in Birmingham, Ala.

SICK:
Parthenon Pavilion:
Bro. Howard Knox - Former member here -
Baptist Hospital:
Sis. J.W. McDonough - Rm. 2504-E
Recuperating from broken hip and elbow -
Graystone Nursing Home -
Sis. Nora Walker - Franklin, Tn.
At Home:
Sis. J.W. Cummins -
Sis. Mary Kate Baugh - 1108 E. Douglas -

V A HOSPITAL SCHEDULE
But why pick on the space program? Are not the expenditures or projected expenditures on sports stadiums and the fabulous salaries paid to professional athletes and entertainers sinfully ludicrous as long as two-thirds of the earth's population go to bed hungry every night? In 1960 Elvis Presley was paid $125,000 for one night's appearance on a TV program. He did two wriggles and sang two songs, and for this received more than the yearly salary of the president of the United States. At the time it was estimated that an identical sum of money would pay the annual salaries of 25 school teachers, 42 ministers or 63 farmhands. It would provide a year's training for 30 or more nurses, would give 125 young people a year in college, would stock 10 mission hospitals with elemental tools and drugs, would feed 3000 refugee children for a whole year.

Our society is all mixed up in priorities, and it is
the Church's business to straighten them out—unless the Church also happens to be mixed up; in which case the Church needs to take a closer look at the priorities of Jesus.

We Have This Ministry

By Leonard Griffith

Page No. 32
Jane Fonda, one of America's most important revolutionaries, has been touring the country, ostensibly speaking against nuclear energy, but really touting socialism which she calls "economic democracy." Fonda is important, not because of the significance of what she has to say but because of her wealth and the funds she pours into the revolution. While speaking in Pittsburg, PA, on October 8th, she stated, "All the money I receive is given to our Coalition."

Most Americans know that Jane Fonda "aided and abetted the enemy" during the Vietnam War. Her philosophy is spelled out loud and clear in some of her quotations, such as:

"I would think if you understood what communism was, you would hope, you would pray on your knees that we would someday become Communist." — from a speech at Michigan State University to raise money for the Black Panthers, reported in the Detroit Free Press, November 22, 1969.

"I am a socialist. I think we should strive toward a socialist society — all the way to communism." Duke University, December 11, 1970.

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NEED a gift for someone who "has everything?" Maybe he'd like to be the first on the block with the latest—a $600 edible Monopoly game made of high class chocolate. Representatives from Neiman-Marcus, in Dallas, Texas, expected to sell in the neighborhood of 100 of the delicious sets.
A leading citizen was stopped by a panhandler. "Listen, buddy," the leading citizen said, "why don't you try working for a living? After all, work never killed anybody."

"You're wrong, friend," the panhandler said, "I've lost two wives that way."

"A Treasury of Humor" - By Clyde Murdock - Page 74

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The minister's little daughter was sent to bed with a stomach-ache, and missed her usual romp with her daddy. A few minutes later she appeared at the top of the stairs and called to her mother: "Mama, let me talk with daddy."

"No, my dear, not tonight. Get back in bed."

"Please, mama."

"I said no. That's enough now."

"Mother, I'm a very sick woman, and I must see my pastor at once."

"A Treasury of Humor" - By Clyde Murdock - PP. 52-53
THE ROUTE OF DELIVERANCE
Phil. 1:19-

I. Paul's call for Salvation.
   A. Have you ever found yourself hard pressed with life's circumstances?
   B. Paul felt the burden of the turn of events.
   C. Yet he felt he saw the route of deliverance.
      1. There comes an end to trouble.
      2. It would end with glory to God.
      3. Spoke of it confidently "for I know."
         a) Intuitively.
         b) Absolute.
   D. Salvation-- Deliverance-- how and why would it come?
      1. He'd faithfully preach the gospel even in the adversity of the prison.
      2. His loyalty would inspire others.
      3. Salvation is vindication of his stand for Christ and being saved from disgracing the gospel as he moves through his trial.
      4. Future would not affect his salvation.
      5. Salvation means safety-- well being now and in eternity.
      6. God makes even opposition work for my salvation.

II. Three things stated that are effective.
   A. Your prayers.
      1. Supplications, entreaties as the church prayed for his faithfulness.
2. He expected to be prayed for and assumes they are doing it. Not helpless.
3. He values their prayers.
4. Prayers of people can bring a needed supply of the Spirit to preachers.
5. One called prayer partnership with God. Lose much to get to pray.

B. Secondly, the Supply of the Spirit of Jesus. We must pray support music.
1. Is this the Holy Spirit?
2. He can strengthen and sustain helping you to maintain an unwavering faith in face of all adversities.
3. He is our earnest, our pledge.
4. Lipscomb said Jesus lived in the flesh that we might walk in the Spirit.

1. Occurs only here & Romans 8:19.
2. Lit. expectation with uplifted head and outstretched neck.
3. He must do nothing that disgraces himself in the eyes of the Lord even if brought before Caesar in person. Never fail duty he said of Caesars.
4. Life rooted in Jesus. Bring him to Jesus.
5. While some magnify Christ others do all they can to diminish Him.
6. Head raised and eyes fixed on that point of the horizon from where the expected object is to come.
7. Don't make the Lord be ashamed of us really means disappointed in us.

D. Contrasting being ashamed with all boldness, always magnify Christ.

1. If Christians will not magnify Jesus, then who will?
2. Give Him preeminence.

E. Done by life or by death.

1. What is life?
   a) To some it is existence, a kind of animal condition.
   b) Epicurean--eat, drink, be merry--pleasure.
   c) Stoic--it's something to endure.
   d) Out out brief candle
      Life's but a walking shadow;
      a poor player that struts and frets his hour upon the stage,
      And then is heard no more;
      it's a tale told by an idiot,
      full of sound & fury, signifying nothing--Macbeth.
   e) It's the mystic-- spends time mortifying the flesh trying not to allow the world to influence him or affect him.
   f) Humanistic view--improving the world, lifting society, idealistic view.
   g) Religious view--performing religious duties.
h) Living in Christ, loving; loves the Lord and this dominates life.

i) Life is what we do--how we spend our time--is Christ the centre?

F. To live is Christ--to die is gain.

2 Cor 5:6-8

Death is gain, not just a release.

Life is full of possibilities.

Death is certain.

View or death:

Heed it, hate it, desist from it, courage stand up to it, Christian attitude.

Gain: get rid of dying body.

“sin is a devil destiny”

Be free from sin.

Be con Christ.

If it is Christ, then life is God's makes.

Death of no gain.

Neely's Bend BC - 2/24/02
Brentwood Hills - 3/6/02
Whites Creek - 3/10/02
Smithville, TN (BC) - 4/7/02
Berry's Chapel - 8/28/02
The three plays involving King Henry V—*Henry IV* (Parts I and II) and *Henry V*—show just the opposite character. In his early youth Henry is irresponsible and profligate. He spends much time carousing with old John Falstaff and enjoys it. Then the old king dies, and Prince Henry begins to live as befits his kingly status. He does not hold the crown through any virtue in himself. At one point he confesses to the dying king, his father: “You won it, wore it, kept it, gave it me.” But having the crown he vows to live worthy of the possession:

. . . . The tide of blood in me  
Hath proudly flowed in vanity till now.  
Now doth it turn and ebb back to the sea,  
Where it shall mingle with the state of floods,  
And flow henceforth in formal majesty.
A STATEMENT THAT SAYS IT ALL--IN CHRIST! Phil. 1:21-26

I. We've all heard summations and have responded, "That says it all."
   A. It's complete.
   B. It's extensive.
   C. It's full.

II. Paul, not once, but many times says it all in Philippians, with the use of one phrase. The phrase is: "In Christ." 8 X in Phil., 41 X in his letters; in the Lord 43 X, variances 120 X by Paul.
   A. Let's review Philippians and see what's "In Christ"
   B. As I measure his fullness, may I similarly compare myself--do I have all this "In Christ"?
   C. Let's ck. its usage in Phil. 1. Essence of Chr.

III. Paul's Philippian Position. Live in Christ as bird
   A. Those things in Christ are: lives in air

1. All Saints.
   Phil. 1:1 "P. & T., the servants of Jesus Christ, to al
   a.) Opens the tenderest of his epistles, no chiding.
   b.) No despondency--hasn't seen them tho in 5 yrs
   c.) Beginning of prison lit. yet soul unfettered.
   d.) Here Brutus & Cassius fought Octavius & Anton;
      became a miniature Rome.
   e.) Paul came in ans. to Macedonian call.
   f.) Timothy--taught by Eunice & Lois there.
   g.) Bond slaves--no priestly prerogative--bot by
      His precious blood. Does not cite apostleship--
      not challenged. Slaves are not free to do
      whatever they want! This slave will never
   h.) All Saints in Christ.
(1) Not perfect.
(2) Set apart from world.
(3) Intended for high & holy purposes.
(4) Not canonized but imputes to mean God's great ideal - inspires men to deserve the title.
(5) Tell man better things are expected of him - an angel lies buried in you (Meyer), possibilities are there.
(6) Inspire hope & high purpose.
(7) Live in Christ, not out of Him.
(8) Some saints manifest a special ability - become elders & deacons.
(9) Saints not a special kind of Chr.: called & set apart in Christ.
(10) Saints are holy ones.
(11) Connected with & give glory to Christ.
(12) World takes us at what we ought to be.
(13) We are what we profess to be.
(14) Saints are separated to a special task - holiness.

1 Pet. 2:9 "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his everlasting light.

2. Our longings.

Phil. 1:8 "For God is my record how greatly I long af
a.) Not enuf. to tolerate another Christian - long for him.
b.) We must enjoy his company.
c.) Miss him when he's gone.

John 13:35 "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, because I love you."

d.) Remember how Paul included all in Rom. 16.
(Read portions)
e.) Note he called on God - not frivolously.
f.) Note greatly - "he who loveth God loves his brother also."
g.) Went to all - suppose they were equally attractive.
h.) Tender mercies of Jesus melt our hard hearts.
i.) He felt his heart was beating like the heart of Jesus. We'll love those who love not us.
j.) Bowels - is a literal translation the best one? It means "inward parts" - 10X employed metaphorically. Same as Luke 1:78 - there KJV has tender mercy - not bowels of God. Word for nobler vitals not intestines.
k.) Do we yearn for folks.
l.) Our emotions need to be the emotions of Jesus.

3. Our Bonds.

Phil. 1:13 "So that my bonds in Christ are manifest in:

a.) His imprisonment seen not as a political matter but due to his union with Jesus. Not a breach of law. Nor end of missionary activity.
b.) Either a military reference or a villa; place or men. Is latter. Praetorius guard.
c.) Warden after warden came on duty to guard Paul.
d.) Influence reached out to all others - wider public than just this group. Private body guard of emperor.
e.) We don't know how long he'd been in bonds thus the speed of his influence.

Acts 28:30-31 "And Paul dwelt two whole years in his:
f.) 9000 men composed the imperial body guard.
g.) Paul 1st man to be in chains for Christ.
h.) Strange way to preach the gospel.
i.) Think how many sermons guards, chained to
Furtherance - advance - outdo one's foes, renown barriers.

Paul, heard as changed every 6 hrs.

j.) They would have noted any inconsistency in Paul's story.
k.) Paul had to pay for own quarters??

Acts 28:30 "And Paul dwelt two whole years in his own house.

l.) Note Paul's self-forgetfulness. Bonds destroyed the barriers.
m.) Opposite of cartoon.
n.) Does your "tie" become cause of irritation - can you let it further the gospel?

Phil. 1:14 "And many of the brethren in the Lord, were brought unto God's glorying - rejoyces in his coming to them since he's in Christ.

4. Our Rejoicing.

Phil. 1:26 "That your rejoicing may be more abundant:

a.) Strangely, this verse comes after discussing death!

b.) Of death: James R. Lowell called death "as beautiful as the feet of a friend, coming to welcome us at our journey's end."

Francis Bacon: "Men fear death as children fear the dark."

c.) Death is an improvement over the best, not worst, of life.

d.) Depart: leave something permanently behind; i.e., sailing of a ship, breaking of camp.

e.) As faith enlarges, joy increases.

f.) Paul rejoices in the thought that he will be helpful to them.

g.) Rejoicing is really glorying - rejoices in his coming to them since he's in Christ.
If World Bank President Robert McNamara had met Mrs. Alarin, she would have undoubtedly been in his mind when he said: "two-thirds of mankind—two billion individuals—remain entrapped in a cruel web of circumstances that severely limits their right to the necessities of life. They... are caught in the grip of hunger and malnutrition, high illiteracy, inadequate education, shrinking opportunity, and corrosive poverty."

"One 100 Countries" McNamara

"What Do You Say To a Hungry World?" - By W. Stanley Mooneyham

Page 38
We can see this most clearly in the military operations of the Roman army. Whenever a party of Roman soldiers reached the end of a long day's march they first of all made camp. This was no ordinary camp constructed out of a few tents and several fires. A Roman camp, even when the legion was under pressed marches, was always an elaborate affair. First a rectangle was paced off, large enough to hold the contingent of soldiers. Within the rectangle roads were marked out, a main road leading from the mid-point on one of the long sides of the rectangle to the mid-point on the other long side, and a second main road leading from the mid-point on one of the short sides of the rectangle to the mid-point on the other short side. Where these roads crossed the commander erected his head-quarters. All of the troops occupied assigned places within the encampment. After the rectangle was paced out the entire encampment was secured by moat and rampart, often to a combined height of 10 or 12 feet. The top was reinforced. The corners were strengthened. After this the soldiers settled down for rest and for their evening meal. In the morning camp was struck, and the soldiers moved on. With them went their arms and baggage. Behind lay the camp with all its fortifications like a discarded chrysalis, mute testimony to the fact that they had been there.

Paul suggests that in a similar way Christians break camp to be with Jesus. All that is not
useful lies behind—all of the sin, all of the pain, all of the care and anguish of this world. In death there is great freedom.

"Philippians—An Expositional Commentary"

By James Montgomery Boice

pp. 95-96
HOW DO YOU THINK WE WOULD RATE?

A man visited 18 different churches on successive Sundays to find out what the churches were really like. According to the article that reported this story, the man said, "I sat near the front. After the service, I walked slowly to the rear, then returned to the front and back to the foyer, using another aisle. I smiled. I was dressed neatly. I asked one person to direct me to a specific place -- a fellowship hall, a preacher's study, etc. I remained for coffee, if served. I used a scale to rate the reception I received."

His point scale was:

   10 - for a smile from a worshipper
   10 - for a greeting from someone sitting nearby
   100 - for an exchange of names
   200 - for an invitation to return
   1000 - for an introduction to another worshipper
   2000 - for an invitation to meet the preacher

Would you be interested in know what he found? Eleven of the 18 churches scored fewer than 100 points, and 5 scored less than 20. His conclusion: 'The doctrine may be Biblical, the singing inspirational, the sermon uplifting; but when a visitor finds nobody who cares whether he's there, he is not likely to come back.'

How do you think we would rate? It is so important that each of us strive to make visitors feel welcome, appreciated and wanted. This Sunday make a special effort to reach out to those you do not know.

--Dick Marcear
Amarillo, Tx.

Comment: The scriptures teach all in Christ are priests. We understand this, but our guests may not. I will be very happy to meet any guests to encourage their coming again. It's up to us to make them feel our interest in them. If a guest walks in without knowing anyone, take over as their host and introduce them to others. ...CMC
IT'S A WIN-WIN SITUATION
Phil. 1:21-26

I. Seldom in life do I find myself in an absolute Win-Win situation.
A. It makes no difference how events turn I'm a winner.
   1. Vandy plays Kentucky.
   2. Rain or shine, I love this class.
B. But with Christ it is absolute--to live is Christ; to die is gain.
C. This makes being a Christian the most wonderful thing in the world. Let's examine some of its joys and benefits.

II. For me to live is Christ
A. Paul's total devotion to Christ that events make no difference.
   1. Goethe "those who hope for no other life are dead even in this."
   2. Loving Christ we can always express our emotion and give vent to desires within us.
   3. We can experience satisfaction.
   4. There is a life that is not transitory but is never ending.
   5. For me to live is ___________.
      Fill in the blank: popular, good grades, a car, having money, having fun, security.
B. Is Christ
   1. No concept of life apart from Him.
   2. Christ the center & circumference of entire life.
   3. Christ is the reason & resource for living.
4. Everything pales into insignificance beside the face of Christ.
5. To whatever world death shall introduce us, Christ will be the Lord of it— he has the keys of Hades.
6. To live, to die follow each other--there is but a comma between them. Life is but death's vestibule.
7. Lit. "to me life is Christ."

C. To Die
1. Our only other possibility.
2. 2nd question--what does death mean to us?
3. We react strongly when asked are we ready to die?
4. Consider death apart from NT gospel.
5. Only with Jesus do we get another view.
6. Not talking so much about dying but the state in which we find ourselves after death.
7. To some death is a most dreadful monster.
D. Is Gain 2 Cor. 5:6-8
   1. Door to more glorious life.
   2. Gain—not just a release.
   3. Utterly & absolutely free from sin.
   4. We can be with Christ.
   5. A communion that is unbroken--never an intermission, enjoy a companionship forever.

III. But if I live in the flesh, this is the Fruit of my labor.
    A. Fruit is souls.
    B. Wants his fruit to remain whether he sees it or not.

IV. Doesn't know what to choose.
    A. Has some ambivalent feelings.
    B. Inspiration does not answer every personal feeling.
    C. Feels he'll see them again—but the one thing expected—do stand fast!

V. In a Strait Betwixt Two.
   A. Means held by both at the same time.
      1. Like a man hedged between 2 walls.
      2. Equal distribution on both sides.
      3. So hemmed in he's stationary.
      4. Wants to be free of prison of stone & flesh.
      5. Desire a very passionate word.
   B. Depart & be with Christ.
      1. Many meanings.
         a) Break camp.
         b) Release ship from moorings--loose away--always upward.
         c) 2 Tim. 4:6 same word.
         d) Heavyweight that holds.
e) Luke 12:36
f) Lu. 6 our word--broke up and moved to Louisville.
g) Prepare for departure.
h) Migrate, return home.
i) Ship lifts anchor--thus death is like passing from this land over narrow sea to find destination.
j) Striking tent--the beginning of a journey--here we live in tents with no permanent dwelling place. We seek a city not an encampment but one immovable whose builder is God.

2. Be With Christ
   a) Loose tent peg and be in Jesus.
   b) When see Jesus--no soul sleeping or purgatory.
   c) How long after death do you expect to see Jesus?
   d) Far better--heaped up words. Double comparative--very far better. Highest superlative.
   e) Proponents of soul sleeping argue that death in fact does away with time so far as the consciousness of the believer is concerned. When he awakens at the resurrection, no time has passed for him.
   f) I want to be with Jesus immediately!
VI. An Alternate Consideration.

A. Nevertheless--to abide in the flesh is more needful for you.
   1. I can't put together all pieces that tell of Heaven & hereafter (how is it always up?)
   2. Paul's not omniscient--he could not determine for himself alone how the case would terminate.
   3. Acquittal or death?
   5. However the trial goes what he has lived for will be prompted and Christ honored.
   6. The choice--live or die--is God's to make.
   7. Death best for him but not for others.
   8. Confidence means to persuade--after long pondering the matter he feels it's needful for him to stay. Thus comes a firm conclusion.
   9. He wants his presence to result in their progress.

B. I know--I declare after consideration.

C. Joy of the faith--Lightfoot said faith here is objective--that which is believed, the content of the gospel--Jude 3 earliest NT use of the faith.

D. Stand fast!
E. Paul's release will serve several purposes.
   1) Their progress in the faith.
   2) Joy that is in the faith.
   3) The abounding glory in Christ through Paul.

Neely's Bend BC – 3/3/02
Charles Lamb, a man of letters, wrote: "I detest, abhor and execrate thee, to be shunned as a universal viper, to be branded, proscribed, and evil spoken of. I care not to be carried with the tide that smoothly bears human life to eternity. I'm in love with this green earth, the face of town and country, the unspeakable rural solitudes and the sweet security of streets. I would set up my tabernacle here, a new state of being stagers me.

We can see this most clearly in the military operations of the Roman army. Whenever a party of Roman soldiers reached the end of a long day's march they first of all made camp. This was no ordinary camp constructed out of a few tents and several fires. A Roman camp, even when the legion was under pressed marches, was always an elaborate affair. First a rectangle was paced off, large enough to hold the contingent of soldiers. Within the rectangle roads were marked out, a main road leading from the mid-point on one of the long sides of the rectangle to the mid-point on the other long side, and a second main road leading from the mid-point on one of the short sides of the rectangle to the mid-point on the other short side. Where these roads crossed the commander erected his headquarters. All of the troops occupied assigned places within the encampment. After the rectangle was paced out the entire encampment was secured by moat and rampart, often to a combined height of ten or twelve feet. The top was reinforced. The corners were strengthened. After this the soldiers settled down for rest and for their evening meal. In the morning camp was struck, and the soldiers moved on. With them went their arms and baggage. Behind lay the camp with all its fortifications like a discarded chrysalis, mute testimony to the fact that they had been there.

Paul suggests that in a similar way Christians break camp to be with Jesus. All that is not useful lies behind—all of the sin, all of the pain, all of the care and anguish of this world. In death there is great freedom.
WHERE IS YOUR CITIZENSHIP?
Phil. 1:25-27

I. To be sure Paul was an expectant man (v. 25-26).

A. However the cookie crumbles he expects it to be a pure blessing: to stay is necessary and will be a joy—to leave is gain.
   1. He'll be productive here.
   2. He'll be promoted if he gains.
   3. Knows Heaven is worth waiting for.
   4. Nothing matters—just so I'm told—well done, good and faithful.

B. No one saw better his needs to serve others and the happiness that comes from it.

C. Yet fairly said "I do not know".
   1. 26X in NT.
   2. 18X it's from Paul.

D. Made the desire (usually sexual) to a pure word.

E. His own desires are balanced with the needs of others.

F. Never far from his theme word "joy" (v. 25-26). Their confident joy can only increase.

II. Then he moves to his citizenship plea—v. 27.

A. I've told you how to die—now I tell you how to live in a daily operation.
   1. Their fortitude in face of death made a great impression.
   2. Proof the gospel has something to offer.
3. It is not a collection of prohibitions, restrictions and restraints.
4. Sis "all the pretty no-nos."
5. Gospel is never separated from the actions of life.

B. Only let your conversation
1. Manner of life
2. Behavior
3. Citizenship
4. Commonwealth of which we are a member has its citizenship in Heaven.
5. Always behave like a faithful citizen.
6. It means to shoulder duties, responsibilities, with citizenship.

C. It's becoming.
1. Means befitting, congruous, corresponding.
2. Lit. be of equal weight--does your citizenship add us to the gospel you preach.
3. Conduct yourself worthy of the citizen of the city.
4. They were proud of earthy citizenship--be thankful similar for the heavenly one.
5. It requires a tenacious spirit in face of adversities.
6. He's a citizen of heaven in his conduct.
7. Becomes--matches what your claims are.
8. But colonist in this world.

I Pet. 2:11-12 [as you were aliens and strangers]

Titus 2:14 [be yourselves for us]

9. Whole conduct governed by the gospel.

D. Gospel governs.
   1. Heavenly origin, heavenly destiny, heavenly life here.
   2. Gospel standard for pure piety.
   3. Original term suggests membership in a society which confers special privileges.

III. Thus Plans for Immediate Future

A. Whether I come and see you
   1. Coming uncertain
   2. But conduct sure
   3. Godliness is independent of the circumstances of life.

B. Or hear of your affairs
   1. We'd shy away from "affairs" usage.
   2. Be reverent, devout, thankful, joyful, holy.

C. The absolute necessity--stand fast.
   1. Determination of a soldier not to move from his post of duty.
   2. Exhortation to courage, strength, fortitude.

I Tim. 3:12

3. We are attacked intellectually, philosophically, scientifically.
4. 1 spirit--1 mind.
5. Striving--wrestle.
   a) The faith—no compromise.
   b) Things you will not give up.
7. Not terrified—startled horse.

D. Acknowledge Adversaries
1. Authorities
2. Science
3. Worldliness
4. Scoff at suffering of the gospel—"OK as far as it goes."
5. Persecution—answer phone "I'm not here"—no promotion.

Luke 12:4–5

Neely's Bend BC - 3/17/02
Funeral, Charlie Mae Hudgens - 5/20/02
I think they call it Postmodernism now: Jack Rogers, this year’s Presbyterian moderator and retired Theological Seminary administrator, denounced conservatives in the church who want Presbyterians to profess that Jesus Christ is the only way to salvation, that the Bible is the only infallible rule of faith and life, and that heterosexual marriage is the only context for sexual activity.

Several people quickly answered last week’s word puzzle. The correct answer is: Caldieker and the three bears. Nauvoo Child.
THE PHILLIPIAN AFFAIR
Phil. 1:27

I. Some words have only one meaning--yet could have more.
   A. Propoganda--bad, could be good.
   B. Affair--usually sinful unfaithfulness; but Paul had a fine Phillipian affair.
   C. To the church that gave him the fewest problems, he tells them what he wants them to be. Shall we see & then ask are we of the same spirit?

Phil. 1:27 "Only let your conversation"

II. The Glorious Ideal

A. Only
   1. Suggests one essential to focus on--living lives worthy of the gospel. (MacArthur)
   2. Be careful for this and nothing else. (Wesley)
   3. His dream:
      a) Live as Christian citizen.
      b) Become the gospel of Christ.
      c) Stand firm in one spirit.
      d) With one mind strive together for the faith of the gospel.

B. Citizenship cited.
   1. Folk proud to be Roman.
   2. They called themselves Romans.
   Acts 16:20-21 *Customs not lawful being Romans*
   3. Though they were 800 miles from Rome felt this their mother.
   4. Felt they were a part of Rome, spoke Latin, wore Roman dress, used Roman titles--never forgot who they were nor to whom they belonged.
5. So if you are proud of earthly citizenship be more so of heavenly citizenship.

6. As you are called to live by city laws--live by heaven's laws.


8. Members of a greater commonwealth than Rome, presided over by a greater Caesar, greater privileges via Sonship & access to God, protection, direction, strength & at last dwelling with God.

C. Conversation

1. Manner of life.
2. Behavior, conduct.
3. Public duty devolving on a man as a member of a body.
4. Was a political city therefore uses figure of political franchise as apt symbol of higher privilege of heavenly calling. (Wuest)
5. Commonwealth of which we are citizens has its fixed location in heaven.

6. We see that we are citizens of heaven, have heavenly origin, heavenly destiny, responsibility to live a heavenly life in midst of ungodly people, telling sinners of a Savior who will save them.

7. Original term suggests membership in a society which confers special privileges.
8. Refers to city and city life.
9. Word means to conduct one's self worthy as a citizen of the city-state-(polis).
10. It's a life of Christian citizenship.
11. Let's live as a citizen, yet no political side of life taught in the N.T.
12. Conversation is politics, police, citizenship.

D. Becomes the Gospel of Christ.
1. Phillippians are urged to act upon themselves in recognizing their duties with respect to their heavenly citizenship middle voice, the subject acts upon itself.
2. We recognize our privilege therefore we exhort ourselves.
3. Becometh = having the weight of, weighing as much as another thing; worth as much; corresponding.
4. Practice must accord profession.
5. We have daily to live in a manner that becomes our calling.

E. Gospel of Christ
1. Our lives must weigh as much as the gospel we profess to believe, else our words have no weight.
2. Gospel is to elevate a life into the manner of life Jesus lived. (D.L.)
3. He died as a man that men might live like God. (D.L.)
4. Gospel is the standard of true piety.
5. Let there be no discrepancy between creed & daily conduct.
6. Live the gospel life.

E. Whether Paul—
1. Comes
   a) Whatever happens deport yourself as a faithful Christian.
   b) Regardless of what happens to Paul, behave as citizen.
   c) If present let me see.
2. Absent
   a) If absent let me hear.
   b) Our work must be the same whether our religious guides are present or absent.
   c) His coming uncertain but their pursuit of conduct must be sure.
   d) Their godliness independent of the circumstances of his life.
   e) Do we have to have someone watching us to make us live it? The teacher out of the room scenario.

F. Affairs
   1. State
   2. Our responsibilities not a transient affair but a permanent obligation.

III. Further Obligation
A. Stand firm in One Spirit.
   1. Steadfastness is vital.

Dan. 1:21 Dan. continued 1st Cyrus
   2. It's not the flash of a meteor but the constant radiance of the fixed star.
3. Word is the determination of a soldier not to budge from his post.
4. Like soldiers Christians are uncompromising in their position.
5. Ever need for unanimity.

Eph. 4:3 "Keep the unity of the Spirit"

1. We must not say one thing & do another.
2. Do folk hear the gospel proclaimed but don't see it lived?
3. Striving
   a) Wrestle
   b) Struggle—a team striving for a victory.
   c) Athletic metaphor for teamwork.
   d) United effort is necessary for victory.
   e) Quietly and resolutely hold our ground.

Eph. 6:13-14
Phil. 4:1

f) Chrysostom, "Nothing is so incongruous in a Christian and foreign to his character as to seek ease & rest."

4. Together
   a) They are members of a body not isolated individuals but knit in one body.
   b) Don't let misunderstanding jar the unity.
c) Christians are to work within the organization, the church.

5. Faith of the Gospel
   a) Objective faith, the body of truth.
   b) Taught that his manner must be duty to whole body of which he is one member & to head of the group to whom he is responsible.
   c) Fight not for territory or treasure but for Truth.
   d) Practice aggressive Christianity.
   e) Citizenship requires a tenacious spirit in face of suffering & opposition.

Beville Rd., Daytona Beach, FL - 1/27/92
Funeral, Mrs. Gladys Carver - 1/22/92
Funeral, Mr. Fred Browning - 1/23/92
Granny White - 1/22/92
Hendersonville church - 2/2/92
Maryville, TN 2/10/92
Huntington Park, Shreveport, LA - 3/1/92
Training for Service Series, L.R., AR - 3/18/92
Plainview, TX - 3/27/92
Skyline - Jackson, TN - 4/6/92
Woodbine - 4/14/92
Pratt, KS - 4/20/92
The ladies at a bridge club invited a surgeon as a guest speaker for their monthly business meeting. He addressed them, “You know, I have operated on many people over a number of years. I have performed thousands of operations on every part of the anatomy. This forces me to some very difficult conclusions. After looking at every part of man, I have come to the conclusion that man has no soul. I have never seen one.”

One lady raised her hand. “Doctor,” she asked, “have you ever operated on any brains?”

“Yes, thousands,” he said.

“Did you ever find a thought?” she asked.

At the Saints and Sinners party in Washington, when then-Secretary of Defense Charles E. Wilson, was initiated, there was a skit of Wilson in his Pentagon office. An aide came in to say a life insurance salesman was waiting to see him. “Send him in,” said the actor portraying Wilson. “You don’t really want to see an insurance salesman, do you?” the surprised aide protested. “I certainly do,” said Wilson. “He’s the only guy I’ve been able to find around here who has a definite policy.” -Liz Carpenter
1. We must never lose sight of the fact we are a heavenly colony here on earth.
   A. Their citizenship is in Heaven and we must faithfully fulfill the duties of this citizenship.
      1. "Conversation" in KJV.
         a) Talk to us.
         b) From Latin "to conduct oneself." The behavior pattern.
         c) Whole life--conduct in words, actions, habits.
         d) Whole behavior worthy of those pledged to Christ.
      2. Lit. "walk about" (behave). Politics in GK was citizen.
      3. Colony never forgot they were Romans--spoke Latin, wore Roman clothes, called their magistrates by Latin names.
      4. Stubbornly insisted on being Romans though far from Rome.
      5. Thus wherever you are act like citizen of Heaven.
      6. In unity--bound together in one spirit.
      7. They were of one spirit, bound together as band of brothers.

B. Their citizenship not easy to perform as had adversaries.
   1. In nothing terrified.
      a) Word only here in NT.
b) Terror of a startled horse.
c) Horse terrified and plunges at some object--generally things half seen and mistakes it for something dreadful.
d) Half look and mistaken view of power of adversary.
e) Scared horse dashes off wildly.
f) Panic, dismay.
g) So courage and wisdom needed.

2. Paul expects steadfastness.
3. World is too full of retreating Christians who do not hold their ground. They play down their citizenship.
4. He expects cool, courage.
5. Strive as a team--stand side by side like one man.

C. Note we have adversaries.
1. Never give up.
2. They may look like being beyond defeating.

D. Your resistance their judgement.
1. Your steadfastness causes pagan to give us and see Christians have something they do not possess.
2. Evident token used only here and Rom. 3:25-26; II Cor. 8:24.
3. It means a pointing out.
4. It's translated at least 5 different ways--omen, proof, sign--it is an indeniable manifestation of reality.
E. Perdition
1. Some on way to hell, others to Heaven.
2. Though adversaries numerous, mighty, terrible, yet certain to perish.
3. Perdition = hopeless ruin--natural world is full of warnings.
4. Thunder squanders calm.
5. State of habitual moral insensitivities--have only a quiet sleeping conscience, a loss of conviction, a relapse into carelessness.

F. Contrasts with your salvation.
1. Greatest enemies of cross are inconsistent Christians.
2. Strive as competitors in a game.
3. Lukewarmness is offensive.
4. Contend for the faith not a fragment of it.
5. Very significant church--gateway to Europe.
6. Put your heart and soul enthusiastically into what you do.

II. You are called to suffer for Christ.
A. Paul's friends knew he loved them and so did Christ.
B. Christianity is not:
1. A head trip but body and soul.
2. Not an individual trip but corporation.
3. Not vague but Christ our model.
C. Given gift of Grace.
1. Suffering a privilege not a curse.
2. Suffering a token of God's favor.
3. Sign God looks on you with favor.
4. "Conflict" from athletic contest--word for agony.
5. Suffer not because of our sins or foolishness, but due to our allegiance to Christ.

D. They know what Paul is going through.

C. Causes of Suffering: Death, Depression, guilt, illness, abuse, loss of job, false accusations, volume.

Brings: pain, disappointment, frustration, anger.

Heb 12:2 Ps 19:1-12 1 Pet 5:7

Live in obedience, faithful to God's purpose.

Examples: compose, meditate, pray, rest.

Neely's Bend BC (Part 1) - 3/24/02
Neely's Bend BC (Part 2) - 4/14/02
Silver Point - 6/7/02
A story is told of a man who found a cocoon of the emperor moth. He took it home to watch it develop. One day a small opening appeared, and for several hours the moth struggled but couldn't seem to force its body past a certain point. Thinking something was wrong, the man snipped away the cocoon with a pair of scissors. The moth emerged easily, its body large and swollen, the wings small and shriveled. He expected that in a few hours the wings would spread out in their natural beauty, but they did not. Instead of developing into a creature free to fly, the moth spent its life dragging around a swollen body and shriveled wings.

The constricting cocoon and the struggle necessary to pass through the tiny opening are God's way of forcing fluids from the body into the wings. The merciful snip of scissors was, in reality, cruel. Sometimes the struggle is exactly what we need.

When suffering comes, commit yourself to God's plan and his will. Commit to our "faithful Creator and continue to do good" (1 Peter 4:19). The word *commit*, sometimes translated "entrust," is a banking term that means to deposit. The idea is depositing a treasure into safe and trustworthy hands. When it comes to trials, we deposit ourselves into God's safekeeping, trusting that our deposit will yield eternal dividends.
Where did these faithful servants of God find the strength to press on? The writer of Hebrews says "Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God" (Hebrews 12:2).

Finding Strength in God's Word

Brenda was 15 years old when she
Fear limits a leader. Roman historian Tacitus wrote, "The desire for safety stands against every great and noble enterprise." But courage has the opposite effect. It opens doors, and that's one of its most wonderful benefits. Perhaps that's why British theologian John Henry Newman said, "Fear not that your life will come to an end but that it will never have a beginning." Courage not only gives you a good beginning, but it also provides a better future.

--John C. Maxwell

The 21 Indispensable Qualities of a Leader

pg.41
I. I'll pull a President Clinton – define "If."

A. Usually a provision that needs be added – "if you will help me I'd be able to do it."

B. Or it could be the way you present an impossibility.
   1. The "if" gives no variance.
   2. The "if" is as positive as you can say it: "if there is a God in glory" – without a doubt there surely is God.

C. Our Philippian passage is the latter-four great ifs that aren't ifs – they are as certain as things can be.

D. Let's look at them.

II. Four certain "ifs."

   A. First let's see why they are now introduced.

      1. Paul is expanding on exhortation of Chapter One.

      2. He wants unity and he speaks of four things that will produce it.

      3. We've been talking about citizenship beyond the Roman idea – it's the heavenly citizenship.
         a) Stand for the faith.
         b) Be united against all adversaries.
c) Maintain an inner harmony.
d) Enhance your witness for Christ.
e) Conditional clauses thus become factual and true.
f) "If" used in view of the facts.
g) Now ready for the four "ifs."

B. Four "Ifs"

1. If there be any consolation in Christ.
   a) Consolation "to come to the side of one."
   b) Thus to stimulate another and encourage them.
   c) Parakless "to call to one's side.
   d) About this if there can be no doubt.
   e) Rather strong affirmation.
   f) Some think this word could be rendered exhortation.

2. If any comfort of love.
   a) "The Philippians had an intimate, loving forebearing relationship with each other because they jointly enjoyed the fellowship of participation in the Holy Spirit." (Tolle)
   b) Followers of Christ give proof of their ardent love for each other in case of distress, persecution.
3. If there be any fellowship of the spirit.
   a) The presence of and the power of the spirit in the life of the Christian is never an incitement of confusion and factionalism, but always an encouragement to peace and unity.
   b) Wesley - "They also sanction some reasonable amount of attention to one another's interests."
   c) We work toward maintaining fellowship.
   d) Mutual partakers of the Holy Spirit.

4. If there be any bowels of mercy.
   a) Tender mercy in compassion designating the pity and sympathy we have toward each other.
   b) Action based on moral wisdom.
   c) Everyone has some concern about himself.

Rom. 12:10 In honour preferring one another.

Rom. 15:1-2
   d) God wants us to reproduce the qualities of Christ as we live for each other.
e) Do these fol for whom Paul haggarded his life feel sympathetic tenderness for him now, in a farther state of suffering? (Clark)

III. If these things abide in me what will be produced?

A. Fulfill ye my joy. Can there be real joy if something is omitted?

1. Do it for Paul. Can there be real joy if something is omitted?

2. Feel evidence of personal pull as we thrill in our work the teaching of others.

3. Paul felt joy for them — now they show respect for him as they complete a unity that was lacking.

4. Complete his joy — (there is our word again.)

5. Let your love be like Paul's, for God, for His cause.

B. They will produce four positive things.

1. They will be like-minded.
   a) They will think the same things.
   b) We find Christians that cannot agree on length of hair, skirts, sermons.

2. Having the same love.
   a) Love the same things.
   b) Love the same things, have the same love to one another, have the same type of love for the Lord.
3. Be of one accord.
   a) Unity of sentiment.
   b) Greek word for one accord does not appear elsewhere in the New Testament.
   c) Literally "with united soul."
   d) Perfectly agreed in laboring to promote the honor of the Master.

4. Of one mind.
   a) Means the same mind.
   b) Think the same thing as it emphasizes the oneness of union that should prevail in the church.
   c) Constantly intent on this great subject--eyes fixed on all you say, do, or intend.

IV. Now come that great instructions in how to make our associations in Christ all the more meaningful.
A. Let nothing be done through strife or vain glory.
1. "Doing" in this text means to think nothing relative to thinking or feeling, rather than doing.
2. It's the thought or attitude that determines whether an action be good or bad. (Tolle)
3. The first thought is to abstain from faction.
4. Fraction men desire to build up followers to himself rather than Christ.
5. He desires to build his clique or party rather than the body of Christ.
6. Vain glory = vain, empty, pomposity.
7. We try to persuade ourselves that disunity is caused by our loyal stand for the truth, but could be self preference, or self interest.
8. Vain glorious men are the scorn of wise men, the admiration of fools, the idols of parasites, slaves to their own vanity.

B. Contrastingly use all lowliness of mind as we let each esteem others "better than themselves."
1. The man lowly of mind as to his spiritual life is independent of men and free from slavish feeling while sensible or continued dependence on God.
2. Corn that bends lowest is fullest.
3. God chose vine, lamb, dove.
4. God spoke to Moses in a bush, not a lofty cedar.

Frederick the Great sent a sword to Geo Washington "from the oldest soldier to the greatest"
5. Man who is generous can't think the stingy is better than he.

6. Others—lowly in mind does not fix his mind on the points in which he excels others, but on those in which others excel him.

7. Consider ideas and feels of others.

8. Man can subordinate his own things to that of others, but he cannot ignore himself.

9. He is not flaunting his personal prestige to have his opinion sought, to be known by name, listened to in fame or flattery.

10. Does not concentrate on himself.

11. Christian derence is the antithesis of selfishness.

12. Centripetal force moves toward the center.

13. Centrifugal force moves to the circumference.

14. How pure are our motives?

C. Look not every man on his own things.

1. Greek word for "looking" means give fixed attention upon the desire or interest in.

2. Yet this prohibits our closing our eyes to others.
3. How do we look at others?  
   Inquisitively? Enviously? Uncaring?  
4. Why look? - Mutual needs,  
   pleasure of sharing, rewards it  
   brings, example of Christ.  
5. Look for the strong points in  
   your neighbor.  
6. See his strong points that exceed  
   your strength.  
7. Give honor and encouragement.  

Neely's Bend BC (Part I) - 4/28/02  
Neely's Bend BC (Part II) - 5/5/02
III. Note the 4 "Ifs".
   A. Consolation in Christ.
      1. Used to mean and does to us comfort.
2. King James' time it meant encouragement.
3. What does Christ encourage you to do? Anything bad?
4. To console & comfort was to come along side to stimulate & encourage.
5. One defines it as gentle cheering, tender counsel.

B. Comfort In Love
1. Sometimes we are hard to get along with, so let's love.

Jn. 13:34"A new commandment I give unto you"
2. Love tenderly lifts the spirits.
3. Agape

C. Fellowship of the Spirit
I Jn. 1:6-7
1 Cor. 12:13"For by one spirit are we all bap"
1. Share the Spirit.
2. Go in common with Him.
4. United with the Spirit we are benefited by all He supplies.
5. He is: our earnest, our author, our teacher, our prayer partner.

D. If any bowels & mercy.
1. Mercy has to do with God.
2. Tender & compassionate.

IV. Now Comes 5 Points: 3-, 2+
A. Fulfill ye my joy.
1. Make my day.
2. If you really love me, this is the present I want from you.
3. Unity would bring Paul his greatest joy.

B. Likeminded
1. Think the same thing.
2. Word of God the standard for this.
3. Coolidge & red dog - #2.

C. Same love.
1. Goodness is the only investment that never fails. (H. D. Thoreau)

D. One accord.
1. GK word for accord only here.
2. Lit. with united souls. Perfect pair.
3. One-souled.
4. He has the right to criticize who has the heart to help. (Lincoln)

E. Nothing by Strife or Vainglory.
1. Do we manifest a selfish egotism?
2. Had to be our way?
3. Any brother to whom we do not speak?
5. "When people speak to you about a preventive war, you tell them to go and fight it. After my experience, I have come to hate war. War settles nothing." (Dwight Eisenhower)

F. Lowliness of mind.
1. True humility.
2. Unity says set aside self-interests.
3. Unity is born of humility.
4. Some guys take defeat like a man—they blame it on somebody else.
G. Esteem Others Better.
1. We are truly little—we utterly depend on God.
2. This not to the absolute—the drunkard is not better than you.
3. We love a caring church.
   (Story of Joe & Lost Money) - #5.
4. Christ calls for a different lifestyle.
5. We rid ourselves of selfish ambitions.
6. Word hits us where we are living.
H. Look not on our own things but things of others.
1. Vain conceit to look after only your own interests.
2. Jesus our perfect example.
3. Shift attention away from ourselves.
4. "You have not lived a perfect day, even though you have earned your money, unless you have done something for someone who will never be able to repay you."
5. Weaver story - #7.
Beltline, Decatur, AL - 2/10/91
Maryville, TN - 3/3/91

West Président - Greenwood, MS - 3/11/91
Commentator William Barclay wrote, "There is a sense in which (disunity) is the danger of every healthy church. It is when people are really in earnest and their beliefs really matter to them, that they are apt to get up against each other. The greater their enthusiasm, the greater the danger that they may collide."

FROM: A Plea For Unity, John McArthur, Jr. Pg. 24

Artist Howard Chandler Christy was commissioned to do a portrait of First Lady Grace Coolidge, who wanted to pose with a white collie. Christy suggested that she wear a red gown for contrast. When the President, who valued thriftiness, heard that a new dress might be involved, he suggested, "Why not wear white and paint the dog red?"

—Frank Cormier, Presidents Are People Too (Public Affairs Press)
Valuable Kiss – The morning peck on the cheek as the spouse leaves for work may result in more than affection. An insurance company survey reveals the husband who kisses his wife in the morning will probably live five years longer than the one who doesn’t. What’s more, a kissing husband will have fewer auto accidents, lose up to 50 percent less time from work due to illness and will earn 20 to 30 percent more than the non-kissing husband.

The story is told of one of the generals of Cyrus the Great, king of Persia. One of his generals came home from a campaign and was shocked to find that in his absence his wife had been arrested and was languishing in prison, charged with treachery against her country. The trial was to be held that very day. The general hastened to the court of Cyrus, and the guards brought in his own beloved wife. Pale and anxious, she tried to answer the charges brought against her, but all to no avail. Her husband, standing near, heard the stern voice of the Persian ruler pronounce the death sentence. As they were about to drag her away to behead her, he ran forward and threw himself down at the feet of the Emperor. “Oh, sire,” he cried, “not she, but me. Let me give my life for hers. Put me to death, but spare my wife.”

As Cyrus looked upon him, he was so touched by the general’s deep devotion and love for his wife that his heart was softened. He remembered, too, how faithful this general had been, and he gave the command that the wife should go free. She was fully pardoned.

As her husband led her out of the room, he said to her, “Did you notice the kind look in the eyes of the Emperor as he pronounced the word of pardon?” She said, “I did not see the face of the Emperor. The only face that I could see was that of the man who was willing to die for me.” Oh, when we get Home, when we see the face of the Man who did die for us, how our hearts will praise Him! How we will rejoice in His presence as we say, “The Son of God... loved me, and gave Himself for me.”
Mark Twain resented it when he was invited to a banquet as an eating guest and then was called on to make a speech.

At one such banquet, he was about the start the main course, when he heard the toastmaster announce, "And now, I will ask our good friend, Mark Twin, to say a few words."

Twain put down his knife and fork, got up and said, "Waiter, please bring the bread," and sat down.

Writing on Christian contentment, Puritan preacher Jeremiah Burroughs said, "One who creeps low cannot fall far, but it is those who are on high whose fall bruises them most. That is a good rule: do not promise yourself great things, neither aim at any great things in the world."

FROM: A Plea For Unity, John McArthur, Jr. Pg. 53
“POOR OLD Joe,” a man said to his friend, “since he lost all of his money, half of his friends have deserted him.”

“What about the other half?” his companion asked.

“They don’t know he’s broke,” the first man said.

A little boy told a sales clerk he was shopping for a birthday gift for his mother and asked to see some cookie jars. At a counter with a large selection of jars, he carefully lifted and replaced each lid. His face fell as he came to the last one. “Aren’t there any lids that don’t make any noise?”

********

Of 1,000 teenagers 25 percent do not discuss their day’s activities with their parents. Forty-two percent had not received parental words of praise during the 24-hour period tested. Half had not gotten a hug or kiss and fifty-four percent had not heard the words, “I love you.” Seventy-nine percent said they had not been helped with homework by a parent.

The Nat’l. Gallup Youth Survey.
And then some . . .

A prominent salesman friend of mine summed up his success in three simple words: "and then some." He discovered at an early age, he said, that most of the difference between average people and top people could be explained in three words:

"The top people did what was expected of them - and then some. They were thoughtful to others; they were considerate and kind - and then some. They met their obligations and responsibilities fairly and squarely - and then some. They were good friends to their friends - and then some. They could be counted on in an emergency - and then some."

All of us want the best out of life. We want to be healthy and happy and to have things than can enrich our experience. Yet, though we strive for these things, we can end up dissatisfied . . . Remember, joy is not in things, it is in us. With and then some internalized - part of our everyday behavior - we will give more, we will get more, and we will want more from life! It will be a life, and then some!

Richard L. Weaver
Professor, Bowling Green State University
Kentucky
IF I HAD A FINAL WISH FOR THE CHURCH, WHAT
WOULD THAT WISH BE? Phil. 2:1-4
I. Surely all of us have dreams unfulfilled.
A. Baptize more people.
B. Increase contribution.
C. Get greater Bible School enrollment.
D. But these things are "outward" dreams - Paul had
   an inward one:
   Phil. 2:1-4 "If there be therefore any consolation in
1. How many ever heard this voiced?
2. How many believe as for Philippi we can make it
   become real at West End?
3. Shall we then study the dream?
II. There are Four "If's."
   A. Those "if's."
      1. If there be any consolation in Christ.
      2. If any comfort of love.
      3. If any fellowship of the Spirit.
      4. If any bowels & mercies.
      5. Let's see each - because the fulfillment of these
         "if's" is part of the dream.
   B. If there be any consolation in Christ.
      1. This means encouragement in spiritual activity.
      Acts 9:31 "Then had the churches rest, edified, walk.
      2 Cor. 1:5 "For as the sufferings of Christ abound in
          2. What encouragement have you found in Christ, or
do you get more somewhere else?
      3. Does Christ have power to stir your heart?
         Stimulate emotions? Constraint will?
C. If Any Comfort of Love.

1. If we give prominence to small things, it weakens a church.
2. How strongly has the gospel taken hold of us?
3. Have in the bond of perfectedness.

D. If Any Fellowship of the Spirit.

1. This too an inner action.
2. Spirit reveals the mind of God.
   1 Cor. 2:10 "But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit."
   2 Cor. 13:14 "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, & the love of God, & the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with you all."
   1 Cor. 12:13 "For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether be enslaved or free; and have been made to drink into one Spirit."

E. If any bowels & mercies.

1. Final of 4 things that are to encourage 4 following things.
2. Bowels = tender emotions, confined to heart.
3. Mercies = compassion, to others shown, depended.
4. Do we feel a brother's pain & need?

III. Here's My Cup - Fill it Up!

V. 2 "Fulfill ye my joy.

A. It too is fourfold as were the "if's" - the fourfold unity in Christ.
   1. Be likeminded.
   2. Have the same love.
   3. Be of one accord.
   4. Be of one mind.
   5. But note the personal pull - do it for me!

B. Shall we examine these?
   1. Be likeminded.
      (a) Danger of disunity threatened the Phil. church.
      (b) When one is eager to carry out his own plans he meets opposition.
      (c) Christ is projected as the Christian ideal.
      (d) We are regulated by a state of mind.
      (e) As Paul suffered to promote gospel what are you doing? Bill Mead said, "Here to study - leave to scatter."
      (f) Sometimes denotes act of understanding, or act of will. Set affections on things above (4:10).

2. Have the same love.
   (a) Sink individualism in the enthusiasm of common love.
3. Be of One Accord.
(a) Sometimes unity is born of strife. Wolves are united in a desire to destroy!
(b) Harmony - we are not all flutes.
(c) Recognize various gifts, yet done harmoniously.
(d) Does our deepest joy depend on personal conflict or spiritual progress in those we love?

4. Be of one mind.
(a) Can your joy be full if anything is amiss in your people?
(b) Could I say "it's just his tough luck?"
(c) Do you have any ambition greater than advancing Christ?
(d) Can you imagine any not existing unity?
IV. Conclusion.

A. If I have (1) consolation in Christ, (2) comfort of love, (3) fellowship of the Spirit, (4) bowels & mercies.

B. I should have: (1) likemindedness, (2) same love, (3) one accord, & (4) one mind – Thus a united church.

*Reply* 12-30-73

*Traveler* 3-5-74

*Janitor* 9-16-74

*Lake Jackson* 10-14-74
THAT'S THE WAY TO DO IT!

Phil. 2:1-4

I. Oftentimes we've encouraged the proper procedure of infants with "That's the way to do it!"

II. Paul wrote some Christians at Philippi & compliment his expected service of them.
   A. It remains a high ideal for the church.
   B. It's a program within the reach of us all - let's study it.

III. Paul's joy will be full, if
   A. Ye be likeminded.
      1. Relative to his fullness, please note:
         a.) It will be complete.
         b.) They will have reached the ultimate.
         c.) 3X speaks of joy: (V. 4) Partnership in gospel, (V. 18) Christ is preached, (V. 19) My deliverance
   2. Likemindness --
      a.) Means we think the same thing.
      b.) General concord exists.
      c.) Lists of imperatives to be obeyed.
         Has 3 elements
         (1) Have the same love.
            a.) Unity of affection.
            b.) All thoughts molded by impact of Christ on a life.
         (2) Are of one accord.
            a.) Lit. soul c soul.
            b.) Unity of sentiment.
            c.) Don't be fragmented by personalities.
            d.) We can develop personality cults.
            e.) Let our souls be joined together.
(3) Are of one mind.
   a.) Literally thinking the one thing.
   b.) He has used great variety to express the same thing.
   c.) Wants union of heart, feeling, plan, purpose
   d.) Insists on harmony among Chr.
   e.) Take no personal delight in disunity – always a danger of disunity when vigorous enthusiasm collide.

B. Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory.
   1. Through indicates the regulated state of mind.
      a.) Note totality of prohibition.
   2. Strife.
      a.) Some make great claims for themselves & disparage others.
      b.) Faction, contention.
   3. Vainglory.
      a.) To no purpose.
      b.) Futile.
      c.) Emptiness of ideas.
      d.) No vain opinion of yourself.
      e.) Not to do anything to promote self.

C. But in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than themselves.
   1. Lowliness of mind.
      a.) Unselfish & humble in all relationships.
      b.) Modesty, humility.
      c.) Opposite of self evaluation.
   2. Esteem.
      a.) This is a belief that rests on the due consideration given external grounds.
b.) It's weighing & comparing facts.
c.) Must you look on the less capable as being more capable than yourself?
d.) Does the Ph.D. bow to the Sophomore?
e.) No - but promote others more than self.
f.) We know our own defects but don't try to find other's.

D. Our Look.

1. Not every man on his own things.
   a.) Look is to fix attention upon with a desire for and an interest in.
   b.) Not an eye for own interests.
   c.) Words to "O what a beautiful morning...I've got a beautiful feeling - everything going my way."
   d.) Unselfish.
   e.) Prestige sometimes more tempting than wealth.

2. But on the things of others.
   a.) Look for the strong points in your neighbor.
   b.) Give them honor & encouragement.
Rom. 12:10 "Be kindly affectioned one to another with
c.) No one's at liberty to live unto himself.
d.) Be enough interested to lead him to glory."
Two women were talking about long hair on men. "Personally," said one, "I think long hair makes a man look intelligent."

"Oh, I don't know," said the other woman. "I picked a long hair off my husband's coat today, and he looked mighty foolish."

Wife — "I'll be ready in just one more minute, honey."

Husband — "Oh, no need to hurry now, sweetheart. I've got to shave again."

28, 1979

Fred: "Last night I dreamed I married the most beautiful woman in the world."

Myrtle: "Were we happy?"

□ He is always the severest censor of the merits of others who has the least worth of his own.

—E. L. Magoon

GOOD STORIES

Little Tommy came home in a bad state. He had a black eye and numerous cuts and scratches. And his clothes were a mess. His mother was horrified at the sight of him.

Then, with tears in her eyes, she rebuked him. "Oh, Tommy, haven't I told you not to play with that mean boy from down the street?"

"Mom," answered Tommy, with a look of deep disgust, "do I look like I've been playing with anybody?"

—Family Weekly, 12-17-78.

ANDREW CARNEGIE once was asked which he considered the most important factor in industry —labor, capital, or brains. Carnegie quickly replied, "Which is the most important leg of a three-legged stool?"
A rider on horseback during the Revolutionary War came across a squad of soldiers trying to move a heavy piece of timber. A corporal stood by with a self-important air, giving lordly orders to "heave." But the piece of timber was a trifle too heavy for the squad.

"Why don't you help them?" asked the quiet man on the horse, addressing the corporal.

"Me? Why, I'm a corporal, sir!"

Dismounting, the stranger carefully took his place with the soldiers. "Now, all together, boys, heave!" he exclaimed. And the big piece of timber slid into place.

The stranger mounted his horse. Then turning to the corporal, he said, "Next time you have a piece of timber for your men to handle, Corporal, send for the commander-in-chief." The horseman was George Washington!

ME BE LIKE JESUS?, by Leslie B. Flynn
pgs. 103-104, "Humility of Heaven"
A boy lost in Chicago was taken to the nearby police precinct where an officer knew the major landmarks. He asked the lad if there were any train station, pier, airport, or bus terminal near his home. The boy knew of none. When the boy was asked if he knew of any building, he lit up. "There's a big church with a cross lit day and night. And if you take me to the foot of that cross, I'll know my way home." The cross of Christ not only starts us on the heavenly way and provides a dynamic for the trip, but also gives a vivid picture of the Christlike behavior expected during the heavenward journey.

By looking to Jesus,
Like Him thou shalt be;
Thy friends in thy conduct
His likeness shall see.

ME BE LIKE JESUS?, by Leslie B. Flynn
pg. 155, "Loving Winsomeness"
AN AGED SAINT GOES HOME

Phil. 2:3-4

I. For 52 years I've known and had reason to love the Stanton family.
A. Started at Grace Avenue church.
B. Parents were the salt of the earth—godly, refined, successful and joyful in the church.
   1. Loved their children.
   2. Provided a Christian education.
   3. Saw them successfully married.
   4. Shared graduation occasions with the Howard Sees.
   5. P.D. and Carolyn some of our closest friends.
   6. Favor with James and his mother always fascinated me.
   7. Loved going to their nice home and hear the stories of the three musketeers—Howard, Prentice and P.D.

II. The older son, dying in his 94th year, set a pattern.
A. Scholarship via Foster Avenue to DLC.
   1. Unusual ruptured spleen at 12—might live to 16, you see accuracy of forecast.
   2. Attended Hume-Fogg, DLC, Peabody, Masters from Vandy.
4. History teacher Ole Miss, loved railroad development of early west and its history.
5. August 18, 1941 married Gladys Todd.
6. To Warrensburg, MO and work with Central Missouri State Univ. - promoted to head librarian, retired in 1975.
7. Wife's medical condition brought him to Nashville and Sycamore Terrace Retirement Comm.

B. Intensely interested in business and financial affairs.
1. Led him to many gifts as he helped others remembering his depression years.
2. Meharry Medical, Nashville Union Mission, Vandy Children's Hospital, Lakeshore, Jackson Park.
3. With sister and brother-in-law saw Miss. public library needs and helped out.

C. Maintained sense of humor in spite of many and long doctor visits. Recently said to James as they looked at lovely painting of home and lawn: "If we sit here much longer they'll have to mow that grass."
D. I saw happy children lovingly refer to Uncle William.

III. I'm reminded of his application of Philippians 2.
   A. V-3 do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit.
   B. With humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself.
   C. Do not look out merely for your own personal interest.
   D. But for the interest of others.
   E. It is God who is at work in you both to will and to work for His good pleasure.
   F. To live is Christ, to die is gain (Philippians 1:21).

Funeral, William Stanton - 6/21/03
TWO WAYS OF DOING THINGS
Phil. 2:3-4

I. I guess we've all seen two ways of doing things.
   A. Right & wrong.
   B. Hard & easy.
   C. Yours & mine.
   D. Also the Devil's and the Lord!

II. To a church threatened c disunity Paul outlined two ways of doing things:
   Phil. 2:3-4 "Let nothing be done thru strife or vainglory:
   A. Wrong way.
      1. Things done thru strife,
         (a) We try to persuade ourselves disunity caused by our loyal stand for truth but could be self interest!
         (b) Really saying think to do nothing thru strife.
            Dismiss even the thought of it.
   2. Done thru vainglory.
      (a) Desire for personal recognition.
      (b) Personal prestige - empty glory.
      (c) This is to have your opinion sought, known of man, listened to, fame, flattery.
      (d) "Vainglorious men are the scorn of wise men, the admiration of fools, the idols of parasites, & the slaves of their own vanity." Lord Bacon

III. Right Way.
   A. Lowliness of mind.
      1. How humble are we?
      2. How pure are our motives.
      3. Corn that's fullest bends lowest.
4. God chose a vine, a lamb, a dove - he spoke to Moses in bush not a lofty cedar.

B. Esteem Others Better Than Self.
1. Man who's generous can't think stingy is better than himself.
2. Never asked to judge falsely—rather this is a teaching on humility.
3. It's a demonstration of respect - above "un huh" & "naugh."
4. Don't see your strong points - see his!

C. Look to the things of others.
1. Consider the ideals & feelings of others.
2. Man must look to self also - you can subordinate self but you can't ignore.
4. Centripetal force moves toward center.
5. Centrifugal force moves toward circumference.
6. Less active we are, easier to quarrel.
7. We cannot close our eyes to others.
9. Why look? God commands it, mutual need, pleasure of sharing, reward it brings, example of Christ.
I. The more I see Jesus doing for me, the greater my appreciation for the scheme of redemption.

II. No place tells it better than Phil. 2.

III. This I see Jesus do

A. To begin with he knew he and God were equal.

1. Thought it not robbery (to seize).
   a) Knew it was his just and rightful possession to be equal with God--yet his sacred free will He denied for us.
   b) He divested himself not of his Divine nature for this was impossible, but of the glory, the prerogatives of Divinity.
   c) He did not need to snatch or clutch equality with God because He had the right. It was not necessary for Him to snatch it, he did not hug it and refuse to let it go.
   d) He did not count it such a prize He could not lower himself from it.
   e) He was not guilty of taking what did not belong to him. It would be robbery for mere man to pretend he had this.
   f) It was no invasion of another's prerogative.
   g) He was in the form of God before He was in the form of a servant.
h) It was an act of condescension to waiver.
i) It was not something to be exploited to his own advantage.

B. Equal with God
1. Exactly equal in size, quality, character, number.
2. Word is isos—sides of triangle that are equal.
3. Emphasis here is on his humiliation as He became like man.
5. Shows height from which he descended originally being in the form of God.

C. Made himself of no reputation.
1. First step in his humiliation was not to hold on to what He had, He had all the honors of God and did not hold them.
2. We now see the depth to which he was to go.
3. Lays down the robes of glory to be a baby.
4. Made himself nothing to show complete surrender.
5. Emptied himself of independent authority doing it freely of his own volition.
6. Stripped himself of the insignificance of majesty. (Lightfoot)
7. Empty— to pour out until there is nothing left.
8. Laid aside in his incarnate
   his form of God.
9. Though He remained full he appears
   to be empty.
10. He hid his divinity for a reason--
    manifestation of his glory hidden
    under veil of flesh.
11. He emptied himself and later God
    exalted Him.
12. Thus shows his absolute dependence
    on the Father.
13. He became a human among men.
14. He denuded himself of all divine
    prerogatives and became a man.

**D. Toook upon himself the form of a
   servant.**

1. Morpheeor form expresses the
   essential character of something--
   what it is, in and of itself.
2. Morpheeor form represents the
   unchangable.
3. The form of a servant was super-
   imposed upon his diety without
   taking away any of his divine
   attributes.
4. It's the outward expression one
   gives to his inner being.
5. 1st in the form of God, now for a
   particular moment in history took
   the form of a man.
6. Jesus conforms to human experience
   thus he knows our problems and
   can help us--knows as been there.
7. He's our example--our copy book where letters are perfect.
8. Both his godhead and his manhood are real.
9. Found as a common man without any particular excellency or comeliness.
10. He became a bondservant.
11. He grasp for service.
12. 3 estates: God, human humiliation, exultation.
13. Not a prince but a servant.
14. FJB card note here.
15. He shared sinlessly humanity's experience.

E. Made in the likeness of men.
1. No play acting but real.
2. Likeness describes a state that is not a permanent one.
3. He became a real man like other men.
4. His outward appearance altogether human.
5. Christ needed to come to man to redeem him.
6. Man only for a time--divine always.

F. Found in Fashion as a Man.
1. Fashion designates what is purely outward and appeals to the senses.
2. Fashion defines the outward mode as he appeared to man.
3. In his body men saw a man; in His teachings they saw the Father.
4. Likeness signifies essential form Fashion, the footing on which He stands.
5. Fashion—the outward guise, speech, look of a man.
6. Form—something absolute likeness—other things of the same kind. Fashion—what appeals to sight and sense.

G. He Humbled Himself
1. See Barclay card.
2. Humble = to bring low.
3. In his human nature he deeply humbled himself.

H. He became obedient unto death.
1. He died because we can't help it—he became obedient to death.
2. We worship Him because we love Him.
3. Only a divine being can accept death as obedience, for ordinary men it is a necessity. (Coffman)
4. He's voluntarily obedient.
5. Exposed as a public spectacle.
6. His death satisfies divine justice.
7. 2/5 Matthew concerned with final week, 3/4 of Mark's; 1/3 of Luke's; 1/2 of John's.
8. His death a shameful one.
9. Only slaves and servants crucified as well as violent criminals.
10. Are our sins on Christ?
11. His most shameful kind of death.
12. Cicero "Far be the very nature of the cross not only from the bodies of Roman citizens, but from the imagination, eyes and ears."
The great characteristic of Jesus' life was humility, obedience, and self-denunciation. He did not desire to dominate men. His desire was only to serve men. He did not desire his own way, he desired only God's way, and he did not desire to exalt himself. He desired only to renounce all his glory for the sake of men.

--Barclay
From FB: His subjection to the law (Luke 2:21) and to his parents (Luke 2:51), his low estate as a carpenter, the carpenter's reputed son (Matt. 13:55), his betrayal for the price of a bond servant (Exodus 21:32) and his slave-like death to relieve us from the slavery of sin and death, finally and chiefly his servant--life dependency as man on God while His divinity was not outward a manifest all are marks of the form of a servant.
MY MOST AWESOME ASSIGNMENT
Phil. 2:5-11

I. What would you cite as your most awesome assignment?
A. A war experience.
B. Preaching funerals of parents.
C. Signing a note of obligation.
D. Marrying.

II. Mine is our text.
Phil. 2:5-11: "Let this mind be in you"
A. Introduction
   1. Important events can be traced to insignificant causes.
      a) An insignificant church, with trouble between 2 women, brought forth the most significant statement ever made by Paul in relation to the incarnation, death, exaltation of Christ.
      b) Upon this he'll base his appeal for you to be Christlike. (Erdman)
   2. Meyers calls it a passage of unexampled majesty.
B. It is written to illustrate the attitude that ought to govern a person who professes to be a Christian.
C. It then presents my most awesome assignment.

III. The Assignment
   v-5 "Let this mind be in you which"
A. I must be filled with Jesus.
B. I must enact his spirit and disposition.
C. Mind
   1. His way of thinking, intellectual process—not exclusively—but his disposition.
2. Think of others as Christ thought of them.
3. He refused to act selfishly.
4. He sacrificed so much from Heaven we should lovingly serve each other.

D. Thus I think about things as He does—about you as He does.

IV. The Sacrifice of the Savior.

A. Who is He—God!
1. Before he became a man, he was in the form of God.
2. Form defined.
   a) Erdman not physical shape or likeness.
   b) Rather nature, character, essence of His being.
   c) Meyers says means more than external appearance.
      (1) Image of invisible God.
      (2) Effulgence of his glory (such a beam).
      (3) Very image of his substance.
      (4) Word was God—all things made by Him.
3. Godhead troubles—but if God is supreme He can have 3 forms if he so likes.
4. Clark says it's his eternal shape, not nature, visible glory.
5. Suffice it to say Christ is God—not an offspring divinity.

B. What Did He Do?
1. Remember he thought it not robbery to be equal with God—lest we forget who He is!
a) Robbery—take by violence.
b) Equal shows relationship.
c) His divine nature he could never lay aside though He could his glory.
d) He is the uncreated eternity of the past—Meyers.
e) He really was deity, equal to God, Emmanuel.

2. Made himself of no reputation.
a) Emptied himself.
b) Shekinah hidden except at transfiguration.
c) He freely by choice emptied himself.
d) Imagine committee meeting in Heaven—how do we save man—I'll go as a man & be perfect.
e) As at the supper he took off outer robe of deity & washed feet.
f) Robbery means a thing eagerly to be seized, coveted, desired.

3. Took form of a servant and was made in the likeness of men.
a) He could lay aside the insigna of his majesty.
b) Impossible to imagine how much He gave up.
c) Form of a man.
   (1) True nature of a servant.
   (2) A slave
d) Veiled his glory to appear among us.
e) Stood as low as He could go—
a slave.
f) Shall we stoop to help others as
He did?
g) Can we exclusively look on our-
selves & feel no obligation to others?
h) Will we deny ourselves?
i) Do you see Him really as man—at
once He is God & man.
j) We sing "He Knows Just How I
Feel."

4. Humbled himself, obedient unto
death.
   a) Totally submissive to will of God.
b) We speak & reveal our minds;
   He spoke and revealed will of God.
c) Always within the Father's will.

Jn. 5:19 "The Son can do nothing of himself"
Jn. 8:28 "I do nothing of myself but as the Father

5. Death of the Cross
   a) He had power to voluntarily die--
      laying down His life for us.
b) Yet he had the sinless right
to escape death, but didn't.
c) Cross
   (1) Crucifixion worst of punish-
      ments for worst of folk.
   (2) Put a curse on you.
Deut. 21:23"He that is hanged is accursed of G.
Gal. 3:13"Cursed is everyone that hangeth"
   (3) Extreme of his humanity
      brought to abrupt end.
(4) He embraces us in sin & carries us through.
(5) What Christ does, God does on the cross.
(6) Chose the most shameful death--public exposure & pain.
(7) He could go no lower for us.
(8) In the cross we see how much He loved us and how much He hates sin.
(9) He obeys even if it kills Him.
(10) How much will we:
    Obey?
    Suffer?
    Serve?
(11) Perfect descent from throne to Calvary.

IV. Is that all? What is the world coming to?

A. God highly exalted Him.
   1. By Resurrection.
   2. By return of all power.
   3. God looked on the cross and said, "Man has done his worst, now I'll do my best--Arise."

B. Gave Him the Name.
   1. Name means character, position, place, nature.
      a) Jews wouldn't write the name.
      b) Root Lord connotes rulership sovereignty resting on authorative power.
2. His name stands for:
   a) Highest type of being in universe.
   b) Supreme type of character.
   c) Conquering name.
   d) Victorious name.
3. We are but leaves in the great forest of existence but he sweeps us to the throne of his mercy.
4. His name:
   a) Our watchword as we approach portals of eternity.
   b) Unlock on every prayer.
   c) Melody of every song.
5. Neither Jesus nor Lord given him after exaltation to Right Hand--He is God!
6. Name of Jesus not any word but denotes all He is now known to be.

C. Every Knee Bows
1. We better start training for this now.
2. Heaven--angels
   Earth--Humans
   Under Earth--fallen spirits, place of departed spirits

D. Every tongue confess--Jesus is Lord--all beings of all kinds.

E. Glory of God the Father
1. God has put the scepter in his hand.
2. Have we?

Hillsboro - 8/21/91
Collegeside, Cookeville, TN - 9/1/91
Sheridan, AR - 9/24/91
Palisades, Birmingham, AL - 10/29/91
West End - 11/24/91
Maryville, TN - 2/12/92
Skyline - Jackson, TN - 4/8/92
G. A. Studdert-Kennedy has a poem in which Jesus went to Birmingham, England. What happened?

When Jesus came to Golgotha they hanged Him on a tree,
They drove great nails through hands and feet, and made a Calvary;
They crowned Him, with a crown of thorns, red were His wounds and deep,
For those were crude and cruel days, and human flesh was cheap.

When Jesus came to Birmingham, they simply passed Him by,
They never hurt a hair of Him, they only let Him die;
For men had grown more tender, and they would not give him pain,
They only just passed down the street, and left Him in the rain.

Still Jesus cried, "Forgive them, for they know not what they do,
And still it rained the winter rain that drenched Him through and through;
The crowds went home and left the streets without a soul to see,
And Jesus crouched against the wall and cried for Calvary."

SYMBOLS OF SALVATION – Don M. Aycock – p.105-106
I. Jonah had 5 Hebrew words and changed a nation: Yet 40 days and Nineveh shall be overthrown.
   A. They believed God.
   B. They repented.
   C. "And he did it not" (Jonah 3:10)

II. I've got 22 English words that changes lives.
   A. It's the plea for unity and peace
   B. It's possible because Jesus is our answer.

Phil. 2:8 "And being found in fashion"

III. Let's see what Jesus has done for undeserving us.

A. Found in Fashion as a Man
   1. Jesus became something he was not.
   2. Forever and ever He is God.
   3. He emptied himself of this glory to come as a man.
   4. He ever exists.
   5. Fashion - scheme - the changeable.
      The form of God is the unchangeable.
   6. He was like a King, put on garments of peasant while at the same time remaining King.
   7. This was humiliating. Those who saw Him saw Him as a man only, not as God-man.
8. Had a body, acted like man, really was a man.
John 8:40 "But now ye seek to kill"
9. Stooped to become a man, slide under the weight of all sin and carried it, on his shoulder.
10. Tempted in all points - yet without.
B. He Humbled Himself
   1. Cited at the start of this aim.
Phil. 2:5 "Let this mind be in you.
   2. He did nothing out of selfishness or conceit but regard others as more important than Himself.
   3. He is our example of humility.
   4. It's like the copy book the teacher gives in penmanship.
   5. Practices is founded on doctrine and related to it - see subject of humility.
   6. Ever attitude of self-abnegation
   7. Some saw Him only as a man, sadly.
John 8:48 "Thou art a Samaritan and hast a devil?" yielded to death's unordered claim since
C. He became obedient until death.
   1. His obedience brings our salvation.
   2. Obeyed the Father even to the extent of dying as the sinner's sacrifice at the demand of the Holy law and by the determinate foreknowledge of the law giver.
Acts 2:23 "Him being delivered by the determinate counsel.
3. We die because we can't help it - He became obedient to death.
(Summary of hide-obey to farethest level)
D. Even the death of the Cross

1. Even calls attention to another humiliation – the embarrassing, degrading painful death of a cross.
2. No more wretched way to die.

Deut. 21:23 Cursed be anyone.
Gal. 3:13 Christ hath redeemed us.
3. He abolished death.
2 Timothy 1:10 "death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel."
4. God withdrew in His death.
5. Death had:
   a. Pain
      1) Bruise Gen. 3:5
      "Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise him.
      Isaiah 53:10
      2) Pierce hands and feet.
      3) Extension and distortion.
         of the body
      4) Slowness of death
   b. Shame
      1) Scorn
      2) Naked

6. Yet Jesus met it willingly, obediently humbly, meekly

7. Cross the center of attention.
   2/5 of Matthew
   1/3 of Mark
   1/3 of Luke
   1/2 of John on last week

lowest point in dramatics - from highest height to lowest level
8. Christ's death was the abandonment to darkness, unrelieved by a ray of light.

9. John calls it "the hour."

John 2:4 Mine hour is not yet come.
John 7:30 They sought to take Him: but no
John 8:27 Treasury - no man laid hour
John 12:23 The hour is come Son ..
   glorified
John 12:27 For this cause I came unto
John 13:1 Jesus knew that His hour was
John 17:1 Father the hour is come, glorify
1 Peter 2:24 Who his own self bare our

10. Removes in
Hebrew 9:26
11. We do well to recall Day of Atonement
12. Ark
   a) God's perfect law in a cedar box overlaid with gold.
   b) His presence rises over it to pronounce judgement.
   c) Mercy seat is there.
   d) Innocent blood put on it
13. Cross reserved for slaves and criminals
14. Persians invented it.
15. Stumbling block and foolishness
1 Cor. 1:23 But we preach Christ
16. Greeks associated grace and beauty to their gods - not a cross!
17. God can now look without neutrality - one innocent died for the guilty.
18. Death of the cross vs.  
Death of the Hero  
Death of the Patriot  
Death of the King  
Death of the courage and relief of scientist

E. Man looks for salvation in 3 G's  
Goodness  
Greatness - a (President)  
Generosity - gave so much  
But will not avail

F. Remember - the love of God punishes sin

John 3:16  
Gal. 2:20 I am crucified  
1 John 4:10 "Here in is love not that we loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

Temperance Hall C/C 8/11/96  
Southern Hills C/C 8/14/96  
West End C/C 8/25/96  
Collegeside, Cookeville, TN 11/10/96  
Crittenden Drive, Russellville, KY 11/17/96  
Pratt, KS - 11/24/96
Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow – the Christ

Phil. 2:5-11

I. With this text I come to a lesson I dread.
   A. Not with fear or boredom.
   B. Not with condemnation looming and chastisement abounding.
   C. But with dread, awe, reverence, for fear knowing I can only partially approach its greatness.
      1) I feel I should come with head bowed.
      2) Eyes closed with face to the ground.
   D. Nothing I could read you summarizes the past, present and future with Jesus like these magnificent words – it truly is awesome.
      1) Called the great parabola of Scripture.
      2) We see the descent of Lord Jesus Christ from the highest position in the universe, down to earth and carried again to the throne.
      3) We see afresh the divinity of Christ, His pre-existence, His equality with God the Father, His incarnation and true humility, His voluntary death on the cross, the certainty of His ultimate triumph over evil and permanency of His ultimate reign.
4) Finally we see the totalities of submission of all to Jesus Christ.

II. Not only is the magnificence of Christ and His work, but my assignment is breathtaking. It is the hardest command of all that's given us.

v.5 "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus."

A. We humans, we Christians are to have a mind like Christ.
1) Of Jesus be like-minded.
2) Literally "keep on having this (His) mind in you."
3) Not spasmodic, occasional but constantly.
4) Jim Tolle described this desired mind as one showing the loving, self-denying humility of Jesus "manifested in His coming to earth to serve mankind."
5) We are constantly to have the same disposition as always we seek to serve our fellowman no matter how servile and self-abasing this service may be.
6) It is the altruistic mind first wrought in the founder.
7) Paul relates teh experiences of the Head to teach the members a lowly self-renouncing love.
8) The mind of Christ becomes our pattern – the Christian must duplicate Christ's mind – if this resemblance is not there we have no benefit from his death.
9) Obviously the self-humbling Christ ever had in His mind the interest of others – however unworthy they may be.
10) As we live Christians are always representing or misrepresenting Christ.
11) Do we think and feel about things as does the Christ?
12) Man is born into the world the most helpless of animals and likely the most selfish of all.

B. Let's try to put this in focus.
1) I am to think about you as I believe Jesus thinks about you.
2) He proved beyond doubt His love for each of us, to the extent He died for us as unworthy as we are.
3) Thought comes first, so if I think about you–having the mind of Christ–all my action, deeds, behavior will follow in accord with proper love.
III. But it is believed you'll love Him all the more if you will first see where he came from then we will see the depths to which contrastingly He sunk.

A. Before coming to the earth as a baby He existed in the form of God.

1) In essence He cannot be changed—He is always God.

2) His cannot be taken from Him—He could veil it in the flesh.

3) Barclay said this describes the innate, unchangeable, unalterable characteristic and ability of a man.

4) "Form" describes that mode in which the essential being of God expresses itself.

5) It is the expression of being which carries in itself the distinctive nature and character of being to whom it pertains.

6) It permanently identifies with that nature and character.

7) He existed as essentially one with God.

8) It marked the being of Christ before creation.
9) The form is not identical with the divine essence - can be parted and laid aside, yet he is in absolute deity, coparticipant with the Father and the Holy Spirit.

10) Does "likeness" help grasp it?

11) See his true nature - form of God; Son of God.

12) Jesus never became less than what he truly is - God!

John 17:5

13) He was essentially unalterably and unchangeably God.

14) In the pre-incarnate state He possessed all of God's attributes. If God is omniscient - Jesus is. If God is all powerful - Jesus is. If God is creator, redeemer, truth way, life, the future - Jesus is.

15) Of course He has always been - ever in existence.

B. Jesus was, is, and always will be God, Divine.

C. What He gave up to save me is beyond my grasp - but I can thankfully claim him as my Savior.

D. We see what Christ has done and the spirit He manifested - "go thou and do likewise."
THE EXALTED NAME
Phil. 2:9-11

I. Our wherefore
A. Brings us to the exaltation of Jesus.
B. Recall his mission.
   1. Died to remove our sins.
   2. Died to satisfy divine justice.
   3. Died to reveal God's love.
C. He did not tenaciously cling to His rights, insisting on his divinity, but relinquished it a while for us.
   1. He was content to forego the glories of the Creator and become a creature like unto man, share his disgrace, suffer his punishment that was due the vilest of men.
   2. We see the graded passage.
      a) Essence, form, fashion, scheme.
      b) Form is the permanent expression of existence.
      c) Fashion is transient, shape, but form remains.
      d) He emptied himself of form and became a servant—like man.
      e) See the height from which he descended to be man.

II. God Hath Highly Exalted Him (literally "exalted above")
A. Christ is exalted to a pre-eminently superiority to both men and angels, and to all other things whether animate or inanimate.
B. Paul cannot leave Christ on the cross.
III. Given Him a Name
A. A common Biblical idea is the giving of a name is to mark a new and definite stage in a man's life.
B. Men have long debated this name.
   1. Son of God, Son of man.
   2. Lord
   3. God
   4. Jesus Christ, Messiah
   5. Jesus
C. It's one God gave
   Isa. 43:8 "I am the Lord, that is my name, my glory, I give it to no other."
D. It's going to be above every name.
E. Read Isa. 45:18-25.
F. Will show Christ is sovereign, Jesus rules as God rules, He controls even the smallest things, and one day will subdue all enemies.
G. Some have said this does not refer to Christ, but rather to an eternal principle: that the humble will be exalted.
H. Is it not "Jesus Christ is Lord!"
   1. He is Creator, Sovereign, Sustainer.
   2. He can use his possessions as he pleases.
   3. He is no longer hidden, as a part of the Godhead, but revealed and openly rules in the fullest sense.
   4. He is incomparable.
   5. He takes over the Rulership of the world.
IV. At this name that surpasses all others as we add to this illustrious name, Savior, things will happen.

A. Every knee will bow.
   2. Divine honor paid in every possible manner by every creature either with love or trembling.
   3. Christ humbled himself and God exalted Him.

B. Whole creation acknowledges Him.
   1. Things in Heaven.
   2. Things on Earth.
      a) All intelligent things where he suffered.
      b) Confess either by choice or compulsion.
   3. Under the earth
      a) Universal worship
      b) Lost demons given acknowledgement.
      c) Dead give acknowledgement.

C. Every tongue confess
   1. Includes demons, unsaved also.
   2. Includes every enemy.
   3. Confess = to openly avow.
   4. We see the praise and the thanksgiving shown.

D. Confess the Lord
   1. Lord means Rulership.
   2. Acknowledge his authority and competency.
   3. Lord always a title of respect.
5. He is the master and owner of all life.
6. He is King of Kings, Lord of Lords.

E. To the Glory of God, the Father
1. It is the aim, the dream of God.
2. It is the purpose of God.
3. To be a Christian is to confess that Jesus is Lord.
4. The glory of the Father will be realized in the universal acknowledgement of the Lordship of Jesus.
5. Whatever respect is paid to Christ rebounds to the honor of the Father.

F. God has put the scepter in His hand—do we also enthrone Him?

Walter Hill - 6/30/02
I. We have just been confronted with a most marvelous statement about Jesus - "Wherefore" means what are the results of such?
   A. 9/11 - What has it done to us?
   B. A great event comes to a congregation, what are the effects of it?
   C. I've just seen Jesus before the earth, on the earth, and yet to be exalted - what has this done to me? Because (wherefore) of this truth - what happens to me?

II. My beloved brethren.
   A. Term of great endearment.
   B. How do we feel toward the church?

III. Reputation for obedience.
   A. Always obeyed in my presence.
      1. Purpose of every Christian is to obey the Lord.
      2. Constant attitude on saint's part.

Josh. 24:31 "And Israel served the Lord all . . ."
   3. Christians seek to express the character of God in all that they do.
B. Much more in the absence of Paul.
   1. Their obedience not based on human surveillance.
   2. Obedience was a consistent theme of their lives.

IV. Work out your own salvation.
   A. Nothing more precious!
      1. What did you do to be saved?
      2. Who has a part in it?
      3. Are you now saved?
      4. Who grants salvation?
      5. How would you define it?
      6. Does human effort enter in?
      7. Can man alone secure his salvation?
      8. Does the congregation help me in this?
      9. Are we to be passive or cultivate salvation's power?
     10. Is salvation feeling, thinking alone, or is their working in it?
     11. Work means to energize.
     12. Work out implies doing something thoroughly.
     13. It means to complete.

B. Own Salvation.
   1. I must do it or it will be left undone.
   2. Shows personal responsibility.
   3. Fear
a) Shows spirit of human inadequacy.
b) Not slavish terror, but serious caution.
c) Shrink from whatever offends God.

4. Trembling - must lean on divine power and wisdom.

C. God works in us to express His will and His pleasure.
1. He directs the willing and the doing.
2. Do is present tense - keep on doing.
3. Always working to please God.
4. His pleasure our uppermost desire.
5. God at work in believers to help them desire and be able to accomplish what seems good in His sight.

Neely's Bend - 6/23/02
Euripides describes the hippies of his day, the girls from Sparta like this, "No Spartan girl could ever live clean even if she wanted. They're always out on the street in scanty outfits, making a great display of naked limbs. Abominable is the word. It's little wonder Sparta is hardly famous for chaste women."

Socrates said this, "Our youth loves luxury, they have bad manners, contempt for authority, disrespect for older people. Children now days are tyrants. They no longer rise when their elders enter the room. They contradict their parents, chatter before company, gobble their food, and tyrannize their teachers."
TOOLS I CAN'T USE
Phil. 2:14

1. Some things are in our arsenal we can't use.
   A. Nuclear bombs.
   B. Germ warfare.
   C. So c the children of God - I can't use murmuring or disputes.

Phil. 2:14 "Do all things w/o murmuring or disputings

II. Let's study this verse.
   A. Do.
      1. Do is in present tense - means keep on doing.
      2. Way to do it.
   B. All things.
      1. Do everything w/o complaints - (part of doctoring I'd like - some I wouldn't).
      2. Totality of precepts needs be seen.
      3. All stands 1st in Greek sentence.
      4. All inclusive nature of command.
   C. W/o Murmuring.
      1. To mutter.
      2. From cooing of doves.
      3. Onomatopoetic word.
      4. Sound suggests the sense.
      5. Not loud outspoken dissatisfaction, but undertone
      6. Usually used against men, not God.
      7. Secret conferences.
      8. Sounds like Israelites.

Deut. 32:5 "They have corrupted themselves, their sp

9. It's a moral rebellion.
10. Means something:
    a.) Obedience is cheerful & willing.
b.) No right to be gloomy or melancholy.
c.) Avoid discontentment.

D. No Disputing.
1. Means debate.
2. Doubt.
3. Inward & outward submission.
4. Don't quarrel - be content with partial knowledge.
5. Same word for dialogue.
6. Technical term also - litigation, go to court.
8. Observations.
   a.) Disputes bad - don't know when will end,
       arise out of pride & ignorance, disturb others as well as self.
   b.) Live c danger of dissipating energy on insignificant things.
THE NON-COMPLETED TASK
Phil. 2:12-16

I. There are some tasks in life we complete.
   A. We get a HS diploma.
   B. We bush hog the garden—even the okra is gone.
   C. We chain the porch swing to the ceiling.

II. But we outline a task that is never completed!
Phil. 2:12-16 (READ)

III. Let's see what is ours to continue doing.
   A. Paul writes a loving church his thanks.
      1. Beloved—told they were loved.
      2. Always obeyed when he was present or absent.
      3. None so worthy of praise as obedient ones.
      4. Highest measure of loyalty to be faithful when absent above when present.
      5. Note how practical Paul is.
   B. Then he presents the continuing assignment.

v-12 "Work out your own salvation"
   1. He ever relates doctrine with duty.
   2. Religion is not just dogma.(Erdman)
   3. Morality though is not maintained without faith.
   4. We do not work for salvation, but "work out" as something already enjoyed, possessed in principles in part.
5. Speaks of those already saved and says carry to completion.

6. Salvation
   a) "There is a sense in which our salvation from the power of sin will not be completed until we stand before God in perfect beauty and in the sense we have worked it out." (Meyer)
   b) Meyer further said "God gives us salvation in the germ, but the growth of the tree of life has to elaborate the premal thought."
   c) God and man work together for salvation— as farmer and God do for harvest.

7. Do it with fear.  Awe
   a) Not cowardly trembling, but submission and reverence.
   b) There are victories to be won.

8. Do it trembling.
   a) Need a trembling anxiety to do his holy will.
   b) Be conscious of our own weakness and continual moral peril.
   c) Thus see divine sovereignty and free will.

C. God works in us.
   1. All the good in our hearts comes from God.  God energizes
   2. All He does springs from his mercy and grace and love.
3. Surrounds us with the influence of His Holy Spirit.

4. It is God who is the answer to every question.

5. Not going to force us to be holy.


IV. There is a Spirit in which we must do all this.

v-14 "Do all things without murmuring.

A. Without murmuring.

1. Ill concealed.

2. Half checked--half uttered complaints. (Joey Binkley--4 year old said "you are a dirty old cow". Her mother straightened her out, but as Pearl left the room, under her breath Joey said, "You are still a dirty old cow.")

3. Low grumbling of a man swayed inwardly by impatient thoughts and hard feelings.

4. Disputes are murmurs come to the surface--break out in angry discussion.

B. Without disputings

1. Questioning

2. Arguing

3. Faultfinding

4. Discussion
C. Be Blameless

1. Without blemish is the constant ideal.
2. Faultlessness.
5. Barclay said, "This word expresses what the Christian is to the world. His life is of such purity none can find anything in it to blame, or with which he can find fault."

It describes what the Christian is in the sight of God. The Christian life must be such that it can be offered like an unblemished sacrifice to Christ. Christian purity is blameless in the sight of the world, sincere within itself, and fit to stand the scrutiny of God.

D. Be Harmless

1. Your life shall not injure another.
2. Purity.
3. Simplicity.
4. Sincere.
5. Barclay said it expresses what the Christian is in himself. It literally means unmixed, unadulterated--milk and wine pure unmixed with water. It is metal without alloy. With people--absolute sincerity--actions clean and pure.
E. Without Rebuke— in the sight of God as Sons of God.
F. Shine as lights in midst of a crooked and perverse nation.
   1. Like stars in a dark night.
   2. Everything exists to pass on its nature—Christians should also.
   3. Shine and hold forth word of life.
   4. Teach the word.
   5. Proclaim the gospel in words clear and unmistakable.

11th Street – 10/01/00
HOLDING FORTH THE WORD OF LIFE
Phil. 2:14-16

I. Like all situations, I get rid of something in order that I might do other things.
   A. Scrape snow so I can walk.
   B. Turn under vegetation so I can plant peas.
   C. Remove filth so I can be clean.

II. Our Philippian story has this same principle.
   Phil. 2:14-16 "Do all things w/o murmuring and disl'
   A. I remove:
      1. Murmur.
         a.) Mutter - cooing of doves - onomatopoetic word
         b.) Secretly complain.
      2. Disputes.
         a.) Dialogue, debate, doubt.
         b.) Intellectual rebellion.
         c.) Argue c God.
      3. Da.
         a.) Present tense.
         b.) Have been & keep on.
   4. All things - totality - it is 1st in GK sentence.
      5. Thus, I'm to be cheerful, not discontent, nor divert energies to needless matters.

B. That I may be:
   1. Blameless.
      a.) No censor.
      b.) Give world no ground for criticism.
      c.) Same qualification as an elder.
   2. Harmless.
      a.) Unmixed, unadulterated, wine w/o water.
b.) Guileless.
c.) Pure, simple.
d.) W/o commodities – it’s for real. Jim Adams says lots of honey isn’t – (all kinds real & emotional) some is molasses!
e.) Blameless & innocent – inside and outside of a person is O.K.!
f.) Song “O To Be Like Thee”.

3. The Sons of God.
a.) Be - on my way to being.
b.) Haven’t arrived – still growing. Strives to be better.
c.) Highest honor of life – then look like your Heavenly parent.

4. W/o Rebutte.
a.) Preaching amounts to little unless attended by consistent conduct.
b.) If can’t convert, still can’t destroy validity of the teacher.
c.) Set good examples, others watch.

5. Where are you?

a. In the midst.
   1.) Don’t live in isolation.
   2.) Transform society – don’t conform.
   3.) We are like electric wire – dead one given power by a live one!
   4.) We pass on current.
   5.) Live in the world but not dominated by it.
   6.) Not of but in the world.

b.) Crooked.
1. Turned away from truth.
2. Bent from true form.
   1. Distort, twist.
   2. Distortion, horribly bent.
   3. Limbs misshapen or mutilated, dislocated on rack - are we on rack of sin?
6. Shine as Lights in the World,
   a.) Refers to fact of appearing, not act of shining.
   b.) Seen, appear.
   c.) Luminary.
   d.) Amid moral blackness - shine.
   e.) Note how one becomes a "star". Harmless, blameless, w/o rebuke - pure & holy.
B. Lights.
   1.) Stars.
   2.) Light is not diffused, but focused in Christians.
   3.) Light of each individual meant.
C. End Result.
   1. Hold Forth the Word of Life.
      a.) Secular documents offering wine to guests.
      b.) Offer.
      c.) Hold forth as a standard bearer - directs march, illuminates the way.
      d.) Offer salvation to a lost world.
         (1) Hold it out to others.
         (2) Hold forth as trimmed lamp - nothing shades it.
      e.) Spiritual reproduction the responsibility of every Chr.
      f.) Do it by letters, books given, lend tapes, visit,
relate experiences, teach.

2. That I May Rejoice.
   a.) Glory in fruit of his labors.
   b.) To boast, glory.
   c.) Joy to know our consistent life pleases good folk.
   d.) Church can render ministers fruitless.
   e.) Ultimate salv. does not depend on Phil. victory tho.
   f.) Not gloomy or melancholy.

3. In the day of Christ.
   a.) One day Christ reviews all.
   b.) Judgement comes.
   c.) All revealed then.

4. Neither Run nor labor in vain.
   a.) Run shows energy.
   b.) Labor shows toilsome aspect. Point of exhausting.
   c.) Run a favorite metaphor of Paul - shows energy
   & progress of life moving toward a goal.
   d.) Vain = empty, vacuum.

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A Great Epitaph

When the time came to place a marker above the resting place of one of America's famed educators, Horace Mann, the choice was made of the closing words in his address to the graduating class of Antioch College in 1859, and they became his epitaph: "Be ashamed to die until you have won some victory for humanity."

What a challenge that is to us today!
In our day the intensity of the human predicament is increasing in a shrill crescendo. Blasphemies are poured forth in sound and in print. Indecencies that once were shameful and private now are publicly displayed and praised. Perversions are condoned and indeed encouraged as part of the rich variety of personal fulfillment available in man. The abnormal is treated as normal. Materialism, lust, and violence are becoming the hallmarks of our civilization, which seems increasingly intent on rushing headlong down the Gadarene slope into the abyss of total anarchy and permissiveness.

Hope for a Despairing World, by Philip E. Hughes, p. 23.

At his trial, Charles Manson is quoted as having said: "Most of the people at the ranch that you call the "family" were just people that you did not want, people that were alongside the road. Their parents kicked them out so I did the best I could and took them on my garbage dump."

Can I Talk to You? by Elizabeth Skoglund, pp 82-83.
There is a completeness in the relationship—genuine warmth between the two, combined with wise detachment on the part of the adult.

"You didn't seem to do anything but be there. And yet a harbor doesn't do anything either, except to stand there with arms always outstretched, waiting for the traveler to come home."

*Can I Talk to You?* by Elizabeth Skoglund, p98.
A DAILY ASSIGNMENT
Philippians 2:14-17

I. There are Scriptures that are hard.
   A. Said only once—baptism for the dead.
   B. Seemingly contradictory—Samson a Nazarite yet Philistine marriage of the Lord.
   C. Controversy surrounding—sin against the Holy Ghost.

II. This one we now study is not so—it's so plain, demanding, it's scary.

Phil. 2:14-17

III. Let's see our Daily Assignment

   A. Do all things
      1. Erdman "Paul is intensely practical."
      2. He ever relates doctrine and duty.
      3. Also "Preaching amounts to little unless attended by consistent conduct."
      4. Do in present tense so keep on doing.
      5. We see Paul shift thoughts from church to individuals.
      6. Loyd asks us to consider 3 things.
         a) Relation to the Father.
         b) Relation to children of God.
         c) Relation to the world.
      7. Remember you are scrutinized so constantly behave as Christians and plan no exceptions in conduct.

   B. Without murmuring
      1. Half checked, half uttered complaints.
2. Low grumbling of a man swayed inwardly by impatient thoughts and hard feelings.
3. Say something in a low tone.
4. To mutter--from cooing of doves. (Wuest)
5. Onomatopoetic word.
6. Not loud outspoken disaster factor.

C. Without disputing
1. Disputes are murmurings that come to the surface. (Meyer)
2. Questioning--doubting, suspicion.

D. Blameless
1. Faultless, stainless, sincere.
2. World can't condemn you.
3. Moral integrity that manifests itself in sight of others.
4. Inside and outside blameless.

E. Harmless
1. My life must not injure others.
2. Sincere, simple.
3. Unmixed, unadulterated, guileless.
4. Innocent--inside & out.
5. "O to be like thee"--"harmless".
6. Like a sacrifice without blemish.

F. Without fault in midst of crooketh and perverse generation (with a twist).
1. Give world no grounds for criticism.
2. May be--a state or condition not yet attained but gradually getting there.
3. We are in the world but not of it.
4. Not dominated by world's standards.
5. Crooked—misshapen or multilated limbs. Dislocated by being on the rack of sin.
6. Simon Stylites, Syrian monk sat a 50 ft. pillar to avoid contact with world.
7. Is withdrawal spirituality? (Boice)
8. Transform society, don't conform to it.

G. Shine as lights in the world.
1. Luminaries.
2. Torches that show wayfarers their way.
3. Light bearers in examples and teachings.
4. Shine in midst of a dark world.

H. Holding Forth Word of Life.
1. Burned lights, fires at harbor to show way in.
2. Let the lower lights be burning.
3. Do something for others.
4. Every living thing exists to pass on its nature—Christians should also.
5. Rivers run through lakes without mingling their waters with them—flow through world without taking its ways.
6. Standard bearer holds out an ensign to direct march & animate the attack.
7. Gospel is word of Life.
IV. Rejoice in Day of Christ.
   A. Day of reckoning—2nd coming.
   B. Glory—take delight in.
   C. Run—athletic term—favorite metaphor as energy involved.
   D. Vain—either run or labor.
      1. Constant fear he might run in vain.
      2. Christians can nulify work of others.
      3. Describes a labor in which a man puts his last ounce of energy and strength.
   E. Poured out as a drink offering.
      1. Religious service as done by a priest.
      2. I am glad and rejoice—personal martyrdom brings joy.
      3. Pours out himself for their faith.
      4. Rejoice = congratulations.
      5. At return of Christ, he'd (Paul) have reason to rejoice in them.

Rm 15:16

Neely's Bend (BC) - 7/7/02
Summertown, TN - 7/10/02
Cheap Hill - 7/21/02
I. Though Jonathan and David are the widely heralded, first it is by no means the only Biblical one.
   A. Their's one of young men.
   B. Both are Israelites.
   C. Both are Old Testament quite old.
   D. Both are warriors and thousands of deaths attributed to them.

II. For Paul and Timothy it was:
   A. Across an age span. 
   B. It did not result in kingly royalty--though they both served a greater king.
   C. It did not bring financial rewards, but hardships.
   D. Both were Christians.

III. Let's see what Paul wrote about it.
   A. Rather somber words from the imprisoned Paul to the Philippian church.
      1. I hope--(more optimistic words will follow).
      2. Even for an apostle life is filled with its uncertainties.
         a) We need to maintain a hopeful spirit.
b) Though Timothy will be sent, Paul hopes himself to later visit them.

B. I hope in the Lord Jesus.
1. Every believer is in Christ.
2. Expositor says "this vital union should influence every thought and activity."
3. Put the pencil to this—-are you daily making application of this?
4. Have I said, thought, done something recently that does not reflect Christ?
5. We do well to refresh ourselves with Scripture.

1:8
2:24
3:3
4:10

for others:

1:26
3:1
2:20
4:1

6. We need to submit everything to Jesus and our kinship.
7. Please note we can cheer others along the way: "I may be cheered when I receive news about you."
   a) Will our family be glad to know of our behavior?

Steve influenced by Gland grandmother
b) What about our church family?
8. Be cheered only here in New Testament, be glad, have courage.
9. Also be of one soul--word only here in New Testament.
10. What are your plans for the future?

IV. Paul introduces Timothy: "I send Timothy."

A. There are things older folk cannot do and we have to have younger folk see to it.
1. MariLynn calls about me regularly and feeds me other.
2. For Mike and his frequent visits I make a list of what I can't reach, pick up, organize--and then he asks, "What else do you need?"
3. Great to have one we can "send"--that's God's social security system.

B. Paul has some T.L.'s for Timothy.

1:1

(This in third person--he didn't write the letter).

1. Paul says little about himself--note word "also" and "as soon as I know how."
2. Church is always on his mind.
3. He also hopes the church will be glad to hear a good report about him.
4. Timothy knows the time of Paul's release.

C. Things he said:

1. Full confidence—"I have no one else like him," (like-minded).
   a) Lit. "no one of equal soul."
   b) This about a young man.
   c) True, he has other associates, but Timothy is more special.
   d) How sad it would be if Timothy ever disappointed him.
   e) No one else he had that could make such a journey, though he loved Luke, Aristarchus and others.
   f) Timothy was a proven character—in a class apart.
   g) They have had many years of personal experience for more than 10 years.

Deut. 13:8 "Thy friend which is thine own soul."

Ps. 55:14 *Read whole by B.M.*

h) Paul's second self.

i) Timothy has won his spurs.
2. He takes a genuine interest in your welfare.
   a) Others look out for their own interests and not that of Jesus.
   b) Do we:
      1) Fun
      2) Finance
      3) Future
      4) Failures
      5) Safety
      6) Profit
   c) Tender-hearted concern.
   d) Preachers need to care for the church they serve.

3. Timothy has proven himself.
   a) As a child serves his father.
   b) They know the proof of him.

4. As a son with his father he served, with Paul in the work of the gospel.
   a) I see signs "All My Sons."
   b) Brown and Sons--but is it in the gospel?
   c) He could accept any kind of righteous assignment--big or little.

5. V-23 lit. "this one."
   a) He's the very one that can do this job.
b) Can trust him with confidential material.
c) Can be sent as soon as Paul knows more about his own condition.
d) Great solicitude shown.
e) He could depend on Timothy.

6. Sums it all up, "I am confident in the Lord" -- V-24.
a) We started with this--ends with their relationship.
b) His legal decision could go either way--but it's believed he was released. We do not always get justice in the courts. *Winkler 750,000 bond*
c) All of us are in the Lord and should be prompted by the energy this brings--how can life thus be wrong if we are in the Lord?
d) Do we submit everything to the will of God?
e) Wants liberty so he can more fully serve the Lord.

7. Look away to something distant--what is it for you?

8. Do we repeat "in the Lord?"

Neely's Bend - 7/9/06
HE'S ONE OF A KIND
Phil. 2:19-24

I. The Cause Needs selfless men.
A. We meet all kinds of excuses for not doing more.
B. But when it seems none will aid, usually one awaits the call & favorably responds.
C. Such was the case of Timothy & Philippi.
Phil. 2:19-24 "But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Ti
II. Let's see the Timothean Willingness & Later the Lesson for us.
A. Despair changes to hope.
  1. Paul has the blues - speaks of martyrdom in Verse 17.
  2. Coffman said he waivered between extremes of despair & confidence.
B. All Paul's plans are "in the Lord" (V. 19).
  1. Everything submitted to & governed by the will of God.
  2. His hope was in Christ - so were all his plans.
  4. Shortly? Who can predict a Nero?
  5. Only in the Lord.
I Cor. 7:39 "The wife is bound by the law as long as
C. There Was an Optimistic Outlook.
  1. He wanted to delay their concern.
  2. He'd be mutually comforted as he heard from them. Candy Store Sales lady #2
  3. He believed Timothy would bring a good report; didn't expect a negative one.
4. Note Paul expected to be alive when T. returned.
5. We can mutually bless ea. other.
6. The "know" shows Paul was interested in people - wants to know about them.
7. Do you want to be away from people?
   "Magnificent non-involvement"
8. What do your friends mean to you?
   Prov. 18:24 "A man that hath friends must shew himself
   D. "For I have no man likeminded"
   1. Some brethren lack the zeal of others.
   2. Of those available, none like T.
   3. Just to have one man likeminded is to have power & importance.
   4. Some were qualified & wouldn't go. A. Palmer
      Some weren't qualified & would go - either way it's a failure.
   5. Laborers always few.
   6. Likeminded = "equal souled".
   7. Don't overlook the value of one man.
   8. "Naturally care for your state"
      a.) Lit. "by birth relations".
      b.) Thus truly genuine.
      c.) Care = intense interest.
      d.) None of available ones had the interest T. did.
   E. "For All Seek Their Own"
      1. In a selfish & self seeking world great to find a T. Matt. 6:32 "(For after all these things do the Gentiles
      2. Their failure a great one.
      3. It's no light thing to shrink from duty.
      4. Christ's things more lasting than ours.
5. Some seek to establish their own interest - T. did of Christ.

6. Careful about our own things - not of people!

F. Ye Know the Proof of Him (V. 22)

1. They knew the worth of him.
2. He stood the test.
3. Proof same word to test gold & silver.
4. Good to have people speak well of your labors for the Lord.

Acts 16:2 "Which was well reported of by the brethren
5. Timothy had learned to work c others.

G. He was Paul's Son.

1. His son in the gospel; spiritual child.  
   a.) An equal. The other is associational smarter people
   b.) United in service to the furtherance of the gospel.
   c.) G.K. makes it plain "as a son to a father", not "as a son with his father".
   d.) "In" preposition of motion - served in gospel.
3. G.K. word for "child" a very tender one.
4. Children ought to obey parents.

H. Paul retained his hope (V. 23).
1. Didn't know all that was involved in the "shortly"
2. He's resigned to God's will.

Ps. 21:1 "The king shall joy in thy strength, O Lord
James 4:13 "Go to now, ye that say, To day or to mor-
3. His "trust" had come to a settled persuasion.
4. He's content - if can't make Philippi - he'll make Heaven!
III. How Do We Apply?

A. Well wishers are to be judged by their ability to perform.
B. Think of others' comfort - not our own.
C. Faithful ministers are worthy of esteem.
D. The self-sacrificing spirit is the great one.
E. Goodness brings greatness & fame.
F. Few are ready for call of duty.
G. Good Men Promote the Welfare of Others.
H. Will we surrender our ease for His cause?
I. Make a check list of your own interest of today -
   What will you do this day for Jesus?
J. T. put Jesus 1st - not reputation, family, pleasure, job.
K. Jacob led on gently - do we?

Gen. 33:13-14 "And he said unto him, My Lord know L. Can we work c others?"
A story is told about the haughty British general, Bernard Montgomery, who was giving a speech near the end of his life. He said, "You will remember when God said to Moses, there in the wilderness — and I think rightly so— "Who but a commander of armies would dare critique the words of the Lord Himself?

PARENTING ISN'T FOR COWARDS — James Dobson
p.122

A well-known business executive tells about a salesgirl in a candy store who always had customers lined up waiting for her while other salesgirls stood twiddling their thumbs.

The owner of the store noted her popularity and asked for her magic secret.

"It’s easy enough," was the answer. "The other girls scoop up more than a pound of candy and then start taking it away. I always scoop up less than a pound and then add to it." — Good Reading, 3-70.
Help good news travel

When troubled people come to me they are often deeply resentful. The world, they feel, is full of worry and woe and there’s nothing they can do.

“Oh, but you’re wrong,” I tell them. “There is something simple and direct and immediate that you can do about it. Acquire the habit of respecting any good thing, any pleasant thing, any complimentary thing you hear about someone to that person. Pass it on within 24 hours; otherwise you may forget it. The more often such little flashes of goodwill are released into the environment, the more all the pollutive emotions of fear and loneliness and hostility are diminished. You’ll be astonished at how much better you will feel!”

Dr. Norman Vincent Peale

Meek? I am so meek I never give a thought to what my share of the earth is going to be.

Jack Taylor
Columbia, Missouri
IN CHRIST: EXHORTATION, TRUST, FOLKS
Ph. 2:19-24

1. Guess what I've got in:
   A. My hand.
   B. My deep freeze.
   C. My doctor's report.

II. Above all, Know What I've got in Christ. We now study 3 things.
   A. Consolation

Ph. 2:1 "If there be therefore any consolation in Christ:
   1. Sometimes chapter divisions come, breaking a thought that should be connected - here's one.
   2. Paul has been making an appeal:
      a.) For fellowship thru a common medium.
      b.) Love of people & their necessity to our lives.
      c.) Plea for unity - he deals c it tenderly at Philippi & Corinth, says "I come a rod."
      d.) Wants commitment & dedication - repeating the earlier experiences.

Acts 16:15 "If ye have judged me to be faithful to the
Acts 16:34 "And when he had brought them into his house
Acts 16:40 "And they went out of the prison, and entered

3. Now the plea for "consolation in Christ."
   a.) Means exhortation, purpose, stimulus, etc.
   b.) Idea of persuasiveness.
   c.) Latitude & restrain is in Christ.
   d.) It keeps you from saying what you should not.
   e.) Wet sand, on drying, falls apart. Iron shavings stay put if there is a magnet to hold them together. (10 harvest 55) (Out of it...)

It must be Christ's system & method.
2. j.

f. The "if" is not a question, but rather in view of the fact.
g. Stand fast in faith & complete my joy by being of one mind!

B. Trust:

Phil. 2:19 "But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy:

1. God's interested in my travel plans?
2. God's concerned about my tears?
3. God can do something about it all?
4. God is interested in our friendships & trust each other?

5. Every plan Paul had is centered in Christ.
   a.) Will send Timothy if God wills.
   b.) "Clouds on his own sky in no way interfere with the joys he has for others." Moule
   c.) Tim. was sent on many missions for Paul. The message is safe when Timothy delivers it.

6. How strongly do we trust the providence of God.

C. People:

Eph. 2:29 "Receive him therefore in

1. This is the story of Epaphroditus - starts c verse 25.
   a.) Brother, companion, fellow soldier.
   b.) Your messenger.
   c.) Ministered to my wants.
   d.) Got homesick - longed for you.
   e.) He as soldier faced dangers.
   f.) He brought their money to Paul.
   g.) Sick nigh unto death - Exertion brought it on.
      (no miracle performed)
2. Going to send him home.
   a.) Would Philippi think E. a quitter since they
       originally sent him.
   b.) Paul wants to clarify matter - it's his idea.
   c.) He wants to make it easy for him to go home.
3. His reception - Receive him.
   a.) In the Lord - recognize human friendship.
   b.) With all gladness.
      "I would rather be condemned to be led out &
      hung if I knew one human soul would love me
      for a week beforehand & honor me afterward,
      than live a half century to be nothing to any
      living creature" - From Meyers
(1) Anyone you should do something for you haven'
(2) Any regrets?
(3) If you love God, you are sensitive to people.
c.) Reputation
   1.) Should be welcomed because of his sacrifices.
   2.) Lord honored him - we know his name but not
       the Roman warrior.
   3.) Rightful respect & reception from the church.
   4.) Leaders need to have given them the recogniti
       they deserve.
   5.) Used gambling term - hazard or gambled his
       life for Jesus. Gamblers for Christ.
d.) If we love God, we are sensitive to other folk.
e.) Faith, love, purity are cementing energies.
f.) Think of others - is the panacea for your own
   troubles.
g.) Never drown in your own - think of others.
The strange thing about sheep is that because of their very makeup it is almost impossible for them to be made to lie down unless four requirements are met.

Owing to their timidity, they refuse to lie down unless they are free of all fear. Because of the social behavior within a flock, sheep will not lie down unless they are free from friction with others of their kind. If tormented by flies or parasites, sheep will not lie down. Only when free of these pests can they relax. Lastly, sheep will not lie down as long as they feel in need of finding food. They must be free from hunger.

It is significant that, to be at rest, there must be a definite sense of freedom from fear, tension, aggravations and hunger. The unique aspect of the picture is that it is only the sheepman himself who can provide release from these anxieties. It all depends upon the diligence of the owner whether or not his flock is free of disturbing influences.

When we examine each of these four factors that affect sheep so severely, we will understand why the part the owner plays in their management is so tremendously important. It is actually he who makes it possible for them to lie down, to rest, to relax, to be content and quiet and flourishing.

A flock that is restless, discontented, always agitated and disturbed never does well.

And the same is true of people.

It is not generally known that sheep are so timid and easily panicked that even a stray jackrabbit suddenly bounding from behind a bush can stampede a whole flock. When one startled sheep runs in fright, a dozen others will bolt with it in blind fear, not waiting to see what frightened them.

As long as there is even the slightest suspicion of danger from dogs, coyotes, cougars, bears or other enemies, the sheep stand up ready to flee for their lives. They have little or no means of self-defense. They are helpless, timid, feeble creatures whose only recourse is to run.

When I invited friends to visit us, I always made it clear their dogs were to be left at home. I also had to drive off or shoot other stray dogs that came to molest or disturb the sheep. Two dogs have been known to kill as many as 292 sheep in a single night of unbridled slaughter.

Ewes, heavy in lamb, when chased by dogs or other predators will slip their unborn lambs and lose them in abortions. A shepherd’s loss from such forays can be appalling. One morning, I found nine of my choicest ewes, all soon to lamb, lying dead where a cougar had harried the flock during the night.

It was a terrible shock to a young man like myself just new to the business. From then on, I slept with a .303 rifle and flashlight by my bed. At the least sound of the flock being disturbed, I would leap from bed and, calling my faithful collie, dash out into the night, rifle in hand, ready to protect my sheep.

In the course of time, I came to realize that nothing so quieted and reassured the sheep as to see me in the field. The presence of their master and owner and protector put them at ease as nothing else could do, and this applied day and night.

There was one summer when sheep rustling was a common occurr-
ience in our district. Night after night, the dog and I were out under
the stars, keeping watch over the
flock, ready to defend them from
the raids of any rustlers. The news
of my diligence spread along our
back country roads, and the rustlers
quickly decided to leave us alone
and try their tactics elsewhere.

"He maketh me to lie down."

In the Christian's life, there is no
substitute for the keen awareness
that my Shepherd is nearby. There is
nothing like Christ's presence to dis-
pel the fear, the panic, the ter-
or of the unknown.

We live a most uncertain
life. Any hour can bring dis-
aster, danger and distress
from unknown quarries.
No one can tell what a
day will produce in new
trouble. We live either
in a sense of anxiety,
fear and foreboding
or in a sense of quiet
rest.

Generally, it is the
"unknown," the "unex-
pected," that produces
the greatest panic. It is
in the grip of fear that
most of us are unable
to cope with the cruel
circumstances and
harsh complexities of
life. We feel they are foes
that endanger our tranquillit.
ity. Often, our first impulse is sim-
ply to get up and run from them.

Then, in the midst of our misfor-
tunes, suddenly comes the aware-
ness that Christ, the Good Shep-
heard, is there. It makes all the dif-
ference. His presence throws a dif-
f erent light on the whole scene.
Suddenly things are not half so black
nor nearly so terrifying. The out-
look changes, and there is hope. I
find myself delivered from fear.
Rest returns, and I can relax.

The second source of fear from
which the sheepman delivers his
sheep is that of tension, rivalry and
cruel competition within the flock.

In every animal society, there is
established an order of dominance
or status within the group. In a pen-
ful of chickens, it is referred to as
the "pecking order." With cattle, it
is called the "homing order." Among
sheep, we speak of the
"butting order."

Generally, an arrogant, cunning
and domineering old ewe will be
boss of any bunch of sheep. She
maintains her position of prestige by
butting and driving other ewes or
lambs away from the best grazing or
favorite bedgrounds. Succeeding
her in precise order, the other sheep
all establish and maintain their exact
position in the flock by using the
same tactics of butting and thrusting
at those below and around them.

Because of this rivalry, tension
and competition for status and self-
assertion, there is friction in a flock.
The sheep cannot lie down and rest
in contentment. They must stand up
and defend their rights and contest
the challenge of the intruder.

Hundreds and hundreds of times,
I have watched an austere old ewe
walk up to a younger one that might
have been feeding contentedly or
resting quietly in some sheltered
spot. She would arch her neck, tilt
her head, dilate her eyes and
approach the other with a stiff-legged
gait. All of this was saying in unmis-
takable terms, "Move over! Out of
my way! Give ground or else!" And
if the other ewe did not immediately
leap to her feet in self-defense, she
would be butted unmercifully. Or if
she did rise to accept the challenge,
one or two strong thrusts would
soon send her scurrying for safety.

This continuous conflict and
jealousy within the flock can be a
most detrimental thing. The sheep
become edgy, tense, discontented
and restless. They lose weight and
become irritable.

But one point that always in-
terested me very much was that
whenever I came into view and my
presence attracted their attention,
the sheep forgot their foolish
rivalries and stopped their fighting.
The shepherd's presence made all
the difference in their behavior.

When my eyes are on my Master,
they are not on those around me.
This is the place of peace.

As is the case with freedom from
fear of predators or friction within
the flock, the freedom of fear from
the torment of parasites and insects
is essential to the contentment of
sheep. Especially in the summer,
sheep can be driven to absolute
distraction by nasal flies, bot flies,
warble flies and ticks. When tor-
mented by these pests, it is literally
impossible for them to lie down and
rest. Instead they are up and on
their feet, stamping their legs, shak-
ing their heads, ready to rush off in-
to the bush for relief from the pests.
The sheepman must be amongst his
charges daily, keeping a close watch
on their behavior. As soon as there
is the least evidence that they are be-
ing disturbed, he must take steps to
provide them with relief. Always
uppermost in his mind is the aim of
keeping his flock quiet, contented
and at peace.

Finally, to produce the conditions
necessary for a sheep to lie down,
there must be freedom from the
fear of hunger. This, is clearly implied
in the statement, "He maketh me to lie
down in green pastures."

It is not generally recognized that
many of the great sheep countries of
the world are dry, semiarid areas.
Most breeds of sheep flourish best
in this terrain. They are susceptible
to fewer hazards of health or para-
sites where the climate is dry. But in
those same regions, it is neither
natural nor common to find green
pastures. Palestine, where David
kept his father's flocks, is a dry,
brown, sun-burned wasteland.

Green pastures did not just hap-
pen by chance. Green pastures were
the product of tremendous labor,
time and skill in land use. Green
pastures were the result of clearing
rough, rocky land; of tearing out
brush and roots and stumps; of deep
plowing and careful soil prepara-
tion; of seeding and planting special
grains and legumes; of irrigating
with water and husbanding with
care the crops of forage that would
feed the flocks.

All of this represented tremen-
dous toil and skill and time for the
careful shepherd. If his sheep were
to enjoy green pastures amid the
brown, barren hills, it meant he had
a tremendous job to do.

But green pastures are essential to
success with sheep. When lambs are
maturing and the ewes need green,
succulent feed for a heavy milk
flow, there is no substitute for good
pasturage. No sight so satisfies the
sheep owner as to see his flock well
and quietly fed on rich green forage,
able to lie down to rest.

Because of our own perverseness,
we often prefer to feed on the barren
ground of the world around us. I
used to marvel how some of my
sheep actually chose inferior forage
at times. But the Good Shepherd has
supplied green pastures for those
who care to move in onto them and
there find peace and plenty.
I. Paul's letter to the Philippians leads us to know two marvelous men.
   A. Early we met again Timothy learning:
      1. Faithful ministers are worthy of esteem.
      2. We learn God's plans govern our lives.
      3. In a self-seeking world it's great to find a truly unselfish man.
      4. Though some men are false, remember there are those that stand the test - v.22.
      5. We find good men desire to promote the welfare of others.
      6. Good news about good men brought comfort.
      7. The Lord is the center of attention of good men.
      8. Do not overlook the value of one individual - he makes a difference.
      9. Christ puts a value on friendship. "I would rather be condemned to be led out and hung if I knew one human soul would love me for a week beforehand and honor me afterwards, than live a half century to be nothing to any living creature" (Meyer).
B. Now we are ready to meet another - introduced to us only in Philippians. His name is Epaphroditus.

II. Paul plans to send Epaphroditus.
A. It was a necessity.
1. Situation demands he send him back. 
2. They had earlier sent him to Paul. 
B. Epaphroditus
1. We find him only in this letter. 
2. Name from Aphrodite, lit. charming, from Goddess of Love. 
3. Give leaders the recognition deserved. 
4. What's in Philippians is all we know about him. 
5. Yet name is surrounded with halo of unfading glory. 
6. Paul puts him on an equality with him. 
7. They were together in sympathy, service, suffering. 
C. Gives him five plaudits. 
1. My Brother. 
   a) Term of affection. 
   b) Describes a relationship. 
   c) Brother never a title.
d) Every male Christian in the body a brother.

e) First of five terms: brother, laborer, (workmate), fellow soldier (compadre) in arms, messenger, minister.

2. Companion in Labor.
   a) Engaged in same work Paul did.
   b) Lightfoot said three works arranged in ascending scale: "Common sympathy, common work, common danger, and toil and suffering."

3. Fellow soldier.
   a) All Christians are soldiers involved in a constant battle with evil.
   b) We know his name, but not a single Roman warrior.
   c) They shared common dangers.

4. Your messenger.
   a) One sent with a mission, apostle.
   b) Apostle only as he was sent with a commission, special orders, authority.
   c) See: Acts 14:14 Rom.16:27
      2 Cor. 8:23 Acts 13:1-3
   d) Gets reception and respect of the church.
   e) Message safe when he delivered it.
5. Ministered to my wants.
   a) Saw to Paul's needs.
   b) Served his fellowman.
   c) With Paul - one in sympathy, work, danger.
   d) Minister, servant, slave (associate).
   e) Daily work a sacrifice to God.
   f) Such cannot be done in a mediocre fashion.

D. Now about his disposition.
1. Longed after you all.
   a) Great when our major concern is for others - not ourself.
   b) One and all - no exception.
   c) Seek the good of others regardless of cost.

2. Was full of heaviness (soul troubled).
   a) Describes Christ's agony in garden.

Matt. 26:37 Grieved & distressed
Mark 14:33 Very depressed & troubled
   b) Means worn out, overpowered with heavy grief.
   c) He agonized as a gladiator wrestled in the amphitheatre - in prayer.
   d) Killed with grief.
3. Reason: because you heard he'd been sick.
   a) They knew his illness, not his convalescence.
   b) Not told what caused illness.
   c) Shall I tell others how I am — does it burden others?
   d) Don't talk about your slights — it's easy to overstate.
   e) We are distressed if brethren don't hear we are sick — he was sad because they did hear?

4. For indeed he was sick.
   a) Illness nearly fatal.
   b) Paul gives little thought to his own personal comfort.

5. God had mercy.
   a) Not healed by a miracle, but by the ordinary providence of God.
   b) What was purpose of miracles? "A message with a punch."
   c) Epaphroditus not a quitter — not sent back for that reason so this tells why.
   d) Don't drown in our own troubles think of others.
   e) Gamblers term — he hazard his life for Jesus.
   f) We need to be gamblers for Jesus.
   g) It was a hopeless situation until God had mercy, showing sovereign power.
6. Avoided sorrow upon sorrow.
   a) Could be Paul was going through some very hard times.
   b) God's the most tender one we know.
7. Sent more carefully (diligently).
   a) He gets respect and reception rightfully due him.
   b) More eagerly (NASB).
   c) Recover your cheerfulness.
8. Again happy words: rejoice, less sorrowful, all gladness. Clouds on his own sky in no way interferes with the joy he has for others.
9. Receive him therefore in the Lord.
   a) Welcome him home due to his sacrifice.
   b) It's Paul's idea to send him back.
   c) Faith, love, purity are cementing energies.
   d) Note: in the Lord - Frank Barker's call, "What is right hand fellowship?"
   e) Let gladness means recover your cheerfulness.
   f) Hold such in reputation (honor). He'd brought money then got sick.
   g) Though Paul loved him, he could not perform a miracle to save him.
h) Epaphroditus was no easygoing Christian. His faith made stern demands on him that called for no limits of self-denial or sacrifice. He thought little of his personal comfort and safety in order to discharge his responsibilities.

10. What is meant by your lack of service toward me?

a) Not a rebuke, but simply means he was there to do what he could--they were 800 miles away.

b) Paul's not concerned with his own comfort.

c) See: Luke 7:2

I Peter 2:4-6

d) Work of a highly valued slave.

e) There should be a buffer of grace between Christ's people which enabled them to make allowances for each other's weaknesses and needs (Ogilvie)
I. Want to do 3 things:
   A. Introduce Apphia.
   B. Look at "terms" or "titles" in book.
   C. Study the salutation.

II. Apphia
   A. Only here.
   B. Wife?
   C. "My dear Sister". (RV)
   D. Beloved--varies with translations.
   E. Obscure--yet Paul was associated with them--true humility.
   F. Close friend? Why address her in domestic matters if not a wife? Part of family perhaps.
   G. Wife in those days in charge of slaves so she had a role.

III. Look at book for "titles".
    A. Not even apostle.
    B. All gentle terms and simple: "Partner" for instance.

IV. Now the Salutation
    A. Paul
       1. "Signed" letter as he started it.
       2. Name would awake great interest.
       3. Prisoner.
          a) 5 or 6 mentions of chains:
             1, 9, 10, 13, 23, 22
          b) Prisoner means bound with chains
          c) First word about himself is pathetic.
          d) Persecuted for righteousness sake.
             Matt. 5:10
             Acts 5:41
Authority of bonds irresistible.

Plea in a form can't resist.

How could Philemon resist an appeal which was penned within prison walls by a manacled hand? (Lightfoot)

Note Paul's not embittered.

Links his name with Jesus to show connection with any requests he'll make.

B. Timothy

1. No one knows why he links his name here with his.

2. But who could deny two men like Paul & Timothy?

3. His name though adds weight to request.

4. Shows he is in agreement with request.

5. He's a brother--brotherhood of all believers.

6. Only mention of him in letter.

7. We all serve as companion in labor--can be no real obscurity.

8. Timothy had come at his request.

2 Tim. 4:9

C. Philemon

1. Unknown except here.

2. We gather he was:
   a) Fairly well to do.
   b) Hospitable.
   c) Christian.
   d) Generous.
3. Our beloved and fellow laborer.

2 Cor. 8:23

a) We love workers!
b) Partner—not a son.

D. Apphia

1. Beloved.
2. Expressed his affection rightfully for a sister.
3. Woman mentioned between 2 men who were fellow laborer and fellow soldier.
4. Hints at the elevation of women—no male or female in Christ (Gal. 3:28).
5. See what Christianity is doing for womanhood.
6. Woman's work sometimes slowest, but surest.
7. Though unknown, her name is there.

E. Archippus, Fellow Soldier

1. Son perhaps? If so, see the family.
2. Note Col. 4:17.
3. What could he do—offer counsel?
4. Aggressive in battle since Christianity is a warfare.
5. Also shows fight not out of Paul, though imprisoned.
6. Name means master of the horse.
7. Term used:

Phil. 2:25
8. Do we have any campaigns?
9. Are we doing work of a soldier:
   watch, warn, fortify, safeguard, fight.

East Main Ladies Class (TCC) - 2/1/95
Bells, TN Ladies Class - 3/29/95
Ulysses, KS Ladies Class - 4/4/95
Donelson Church - 4/16/95
PHIL. 3

1. We've an hour—let's see what we can learn, as I pick vital parts of this chapter. 108 l's - 77 you's
11. We shall do it by either verse or paragraph.
A. Verse 1.
   1. Finally - henceforth, for the rest, further.
   2. How do we get brethren? Same Father, Mother, Inheritance, etc.
   4. Repetition - Keep telling it.
B. Verses 2-3.
   1. Contrast of groups.
      (a) Dogs - Judaizers Legalist.
           Jewish to be a Chr. - Beware - "constantly observe to avoid."
      (b) Evil worker - skill, craft.
      (c) Concision - cut around - religion w/o reality.
      (d) Circumcision - cut around people - ears, lips, hearts.
      (e) Spiritual worshippers - must be authorized - more than a physical happening - stand, sit, bow, leave.
      (f) Rejoice in the Lord - flesh gets no confidence vote. Confidence is a settled persuasion - Broad faced people.
C. Verse 4 - 7.
   1. Profit & Loss.
   2. 7 advantages; 4 inherited, 3 acquired.
(a) May a man use himself as an example.
(b) What advantages do you claim.
3. Gain is plural – Christ upsets life values.
4. World wants health & wealth – what about making Chr. easy – water is warm.

D. V. 8 – 14.
1. Paul's dream.
   (a) Learned progressively.
   (b) Recall now in prison.
2. Knowledge.
   (a) How do we get it?
   (b) This full & based also on experience.
   (c) Personal, Decided, Rational.
      (1 count) Supreme (all).
   (d) Note My Lord.
3. What have you gained in Jesus?
4. Note the two righteousnesses!
   (a) Define - rite relationship c God & rite conduct.
   (b) By faith - not asked to believe something you know not true, thus a delusion. Not credulity nor subjective.
5. Know him – as well as win, be found.
   (a) Power of Resurrection.
      (1) Power to die to sin & self.
      (2) Note "backward chronology as res. mentioned before suffering.
   (b) Fellowship of suffering.
      (c) Conformable to his death – bring to same form.
6. Attain to the Resurrection. Literally "out resurrection."
Col. 3:1 "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things above!"

7. Strong words:
   (a) Attained.
   (b) Perfect - God uses imperfect men.
   (c) Follow - catch like a ft. ball player.
       Pursue as runner on course.
   (d) Apprehend.

8. Forget.
   (b) Runner can't look back.

9. Reach.
   (a) Note things plural - lot now & hereafter too.
   (b) Omar Khoyam, "The stars are setting & the caravan starts for the dawn of nothing."
   (c) Fixed consecration c solid commitment. Agony of effort.
   (d) Must run in prescribed bounds & lanes.

E. V. 15-21.
1. Chr. is consistent & expanding even takes eternity to complete it.
2. Don't be legalist.
3. Don't be libertine.
5. Grace does not outlaw morality.
6. Do we affect the world or the world us the most?
7. Nothing can be will of God that is contrary to His word.
8. 2 walks - believer & unbeliever - way man walks determines his character.
9. Breaks Paul's heart to see enemies.
10. World today - for self & sex.
11. We are heavenly colony on earth.
12. Look = intense yearning, eager waiting.
   (a) Body = soul = spirit.
   I Thess. 5:23 "And the very God of peace sanctify you.
   I Cor. 5:44-51
   I Thess. 4:17 "Then we which are alive and remain shall...
   (b) Vile = made low.
   Lu. 1:48 "For he hath regarded the low estate of his
   Acts 8:33 "In his humiliation his judgment was taken up.
   James 1:10 "But the rich, in that he is made low: beca
   (c) Subdue = arrange under one's authority. Set in
   array this disordered world.
   (d) We have to be changed 1st before this 2nd change.

Fresh End Advance 5-3-79
Tell Me A Beautiful Word

Phil. 3:1

I. I painfully recall my mother asking me as a pre-teen to name some beautiful words. A. Loving words with soft endings irrespective of meaning, I said, "Armada, Oklahoma" and similar ones. B. I immediately saw she was disappointed. She answered, "I'd hoped you would say, "Love, Mother, Honor" - an article I'm reading cited these. C. I went for sound - not meaning and no boy likes to disappoint his mother.

II. Now I give you a chance to disappoint me - what would you recite today? A. In your list would the word "safe" appear?
   1. Your folk pray for your "safe" trip.
   2. Baseball teams delight in the runner being "safe."
   3. With today's market we breathe easier if investments are "safe."
B. But let's move to the religious world (Barry Brewer told us the story of the critical family with the little boy's comment, "I thought it was pretty good - they let us all in for a dollar).
III. Biblical usage of "safe."

A. Could be family.

1. Twice David got evasive answers to his question about his son.

2 Sam. 18:29  "Is the young man Absalom safe?"

18:29  "I saw a great tumult and knew not what it was."

2 Sam. 18:32  "Unto Cushi is the young man safe?"

18:32  "The enemies and all that rise against thee to do hurt."

2 Sam. 18:33  "The king was much moved and went to the chamber over the gate and wept."

2. Story of Prodigal's return.
Luke 15:27  "Thy brother is come.... calf.... received safe and sound."

B. Could be physical.

Acts 23:24  "Two centurions - Paul and Felix safe."

Acts 27:44  "Some on boards...broken pieces... all safe."

C. Could be faith.
Ps. 119:117  "Hold thou me up and I shall be safe."

Prov.18:10  "The name of the Lord is a strong tower."
Prov. 29:25  "Whoso puts his trust in the Lord shall be safe."

Ezek. 34:27  "They shall be safe and know that I am the Lord."

D. Could be doctrine.

Phil. 3:1  "Finally my brethren, rejoice in the Lord, to write the same things to you, to me indeed is not grievous, but for you it is safe."

1. Ancient paths, same thing, blessed truth.
2. Not innovations, nor additions.
3. Same thing is safe.

Harding Chapel Speech 10/25/02
PAUL AND THE THREE BEWARES

Phil. 3:1-3

I. What are some of the happiest words you hear the preacher say?
A. Finally
B. Last point-through barbedwire fence
C. In conclusion-Keeble "don't you conclude!"

II. Half way through the letter Paul writes "Finally."
A. Farewell--it's sending or drawing to a close. Peace comes to a regenerate soul.
   1. Forty-four words follow Finally.
   2. It's the center - as much went before as follows.
   3. Means in the final analysis.
   4. Thus he starts a great chapter for spirituality.
   5. Means "as to the rest" literally "for the rest," "what remains."
B. My brethren.
   1. No class distinction in Christians.
   2. Let's not look for faults, but look for kinship - "my" brethren.
   3. Christianity is personal.

III. Rejoice in the Lord.
A. Constant theme of Philippians.
   1. Farewell, glory, exalt.
2. Be glad always.

Neh. 8:10 "Joy of the Lord was strength."

3. Joy is associated with the study of the Word.

Psalms 19:8 The precepts of the Lord are right, reviving the heart
Psalms 119:14 I have forsaken my ease to follow your law. I am much as I walked rich in
John 15:10-11 It is a much more abundant and

B. In the Lord

1. Repetition of rejoice so that will not be despondent.

2. Also a warning against dissension in the fellowship.

3. Supernatural says Boyce — delights in God and in God's goodness.

4. Happiness in circumstantial; joy is the inner delight in the Lord.

5. Christians ought to be happy in that he knows the Lord.


John 17:13

7. It's the inner quality of delight in the Lord — not based on circumstances, unrelated to adversity of life (Boyce).

8. Let your happiness be that which you derive from the Lord.
B. Things I write to you.
   1. Repeat instructions.
   2. He has but one gospel so repeats things formerly said.
   3. To G.K. Wallace "I've always enjoyed that sermon" - Bill Rhodes.
   4. Says same thing in all the churches
   5. Things of this epistle same as that he preached. (Politicians get in trouble with divided tongue).
   6. It's better to have divine truths committed to writing rather than memory.
   7. Yet a letter can be lost or corrupted, still best way to preserve truth.
   8. To you - ever remembered who they are.
   9. We must learn our doctrine from God - not men.

IV. Paul, unlike Goldilocks, deals with three Bewares.
   A. We see him deal with Judaizers saying circumcision (law) is necessary to salvation as well as those who taught sinless perfection.
   B. Beware - constantly observe and avoid - look to - watch out - see.
C. It's old story of religion without reality, ritual without response.

D. He takes on Jewish teachers who were seeking to undue his work. Calls them three things and these three are carefully chosen to throw their claim back to themselves (Barclay).

V. Three Bewares

A. Beware of dogs. 2 Samuel 16:9
   1. Word for mangy, vicious, half-starved animal – not the manicured cultured ones.
   2. Ferocity, impudence, greedy, degenerated, unclean, destitute of moral value.
   3. He's the pariah, roaming the streets sometime in parks, in the garbage dumps, snapping and snaring at all they met.
   4. Nothing lower than some dogs.

I Samuel 24:14
II Kings 8:13
Ps. 22:16
Ps. 22:20
Luke 16:25
Isa. 56:9-11

7. Gentiles called dogs by Jews because left out of covenant – revised in new convevant.
8. Folks worthless and ugly.
9. Suggests unclean, wantonness, half-wild, contempt, reproach, dread.
10. First of three enemies he suggests.

B. Beware evil workers.
1. People of skill, crafty.
2. Set to do all the harm they can.
4. Fanatical, unbalanced, can't tell the part from the whole.
5. Cranks - introduce false words.
6. They catch every new thing and vagary.
7. Hobbyist - take one point to the exclusion of the whole.
8. Every teacher and preacher must be anxious to listen to God; not propagate his own opinion.
9. Sadly workers of evil when he thinks he's serving righteously.
10. Judaizers who pervert the gospel.
11. The bad workmen.
C. Beware of the concision - Judaizers

Acts 15:1

1. Cutting and mutilation vs. sacred rite.
2. To sever that which should be entire.
3. Saved by keeping rites of Judaism.
4. Resist temptation to depression.
5. Gashing, mutilating.
6. Not the same as circumcision. Word is used by the apostle to degrade the pretension that the Jews made to sanctify by the cutting of their flesh.

VI. We are the circumcision.

A. Who are the true people of God?
B. Broad-minded.

Ps. 34:5 "They looked unto him and were radiant."

C. Word - to cut around.

1. To cut around people's ears so they will hear the word.
2. Not religion without reality; ritual without response.
3. Something more is needed than a mark in the body - must have a certain kind of mind, heart and character of life.
4. Takes more than a physical body to belong to God - for the Jew though it made everything else unnecessary. (Be sure we don't do it with baptism).

Deut. 10:16 Circumcize the foreskin of your heart and be no more stiff-necked

5. We (Christians) are the true circumcision - have purification of heart.

6. Circumcision vs. concision - used only here - to mutilate.

7. Warned because false teachers could come anytime - imperative mood.

8. We are the true Jew - Abraham's children.

Romans 2:28-29

C. We worship God in Spirit.
1. Inspired and guided by spirit.
2. All true worship begins within the soul rather than senses.
3. Form of worship little more than a physical happening - when told us sit, stand, etc.

John 4:24

4. We do a servant's work, something precisely dictated by the Word.
5. We worship by the Spirit of God.
6. Flesh and spirit antagonist.
7. We serve under the direction of the Holy Spirit.

D. Rejoice in Christ Jesus.
1. Glory, exult. Merry heart doeth good like a medicine.
2. Thirty times in his epistles speaks of boasting in Jesus.
3. True grounds for rejoicing.

E. No confidence in the flesh (self).
1. Come to a settled persuasion.
2. Come to a conclusion methodically.
3. Renounce all external privileges.
4. Flesh - do all that man achieves aside from the spirit of God.
6. No confidence in merely human things - only in mercy and grace of God and love of Jesus.
7. Self - not subject to God's laws.

Neely's Bend BC, Part I - 8/18/02
Neely's Bend BC, Part II - 9/01/02
I. Two contrasts occur.
   A. What others are.
      1. Dogs.
      2. Evil workers.
      3. Concision.
   B. What we are.
      1. Circumcision.
      2. Worship in Spirit.
      3. Rejoice in the Lord, having no confidence in the flesh.

II. Look at each.
   A. Some are dogs.
      1. Judaizers.
      2. All these describe legalist as dogs tear apart.
      3. To substitute rites for faith when not accompanied by obedience & love is to allow something to lose all meaning.
      5. This beware = constantly observe to avoid.
      7. They taught you must do something Jewish to be a Chr.
   B. Evil workers.
      1. They are busy.
      2. Fought against Gospel.
3. Skill, craft theirs.
C. Concision.
1. It is to sever that which should be entire - head & body.
2. Ernan, "When the profession of certain doctrines or dogmas is regarded as the essence of religion; salvation is by orthodoxy & strict adherence to a formula is accompanied by no kindness of spirit or depth of love, then formalism is seen in its most dangerous aspects."
3. Means to cut around.
4. Old story of religion w/o reality.
D. Circumcision.
Col. 2:11 "In whom also ye are circumcised with the c
1. Sign & seat of OT was circumcision.
2. Simply the cut around people.
(a) Ears to hear.
(b) Lips to speak.
(c) Hearts - rid of hardness.
E. Spiritual worshippers.
1. Carnal vs. spiritual worship.
2. Spirit comforts us by;
   (a) Renewing us.
   (b) Convincing of duty.
John 16:9 "Of sin, because they believe not on me;
   (c) Witnessing our adoption.
Gal. 4:6 "And because ye are sons, God hath sent for
   (d) Brings us to Christ.
Jn. 14:26 "But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghos
(e) Weaning from flesh & comforting us.

Gal. 5:22 “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace
3. Worship must be inspired & guided by spirit of God.
4. True worship is in the soul not the senses.
5. Worship = any sort of service not restricted to
   place, clothes, ceremony.
6. For some worship is little more than a physical
   happening – told when to sit, stand, give, leave.
Jn. 4:24 “God is a Spirit: and they that worship him
   in spirit and in truth.”
F. Rejoice in the Lord.
1. Flesh & spirit antagonistic.
2. Cor. 2:14 “But the natural man receiveth not the thir
2. Flesh – no confidence! This is all that man does
   aside from God.
3. Rejoice = glory, exult.
4. Confidence is a settled persuasion, thus came to
   conclusion methodically.
5. Fear, anger, hatred, guilt all hurt our glands.
6. Some have everything to live with but nothing to
   live for.
7. Instead of broadminded – give us broad faced
   people.
Ps. 34:5 “They looked unto him, and were lightened:
Neh. 8:10 “Then he said unto them, Go your way, eat
III. Note the Contrasts.
A. Carnal vs. Spiritual.
B. External vs. Internal.
C. Flesh vs. Spirit.
D. Praise for friends followed by rebuke of foes.
DEBITS AND CREDIT
Phil. 3:4-7

I. Paul has both sides of the ledger sheet working - & so do we.
   A. Debit.
   B. Credit.
   C. We have profit & loss.

II. Let's look at his Credits - Profits.
   A. Put himself at top of list.
      1. Claimed 7 advantages:
         (a) 4 hereditary.
         (b) 3 personally acquired.
   Gal. 2:14 "But when I saw that they walked not uprigl
   2. Cited advantages in order to show what gaining
      Christ meant.
   3. Bell, "Christ upset his scale of values." World
      has little left to give.
   Nu. 23:9 "For from the top of the rocks I see him, and
   4. When is it wise for a man to speak of himself.
      If any had saving value in inherited privilege, he did.

B. Claimed these items.
   1. Circumcised 8th day.
      (a) Uses self as an example.
      (b) Converts circumcised in maturity; Ishamites at
           13 yr.
      (c) Paul could summons as much boast for externals
           as anyone?
   2. Of stock of Israel.
      (a) Ishmalite claimed Abra. & Isaac.
      (b) Edomite claimed A. & i.
(c) Only Jacob - the chosen people.
(d) Stock = origin.
3. Tribe of Benjamin.
   (a) Son of favorite wife.
   (b) Only one born in promised land.
   (c) Saul - 1st king a Benjamite.
   (d) Alone loyal to Judah.
   (e) Ancestry cannot bequeath salvation.
Acts 4:12 "Neither is there salvation in any other: for
(f) The cross levels.
   (a) Both Mother & Dad Hebrews.
5. A Pharisee.
   (a) Separatest.
   (a) Technical = like Zealot.
   (b) Do we measure our power by what we hate?
7. Righteousness of law - Blameless.
C. Gave it all up for Jesus.
1. Gain is plural, thus covers his legal righteousness
   & his inherited privileges.
2. Change of values due to knowledge of Jesus.
3. Counted = considered, deemed, therot it thru.
4. World says gain is health & money.
5. Jesus wisely asks followers to count the cost.
   No "water is warm" business.
6. If ship about to sink, you throw over most
   valuable cargo - right?
In The World of Contrasts

Phil. 3:7-8

I. Often times we are impressed with matters when we draw certain contrasts.

II. In Philippians 3:7-8, Paul deals with the contrasting emotions and values that have come to his life.
   A. Unashamedly he lists what once he had—all to be forsaken.
   B. He lets us see three great contrasts—the before and after.

III. He has just rattled his chain and listed seven advantages that were his as a Jewish citizen.
   A. Then he discounts every one of them.
      1. All that were gains he counted loss.
      2. Compared to the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus they are loss.
      3. He has suffered the loss of all things, but counted them dung if he might win Jesus.
   B. These contrasts we first want to see.

IV. Evaluating the contrasts.
   A. All things that were gain I count lost.
1. Gains — plural.
2. Thinks of the proud and jealous care with which the religionest would count items of merit and hope: i.e., Hebrew of Hebrews, circumcised eighth day, etc.
3. Great record — but he did not embrace Christianity because of any earlier failure of the Jewish life style — he had it all!
   a) Perfect tense indicating action in the past that continues to have an effect in the present.
   b) Personal — I counted, decided, supreme grasp.
   c) Decisive conviction born of a life long understanding.
   d) I came to a conclusion and I still think so — not a decision made in a moment of impulse, it was a decision by which I stand fast.

B. Compared to the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus they are loss.
   1. Jesus is great, certain, necessary, moral, stable.
   2. His life deeply incorporated in Jesus.
3. My Lord
   a) Note my, not the.
   b) Divine individual is my - my Lord.

4. Loss - singular
   a) Every minute I lived without Jesus is worthless.
   b) I regret nothing laid aside.

5. Knowledge
   a) Not intellectual knowledge.
   b) Not facts or theories.
   c) Not even principles.
   d) We share his experiences, we share the way he walked, his cross, his death and the life he lives forevermore.
   e) He'll enlarge this in latter statements.

C. He suffered the loss of all things and counts them dung to win Jesus.

1. He wanted to know Jesus.
   a) His power.
   b) His suffering.
   c) The results of that life.

2. He'd endangered his life for Jesus.

3. Dung
   a) Vilest description of refuge of anything.
   b) Worst of excrement.
c) Two meanings:
   1) That which is thrown to the dogs.
   2) Medical language - excrements, garbage.

4. Win Christ
   a) Win Christ - v.8
   b) Found in Christ - v.9
   c) Know Christ - v.10
   d) Be like Christ - v.21

5. As a substitute for Jesus all is worthless.

6. What is your aspiration? Augustine wanted before he died to see:
   1) Rome in its glory.
   2) Christ in the flesh.
   3) Paul in his preaching.

7. Paul in this and previous chapters expressed seven wishes: Know Christ, win Christ, magnify Christ, be conformed to Christ, rejoice in the day of Christ, and be forever with Christ.

Graymere, Columbia, TN - 11/17/02
E. Main St., Murfreesboro, TN (BC) 11/20/02
YOU ARE BLESSED!

If you woke up this morning with more health than illness, you are more blessed than the million people who will not survive the week.

If you have never experienced the danger of battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture or the pangs of starvation, you are ahead of 500 million people around the world.

If you attend a church meeting without fear of harassment, arrest, or torture of death, you are more blessed than almost three billion people in the world.

If you have food in your refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof over your head and a place to sleep, you are richer than 75% of this world.

If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish some place, you are among the top 8% of the world’s wealthy.

If your parents are still married and alive, you are very rare, even in the United States.

If you hold up your head with a smile on your face and are truly thankful, you are blessed because the majority of us can, but most do not.

If you can read this message, you are more blessed than over two billion people in the world that cannot read anything at all.

When you compare our day-to-day problems with bigger problems around the world our troubles may not seem so large.

"We are all truly blessed!"
An Open Door
By
Bill Goring

While researching restoration history in Clay County, Missouri, I found some very interesting information in the records of the Liberty Christian Church, formerly the Church of Christ, where Moses E. Lard preached between 1853 and 1857.

During the Civil War, when Liberty was under the command of Federal Troops, an order had been issued by the commander that no public meetings of any nature were to be held in town. This included services of the church. Dr. W.A. Morton, a staunch southern sympathizer, was determined to keep the church doors open. The first Sunday morning the order was in effect, Dr. Morton came to the meeting house and opened the doors, preparing for the morning service as usual. Word of this action spread rapidly through the town, reaching the ears of the commanding officer. The latter immediately sent an aide to the meeting house, bearing orders that no services were to be held. The soldiers rode up to the church, found Dr. Morton, and said, “I have orders from the officer in charge of this community that there is to be no meeting here today.” Dr. Morton replied at once, “I thank you sir, but I have orders from a higher officer than yours to have services, and we plan to obey his command.” The aide withdrew and services were held, not only that Sunday, but every succeeding Sunday thereafter.

When word reached other members of the community that the Church had met, they too, decided to meet the next Sunday. This group was restrained from meeting, however, because the officer told them that, “If it was not worthwhile to have services last Sunday, it is not worthwhile to have services today.” Thus the matter was closed, and the Liberty Church of Christ holds the distinction of being the only church to have services during the period of occupation by the Federal Troops.

If we were issued the same order today, would we too, close our doors as some of them did, or would we have courage to stand for the truth as these brethren did, and obey God rather than Man (Acts 5:29)?
I. For a man to be good enough to go to heaven by himself, he has to from the moment of his birth till the last minute of his life be as morally perfect as God. Otherwise he has to have help.

II. But I want to tell you of a man that almost qualified--yet he said all he had was loss. It's Paul (Phil. 3:4-9).

A. He said he might have confidence in the flesh (v-4).
   1. He passes from one state of religion to another, seeking peace.
   2. Finally he finds the pearl of great price.
   3. He will show us the superlative greatness of Jesus.
   4. Values are established by: Rarity, Quality, Contrasts with other values.

B. As he speaks of the flesh he will establish his credentials.
   1. We will see he enjoyed every privilege a Jew could claim.
   2. Barclay says he has risen to every attainment a Jew could rise to.
   3. He knew what it was to be a Jew in the highest sense of the term and he knowingly, willingly abandoned it all.
   4. He will list seven advantages: 4 hereditary; 3 personal.
5. He does this in order to teach Christ is superior.

6. R. C. Bell said Christ upsets his sense of values.

7. The world really has little to give.

8. Please note Paul speaks of himself--most of the time this is not wise yet there are circumstances that demand it.

9. Laurin said he could boast for religious externalism with the best.

10. He said "I more."

III. Let's Look at His Seven

A. Circumcised the 8th day.

1. Ishmaelites did it in maturity--13 years.

2. See passages:

   Lev. 12:3
   Luke 1:59
   Gen. 17:12
   Gen. 17:25

3. He was not a late comer to Israel--there all his life.

B. Stock of Israel

1. He speaks reverently of Israel.

2. Stock = origin.

3. Not an Edomite or non-Jewish stock.

4. Not a proselyte or grafted in, but original stock.

5. Proud of his religious heritage, religious knowledge & practice, we'll see enthusiastic involvement and consistency of life.
6. If any value in inheritance he had it.
7. Ishmaelites claimed Abraham and Isaac—so did Edomites yet only Jacob the chosen one.
8. Not blood of ancestors saves, but Christ's blood.

Acts 4:12
9. It was Israelite that he loved as name—Jacob after his wrestling—Gen. 32.
10. Edomites could go to Esau—Jew to Jacob, Israel.

C. Trube of Benjamin
1. Son of favorite wife.
2. Only one born in the Promised Land (Gen. 35:17-18).
3. First King, Saul, from Benjamin.
4. Also loyal to Judah.
5. Stood for stern courage, persistent fidelity.
6. Mordecai from Benjamin (Esther).
7. Had a place of honor in Israel's battle cry.

Judges 5:14
Hosea 5:8
(After Thee O Benjamin)
8. See the advantages of birth.

D. Hebrew of Hebrews
1. Both Mom & Dad Hebrews.
2. From Hebrew parents thus he retained native tongue and culture.
3. Maintained Jewish tongue—not Greek. He could speak the language of the country where he lived but he never forgot his native tongue.


5. Spoke to mob in native tongue.

Acts 21:40

E. As touching the law, a Pharisee.

1. Could the law have done anything Paul would have known it.

2. Trained Pharisee.

Acts 22:3

Acts 23:6

Acts 26:5

3. 6000 strong, separated ones.

4. Keep smallest detail of law.

5. Most law abiding sect.

F. Concerning Zeal Persecuted Church

1. Technical term like zealot.

2. Never ashamed to confess he persecuted the church.

3. Once he hated Christ and sought to obliterate the church.


5. Adding personal touch.

6. Do we measure our power by what we hate?

7. Countrymen knew I hated the church.

G. Touching the righteousness which in the law, blameless.

1. As far as righteousness which the law could produce he was blameless.

2. No demand of the law he did not fulfill.
3. As far as the law went he was beyond criticism.  
4. If anyone had kept the record would have found Paul never charged with a transgression.  
5. No one could argue his conversion to Christ was attributed to prior failure in his Jewish lifestyle.  
6. Had an exemplary conformity to way of life prescribed by OT.  
7. Life long permanency in decisive conviction.  
8. As faithful a Jew as to be found.  
9. God accepts us on the basis of the flawless performance of His Son.  
10. Jesus lived the life we ought to live and died the death we would have to die because we did not measure up.  
11. That's His gift for us.  

IV. What Value Did He Place on This?  
A. Some things counted as gain.  
1. Gain is plural includes legal righteousness and inherited privileges.  
2. World says gain is health & wealth.  
3. Plural shows the proud and jealous care with which the religionist would count items of merit and hope.  
4. Gain plural; loss singular.
B. Counted
1. Considered, deem, think.
2. Jesus asks us to count cost.
3. In perfect tense, indicating an action in the past that continues to have an effect in the present.
4. Contrasted with Christianity all poor.

C. Loss
1. Christ upset his scale of values.
2. In storms of life throw all overboard and save ship.
3. Loss refers to bones thrown out to dogs.
4. Dung = excrement or garbage.
5. As a substitute for Jesus they are worthless. Every day of reliance on them had been a day of delay and deprivation in regard to supreme blessing.
6. When he met Jesus all this was useless.
7. Had to divest himself of their claims that he might accept his complete nakedness and humility of the mercy of God in Jesus.
8. Abandon human achievement and accept way of grace.
9. Dung vilest of refuge, worst excrement—everything utterly insignificant and unavailing in point of salvation.
10. He valued the gospel above all things.
11. Not trusting in anything I have done or could do in order to my salvation.
12. Religion no scheme of justification, set up either formerly by myself or others--these things are worthless.
13. As a substitute for Jesus all worthless.
14. Every day of reliance on them was a day of deprivation relative to the superior blessings in Jesus.

V. Win Christ
A. I've made a voluntary choice of Christ, his cross, his poverty & his reproach and for these I have freely sacrificed all I had from the world and all that I could expect from it. (Clark)
B. Superiority comes through the gospel of Jesus, justification through his blood, sanctification by his spirit, and eternal glory through his merit and intercession.
C. Faith leads us to take what the Christ offers.
D. No matter how moral we are, a single sin can rob us of Heaven--need Jesus.

Neely's Bend BC - 9/8/02
Erin, TN (BC) - 9/15/02
Pile It On

Phil. 3:7-12

I. Pile it on, either
   A. Cover on a cold night adding it.
   B. On work and added things come.
   C. Or down and jump on, pile on.

II. What Paul does with glorious doctrine I think of "piling it on."
   A. He does it with one blessed truth on top of another.
   B. He may use "and" or "that" but inspiration adds another truth.
   C. Let's thrill to his piling on one blessed truth after another.

III. He has just rattled his chain and listed seven advantages that were his as a Jewish citizen.
   A. Then he discounts every one of them
      1. All that were gains he counted loss.
      2. Compared to the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus they are loss.
      3. He has suffered the loss of all things, but counted them dung if he might win Jesus.
   B. These additions of spiritual value we now want to see.
IV. These are the "pile ons."
A. And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith. (v.9)
1. We are in Him - "found in Him."
2. When God comes to find you, where will you be found? Any better place than in Jesus?
3. Little boy fell out of the bed, why? "Stayed too near the place where I got in."
4. At any moment of scrutiny - be found in Him.
5. Our lives deeply incorporated in Christ.
6. We come in humble faith as He has told us to - enter a fellowship better than anything we've ever known.
7. Jesus - his continuing and constant presence a refinement.
8. Closer we are to Him the less the room for dissension.

B. Not a righteousness, mine, of the law.
1. Not secured by the law.
2. No claim due to my own doing or merit, supposed to satisfy by a legal standard.
3. Key word is righteousness.

C. But a righteousness which is God by faith.
1. Our fellowship with God is through faith as we live the kind of life, conduct, spirit, heart, attitude God desires.
2. We seek ever to please God.
3. It's righteousness based on faith in Jesus Christ - not achieved by man, but given by God.
4. Not won by works, but accepted in trust.
5. We only get right with God when we take Jesus at his word and accept what he offers - not by works, but by grace.
6. Our acceptance is procured for us by the merits of the redeeming Lord, appropriated by means of faith, as I accept his offer.
7. He is our propitiation, not our merit.
8. Faith leads us to do the things He asks for.
9. We want to be Christ-like.
10. Life requires faith - even an airplane ride
V. That I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His suffering being made conformable unto his death. (v.10)

A. That I may know Him.
1. Note the order:
   a) Resurrection of Christ.
   b) Fellowship of Christians with him in suffering.
   c) Glorious resurrection into eternal life at the last day.
2. When a man is satisfied he ceases to grow.
3. Selfless satisfaction lies at the root of noblest achievements.
4. Know him is the decisive act of knowledge.

B. Know
1. Personal knowledge - more than intellectual knowledge.
2. Not knowledge of facts and figures, but the personal experience of another person.
3. We become one with him and share his experiences.
4. Not know about him, but know him.
5. We know by serious study, by intuition, by understanding, by personally and experimentally, by daily living.
6. We enter a deep personal intimacy and contact.
7. Not intellectual recognition, but communion, fellowship - a living intimacy with the living Christ.
8. The more we know the more we want to know.
9. We want to see picture of author in books we read.
10. He sets lofty ideals in our hearts.

C. Power of His Resurrection
1. Power of the risen life gives fruit and victory.
2. Barclay said the resurrection:
   a) Guarantees the importance of this life and body.
   b) Guarantee of the importance of the body with the immortality and life to come - because He lives we will, his conquest is our victory.
   c) Guarantee of life beyond the grave - the presence of the Lord is always with us.
3. Clark says this is a peculiar word for resurrection - used only here - speaks of those who died in the Lord and rise to glory and honor.
4. Paul preached the resurrection but he wants to feel its power.

5. Paul wishes to be now so like Christ in the way he lives people will think of him as a resurrected person even now, even before physical death.

6. Everything depends on the resurrection of Jesus - without it we are still in our sins.

D. Fellowship of His Suffering

1. Biblical Illustrator said this about suffering:
   The benefits that arise from fellowship shows that sorrow is better than laughter. Uninterrupted prosperity has a prejudicial influence over our spiritual nature and tempts us to forget God. Suffering purifies the soul. In the furnace of affliction the dross of earth is removed, passions are mortified, pride is humbled and our graces are confirmed and strengthened. Suffering draws forth the better quality of a man. The seeds of virtue germinate in the hot bed of affliction. Suffering enables us to comfort others, suffering prepares us for heaven. The fire which
melts some substances, hardens others, so some are improved by affliction while others by reason of their perverseness are made worse.

2. Do we bear a cross, do we suffer for our faith, do we count it a penalty or a privilege?

3. Whatever Christ felt in suffering he wants to feel it too.

4. He further wants to receive it as Jesus did.

I Pet. 4:12-13
2 Tim. 3:12
2 Tim. 2:12

5. Expect to suffer if you follow Jesus.

6. We see Jesus with patience under suffering, compassion for dying men, love for returning sinners.

E. Conformable unto His death.
1. To be pressed into the mold.
2. Complete conformity to Christ.
3. Christ died for others, total self-sacrifice as manifested in entire life.

F. If by any means attain unto the resurrection of the dead.
1. If by any means does not deny his sure and steadfast hope nor suggest any lack of assurance, but implies his humility, shows he might fall from grace and not receive his goal.

2. Attain - arrive as at a goal.

3. Goal - resurrection to eternal life.

4. The event of the last day.

Neely's Bend October 27, 2002
Neely's Bend Nov. 3, 2002
He Didn't Move the Second Pillow

I. Jim Sadler was a man on whom you could depend.
   A. In his life were two great Christian women – no wonder he did so well.
   B. First wife was a Winkler.
      1. She not only was gracious and gave him wonderful Christians she was courageous.
      2. "She wants to talk about a serious matter with you" - it was her death.
      3. She knew to die is gain to live in Christ.
   C. His second wife was robbed of her great husband via airplane crash.
      1. She finished rearing noble children.
      2. Some betook her quiet nature also the fired vibrancy of their dad.
   D. Jim wanted around him Christian folk – how good he was to them.
   E. Quietly left us without moving the second pillow.

II. I sought Jim's ability in many spheres.
   A. In business he was a success.
   B. In hospitality he was superb.
   C. In politics he was astute.
D. In church he was faithful.
   1. In Bible Class.
   2. With children in Yugoslavia.
   3. In foreign places a leader with the Lord's Supper.
E. In human relations - very thoughtful - great and small.
F. In sports a partisan.
G. In relations to his fraternal order - a leader.
H. In respect to his God - profound - even with that quick laughter, jovial manner, yet convicted.

III. Jim leaves some things unfinished:
   A. His Christmas decorations.
   B. His home parties.
   C. His growth of the church and all things good.

IV. Let this console us.

Phil. 3:8 "Yea doubt us and I count all these."
   A. Christ the superlative.
   B. Suffered here - 30 operations
   C. Desired to be found in him
   D. Righteousness not mine - but that through the faith of Christ
   E. So he departs in his 84th year to be with Christ - how could we ask for more.
LIFE'S GOAL?
Phil. 3:8-10
1. Somewhere I must tell myself what I want out of life. None superior to Paul's desire.
Phil. 3:8-14
A. We want to study & itemize his dreams.
B. May I measure mine as I go along?
II. Paul's Dream.
A. All things counted but loss.
   1. Paul progressively learned.
      (a) Wrote this behind prison walls.
      (b) Yet had freedom.
   2. It took 2 worlds to realize his dream.
   3. Emotional words - verily, doubtless.
   4. All is lost if he retains & deprives self of Christ.
   5. Paul came to know his own heart!
   6. When men come to possess a house all other people must be ousted else there is no valid possession.
   7. Christ wants all or nothing.
   8. Paul a name dropper.
   9. All things = all for which & by which he lived.
B. Excellency of the Knowledge of Christ.
   1. It is a knowledge based on experience - full, vital, complete.
   2. Wants to experience a full appreciation for Jesus
   3. Here we come to highest ground:
      (a) Identify c Christ.
      (b) Live in Christ.
      (c) Reward by Christ.
   4. 3 levels of life.
(a) Wrong, sinful.
(b) Good, noble, but humanistic.
(c) God motivated & controlled.
5. Paul's knowledge:
   (a) Personal - I count - don't substitute a relative's
       for your personal deity.
   (b) Decided - yea doubtness.
   (c) Rational - I count.
   (d) Supreme - all things.
6. Christ is suitable to us in every part - nothing he
   said to be under evaluated?
7. Knowledge great relative to:
   (a) Greatness & dignity of service.
   (b) Certainty.
   (c) Necessity.
   (d) Magnitude of evil averted.
   (e) Moral influence exerted.
   (f) Stability of its objects.
8. Knowing Christ radically changes things.
9. Note = My Lord, not the Lord, not everybody's
   but his personally.
C. Suffered Loss for Jesus.
1. Suffer is to punish by exacting forfeit!
2. Paul a citizen of Tarsus - only wealthy families
   allowed to retain citizenship. Was he born to
   wealth & culture? Was he disowned?
3. Wanted men to see what he gave up; personal
   example.
4. When I gain Christ, what do I get?
   (a) Ransom from wrath.
Col. 1:14 "In whom we have redemption through his b
  (b) Access to God.
Heb. 10:19 "Having therefore, brethren, boldness to
  (c) Nature converted.
2 Pet. 1:4 "Whereby are given unto us exceeding grec
  (d) Christ our treasure house.
1 Cor. 1:30 "But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of
  (e) Heir.
Rom. 8:17 "And if children, then heirs; heirs of God,
D. In Christ I want:
  1. To win Him - (3 things cited - we'll study more
     completely later.)
  2. Find Him.
     (a) Whoever heard of "in Plato." Christ is not an
        external teacher.
     (b) Can one find Him w/o word.
WHAT ONE THING ABOVE ALL ELSE DO YOU WANT TO KNOW? Phil. 3:8-11

1. I went to Broadway, (Lubbock) Outreach Bldg. c Jim Moss & ________ asked the above of his 5th & 6th grade kids.
   A. What would you have answered? They stayed exclusively on the religious.
   B. What they said on cold spur of moment was:
      1. Does God forgive every time we ask even if we keep sinning?
      2. Where is Heaven?
      3. Do angels fly?
      4. After death, will I be an angel?
      5. When will Christ come?
      6. If I die 12 yrs. old, will I be 12 yrs. of age in Heaven?
      7. Is everybody going to Heaven?
      8. What does it mean to pave a street with pure gold?
      9. What does Heaven look like?
     10. Does my soul walk?
     11. What kind of face will I have in Heaven? (I asked don't you like mine?)

   C. Children are precious.
      1. Lee Fowlkes told Meredith, "Don't touch grandmother's pretty things on her coffee table - when she says No, she means it, like God!"
      2. At Broadway they told a child to behave, he didn't, took him out & Jackie Sanders said he yelled, "Don't spank me - tell God I'm sorry."
3. One teacher was teaching the 10 commandments. He was on "Thou shalt not steal." Fearing they didn't understand, he asked, "Do you know what you do when you steal?" "Yea, run home as fast as you can."

II. But what do we want above all things else?

Phil. 3:8 "Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the exceeding riches of Christ." Yea, doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the exceeding riches of Christ.

A. What does this mean?
1. Dinsdale Young, in his Crimon Book "The Knowledge of Jesus thrills the soul with a quenchless enthusiasm.
2. Matt Henry, "A believing experimental acquaintance with Christ as Lord."
3. Dean Vaughan, "The superiority."
   Dean Alford, "The supereminence."
   Bishop Moule, "The surpassingness."
4. Paul in a superlative says it's over "all things."
   Nothing equals.

B. If knowing Christ is superior, can this be justified?
1. To know Jesus lets us see God.
   Jn. 14 "Show us the Father"
   1 Tim. 3 "God, who was manifest He that hath seen me"
   (a) Nowhere else do we see God - above nature, man, children's faces, music, friends, deeds.
   (b) Godet, "Jesus Christ is God lived by man."
   (c) Do you want God at all cost? This one thing I do!
   (d) Lee Fowlkes story. "She means it - like God!"
   (e) Broadway story. "Tell God I'm sorry."
2. It answers, "What must I do to be saved?"
(a) Origin of Fish.
(b) What else can give salvation?
   (1) Human learning?
   (2) Morality?
   (3) Wealth
   (4) Culture
   (c) Only in Jesus.

Acts 4:12
Ecc. 7:12 "The excellency of knowledge is that wisdom giveth life to them that have it."

Isa. "By his knowledge shall my servant justify many"

John 17:3 "And this is eternal life that they might know thee"
   (1) Knowledge of Jesus mocks death.
   (2) Nothing remains but Jesus!

3. It gives greatest ethical knowledge of life?
   (a) Life's highest moral standard.
   (b) He exhausts the possibilities of goodness as no one ever has.
   (c) Above all others he went about doing good?
   (d) None convicted him of sin. John 8
   (e) Stealing story: what do you do when you steal?

4. It gives a powerful influence.
   (a) Calls for my obedience Lordship
      Why call me Lord?
   (b) Calls for my endurance
      For whom I have suffered the
      (1) From law courts - figure "I was sentenced to the loss of all things."
Charged a high crime of following Christ, so to speak.
(3) Pleaded guilty - all things taken from him.
(c) Calls for my sacrifice as nothing else.

C. What about you?

Have I been so long time with you, & yet thou hast not known me?

1. In Christ do you see:
(a) God
(b) Grace
(c) Goodness
(d) Glory of Heaven

Broadway Church, Lubbock, Dec. 10-74
Broadway Church, Lubbock, Jan. 3-74
West Side Church, Lubbock, Feb. 11-74
South Park Church, Lubbock, 11-18-74
Hymnal at First Church, Lubbock, 12-2-74
First Park Church, Lubbock, 1-28-75
First Side Church, Lubbock, 1-28-75
First Elm Church, Lubbock, Dec. 2-10-74

First Elm Church, Sikechurch, 2-17-75
South National Church, Springfield, Mo, 3-19-75
First Elm Church, Memphis, 3-31-75
Memorial Church, Memphis, 5-15-75
'Yea verily, and I count all things to be loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may gain Christ, and be found in him...that I may know him...' (Philippians 3:7-10). When Paul says he counts the things he lost 'dung', he means not merely that he does not think of them as having any value but also that he does not live with them constantly in his mind; what normal person spends his time nostalgically dreaming of manure? Yet this, in effect, is what many of us do. It shows how little we have in the way of true knowledge of God.

"Knowing God" - By J. I. Packer - Page 21
"Well, Mary, how do you like your little brother?" the visitor asked. Mary responded: "Oh, he's all right, I guess, but there are a lot of things we needed worse."

Opening his mail one morning, Henry Ward Beecher, a well-known New England clergyman, opened a sheet of paper that read simply, "Fool."

In a sermon the next Sunday, he referred to the message by saying: "I've known of instances where a person forgot to sign his name to a letter, but this is the only instance I know of where the writer signed his name and forgot to write the letter."

A bride-to-be was reviewing her guest list for the wedding when her friend commented that only married people were on the list. "Isn't that rather strange?" was her friend's question.

"Not at all," was the reply. "That was Jim's idea, and a clever one! He says that if we invite only married people the presents will all be clear profit."
Aids listed for getting folks to church include:

Murine for those whose eyes are tired from watching the late, late Saturday night show. Or Visine. We've got to keep this thing impartial. Blankets for those who think the sanctuary is too cold and fans for those who think it is too hot.

Hearing aids for those who say the organ music is too soft and cotton for those who think it is too loud.

A fine selection of wild flowers for those who claim they worship better in the outdoors.

Stamp Out Stewardship buttons for the ones who say the church is always asking for money.

TV dinners for those who can't cook and attend church services too. These will be handy for the members who leave before the last hymn to get to the restaurant ahead of the Baptists, or the Presbyterians.

Isolation booth for those who can't stand the press of crowds.

Free long distance service for those who have to visit relatives or attend family reunions on Sunday.

And lastly, hard hats for those who say, "If I go to church the roof will surely fall in."—Rev EUGENE BARLOW, quoted in Atlanta Constitution.

The church bulletin board gave as the sermon subject “What Is Hell Like?” Below in smaller letters was the invitation, "Come in and Enjoy the Air Conditioned Comfort of Our Sanctuary."—LEO AIKMAN.

There are families who regard church as they do a political convention — they send just one delegate.—LOU ERICKSON.
IF RESTRICTED TO ONLY ONE FINAL WISH--WHAT WOULD IT BE?  

**Phil. 3:9-15**

I. Choice and priority come in the lives of us all.
   A. Our time's employment.
   B. Our money's usage.
   C. Our mind's occupation.

II. But if restricted to one final wish--what would it be
    
    **Phil. 3:9** "And be found in him, not having mine own ri
    
    A. Found in Him.
       1. He'd earlier said count all things but loss.
       2. That I may win Christ.
       3. Be Found in Him.
          a.) At any moment of scrutiny.
          b.) Life deeply incorporated in Christ.
    B. This is not achieved after man's way.

V. 9 "Not having my own ri.
   1. Not secured by the law.
   2. No claim due to my own doings & merit.
   3. No satisfaction of a legal standard.

C. In Christ I've:
   1. His righteousness by faith.

2 Tim. 4:8 "Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown
   
   a.) Our acceptance is procured for us by the merits
      of the Redeeming Lord.
   b.) We are accepted for Christ's sake, or else on the
      score of our personal merit. Which are you
      choosing?  
      c.) Is Christ your propitiation?

2. What's meant by faith of Christ?
   a.) It's the faith that leads men to do the things
b.) It's the faith that makes us want to be godlike.
c.) It is that which procures our acceptance.
d.) It is not mere mental assent to testimony nor is it a mental act perfectly separable from the act of personal reliance. Moule e.) Moule further said it is the trustful acceptance of Divine truth.
f.) It's accepting something out of God, uncaused by man, originating in God's love.

3. I know Him & the Power of His resurrection.
   a.) We are resurrected in Christ & our lives are hidden in Him.
   b.) We know Jesus personally - not ornate rules, priesthood & regulations.
   c.) Myer says as a river running thru soil takes the qualities of the land so our lives running thru Jesus takes His personality.
   d.) Know Him is the decisive act of knowledge.

4. Power of His resurrection.
   a.) Risen Lord ate fish, called Mary by name, knows our needs.
   b.) He now comes from another sphere to succor us.
   c.) His resurrection influences our lives today.
   d.) It's powerful as it:
      \[
      \begin{align*}
      (1) & \text{ Evidences our justification.} \\
      (2) & \text{Assures our own resurrection.} \\
      (3) & \text{Let's Him be the life giving 2nd Adam.} \\
      e.) & \text{Should willingly bear your cross.}
      \end{align*}
      \]

C. This raises the Question of Achievement & Perfec
V. 12 "Not as tho I had already attained, either were
V. 12 "Either were already perfect
1. Lofty ideas set in our heart.
2. If all your objectives of life could be completed, what would be the greatest joy to you?
3. Didn't think he'd arrived spiritually.
D. Rather - Follow - Apprehend - One Thing -
   Forget - Reach - Press.
1. Apprehend = grasp.
2. Forget behind - not around or present. Good ole days may not have been.
3. Reach - Stretch head & body to goal. Eye before the hand.
4. Each occasion brings a new lap. Press! Pursue!
5. Run a definite aim - Stretch myself forward runner leaning as he runs.
6. "When a man is satisfied, he ceases to grow", said Thoswaldson as he cried over completing his best statue.
7. Self dissatisfaction lies at the root of the noblest achievement.
E. Your High Calling.
1. To what are you called? Is it not to be like Jesus
2. High from above.
   a.) Money? No pockets in shrouds.
   b.) Pleasure - like snow on a river.
   c.) Fame - Sen. Carmack at State Capital.
3. High - above our aspirations.
4. It's in Christ.
Eph. 1:18 "The eyes of your understanding being enliç
Heb. 3:1 "Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the
Heb. 12:1 "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed a
West End 11-28-82
Words Imperative I Grasp

Phil. 3:12

I. We come to most passages of Scriptures and are confronted with words that are imperative in nature that I understand.

A. They may have a parallel that helps one get the meaning.

B. In Phil. 3:12 my imperatives are:
   1. Attain
   2. Apprehend or lay hold
   3. Perfect
   4. Follow or press on
   5. Christ Jesus
   6. And of course one very personal "I" not someone else.

C. None of these are hard words but ones we commonly use – and of course we must see them in their spiritual context.

D. Once grasped it makes our Christian life flow in a living stream of understanding and it is to this end that we move.

E. In fact this grasping of what Paul is teaching in Phil. 3:12 he will be moved to the singular "this one thing."
   1. So we do not have options.
   2. This is it, or we do not get it at all.

F. Let's read the verse!
II. It is very personal.

A. Modestly he uses the word "I."
   1. This is an apostle speaking.
   2. This is Paul himself in a most personal account.
   3. Many verses later, verse 17, he bids us be imitators of him — we need to do it even here.
   4. It will know the stuffy, swaggart out of us and humble us in the accounting of our spiritual journey.
   5. Such an attitude will cause the grace of God to glow.

B. "Not us though I had already attained."
   1. It is a position, he and the rest of us desire to attain.
   2. But we are not there yet, we are still fully dependent on Jesus.
   3. "Attained" our first of two vital words, the second is "perfect" but now we are occupied with "attain."
      a) We are trying to grasp that for which we have grasped by Jesus.
      b) Christianity has goals, purposes and we are in the process of getting there.
c) Coffman uses the word "obtained." He wrote, "Paul never viewed the Christian prize of eternal salvation as being something that one might get in any final and irrevocable act."

d) He further said, "The Christian life is a race to be won, a life to be lived, a course to be completed, and that no one ever had it made until the probation of life was complete.

e) Boice said it is an ideal that everyone is expected to honor but no one is expected to retain.

f) He said, "Note Paul was called by Jesus Christ, secondly God has a purpose in calling him, and thirdly, he acknowledged that he puts an obligation on him to follow Christ.

g) God's purpose in saving you is that you might conform to the image of His Son.

h) He makes a great sense of the present demands of discipleship.
i) It is not conditional upon God's plan for some other Christian, but it is personal, it is you. God's call is a personal one - follow Jesus.

II Cor. 8:9 "Though He was rich yet for your sakes ..."

j) Wuest said, "He did not think he had arrived spiritually."

k) Apprehend - grasp.

4. Our next word is "perfect."
a) Barclay says it's difficult to translate.
b) It means full-grown opposite of underdeveloped.
c) It is used for a full-grown man opposed to an undeveloped youth.
d) It is used to mean mature in mind opposed to a beginner.
e) It's one who is qualified opposed to a learner.
f) When used of an offering it is one without blemish and fit to offer to God.
g) It means a Christian fully member of the church in early days of church it described a martyr. A man's witness cannot go beyond martyrdom.
h) B.I. describes legal perfection in Gal. 3:10; a man is innocent and perfection requires that he keep so.

i) There are several degrees of growth - it's a monstrous thing to be an infant still after years of growth.

j) Stability amidst prosperity or adversity is desired.

k) Experience in finding out Satan's device whereas a beginner for want of experience and practice, runs ere he is aware of into most offenses and looks not for the remedy.

l) Remember the perfect mut not despise the weak.

m) The weak must not judge the perfect.

n) The weak are not to rend and cut themselves off from the rest or to be strange to them of lesser dissent, but to be teachable, lay aside prejudice, examine the cause of differences and leave room for the discovery of God's mind.

o) Paul is saying, "Neither at salvation nor at the present time have I been perfected, but continue to pursue."
2 Tim. 2:4
7:8

5. But this he follows after (presses on) that he might "apprehend" or lay hold on that for which I am apprehended in Christ Jesus.

a) Sir Isaac Newton said toward the close of his career that he was but a child who had gathered a few shells on the shore of an illimitable sea. He saw stretching before him a vast ocean of knowledge which his life has been too short, his power too weak to explore.
b) An artis stood before his latest production, burtst into tears and when asked why, "Because I am satisfied with my work." He felt he had done all that was in him, he had overtaken his ideal and hence-forth the joy of his art for him was gone.

c) Alex the great wept when he conquered India because there were no worlds left for him to conquer.

d) Christians are delivered from the danger - he always has the joy of advancement while yet there is ever something more in Christ to beckon him forward, (B.I.).

e) Paul said "I would grasp that for which Christ grasp me."

Neely's Bend B.C. - 11/24/02
THE HONEST STATEMENT OF A GOAL
Philippines 3:13-14

I. It is always strengthening when we take personal inventory of our spiritual nature and express again our life's most wonderful goal.

A. This Paul does in our text.
B. Since in v.17 he invites us to imitate his example, we would do well to do the same.
   1. Frankly state where we are in our spiritual journey.
   2. Then declare where we want to go.
C. So let's read again the text: "Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead. I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 3:13-14, NKJ).

II. Let's look at it closely.

A. Brethren, I
   1. Who should be more sympathetic with your spiritual condition than your brothers and sisters in Christ?
   2. Do we as a family both by natural blood and spiritual birth discuss these things?
   3. Do we respect the confidence that is placed in each other?
4. About the "I", Jim Tolle had some very informative things to say—I quote him.
   a) I myself is emphatic.
   b) Whatever others think of me or whatever else others think of themselves, I count not myself to have attained—(as he makes reference to the preceding verse about growth).
   c) He knew his life fell short of the example of perfection of his example, Jesus Christ.
   d) It is to be remembered that a Christian's imperfection must never be an excuse for spiritual stagnation.
   e) We must never be content with any spiritual deficiency, but always aim at perfection.

5. There was still much to "yet be laid hold on."

B. But this one thing I do.

1. "This one thing he does is the concern that shows it is the sole business of his life." (Clark)

2. "The secret of all moral force of all spirits of success of all reality is concentration." What is concentration? It's the whole of man gathering himself up to a point, oneness of of being body, soul & spirit—the will, judgement, energy in unity—and unity is the reflection of one great God." (Bib. Ill.)
3. Jerome, when he had laid all pressing engagements aside to achieve a purpose to which he felt he had a call from heaven. He had a large congregation, as large as anyone could want, but he said to his people, "Now it is of necessity that the New Testament should be translated. He must find another preacher. The translation must be made. I am bound for the wilderness and shall not return till my task is finished." He went with his manuscripts and prayed and labored and produced a work, The Latin Vulgate, which will last as long as the world stands. On the whole, a most wonderful translation of the Holy Scriptures.

4. Christians should be united in this one aim.

5. As we bare with infirmities we still help each other to be mindful of our ceaseless aim.

6. Literally in Greek it's "but one thing"--"I do" is in italics.

C. "Forgetting those things which are behind."

1. He will never glory in past achievements.

2. He will never use any task that he's achieved or any deed that he's done as an excuse for relaxation of the future. (Barclay)
3. Behind us are victories, errors, sins, joys, griefs.

4. He looks not behind himself to anything that may cause declensions.

5. Neither does he reflect on what might foster pride or self-satisfaction.

6. Forget all that might lead to discouragements.

7. One little stain will be conspicuous on the brightly polished blade, but if it is all dirty, a dozen more or fewer will make little difference. A constant striving after will further advancement. So yearning forward and setting all the current of his being using both faculty and desire to reach as yet an unreached mark makes the Christian truly live.

8. Watson wrote discouragement is the most effective weapon in the Devil's arsenal.

9. He further said nothing can be gained by dwelling on past sins. The Scriptures cannot be rewritten—the damage can never be undone.

10. Vos said "Forgetting means rather he will not allow the past to influence his present attitude or conduct.

11. He's forgotten everything of the past that would hinder the progress of his race and would dwell neither on attainments nor past failures.
12. No resting on the past nor discouragement over past failures.
13. Boice said there was a sanctified forgetting, a sanctified remembering, and a sanctified striving.
14. However don't forget the Bible or Christian doctrine.
15. Don't forget God's grace & mercy.
16. Do not let things of the past overshadow the present. Let the past be past, both good and bad, and constantly look forward to the work God calls you to do. (Boice)
17. There are many leeks and garlic Christians among us.
18. An apple a day keeps the doctor away--an onion a day keeps everybody away.
19. The "good old days" may not have been.
20. That which is behind is not around or present.

D. Reach to things which are before.

1. He is to remember only that which he is still to do. There is no room for a person or a church to rest on past laurels.
2. Reach--vivid word of a racer going hard with eyes on nothing but the goal--going flat out for the finish.
3. Condemns the antinomian who said within the grace of God it did not matter what they did, God would forgive, they were quite safe, no further effort was necessary.
4. Great artists do not follow low models but strive for perfection.
5. Reach forth—all things are prospective—the impulse of the river is ever onward.
6. The world is good for an inn, but the inn is not a home. Lay plans for the infinite future of the soul.
7. Rivers grow deeper as they flow—let the heart ever widen and deepen as it meets the ocean.
8. Livingston wrote the Mission Board he was ready to go anywhere provided it was forward.
9. Stir each other to this goal, warn those that defect. A holy example is a great stimulant to the saints.
10. Practice is the best means to attainment.
11. The exercise of power brings more power.
12. If a man is willing to do the will of God he shall further know of the doctrine.
13. Vincent says this is a graphic world for the arena, the body of the racer is bent forward, hand is outstretched, eyes fastened on the goal.
Exo. 14:15 "Speak to the children of Israel that they go forward."

14. The Greek for stretching forward is used only here in N.T. It is the metaphor of a foot race which describes the runner whose eyes outstrip and draws forward the hand, and the hand the foot.

15. It's not like tennis when a ball comes in the court and ambition says get it when laziness says "who me?"

16. Eye goes before and leads the hand. E. Now some questions on "forth."

1. Are you success motivated?
2. Do you have lofty aims?
3. If all your spiritual objectives of life could be completed, what would they be and what joy would it be to you?
4. Is satisfaction an encouragement to growth?
5. Has dissatisfaction crippled you?
6. Paul speaks of "things" in the plural—what are the things for which you are reaching?
7. Error comes as we look only to the past, also when we look so far to the future we miss the immediate blessings that God has in store for this day—am I guilty?

Neely's Bend BC - 12/1/02 (Part 1)
Neely's Bend BC 12/8/02
I Press Toward the Mark

Phil. 3:14

I. What are our ambitions?
   A. Marriage?
   B. Security with a good job.
   C. Pleasant Retirement.
   D. Go to Heaven when I die.

II. What else do men strive for?
   A. Riches
   B. Fame
   C. Fun
   D. Good health

III. Let's see Paul's

Phil. 3:14 "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

A. He felt he must press on less he disappoint Jesus.
   1. Jesus had a dream for him - and for us all.
   2. He had a purpose he wanted Paul to fulfill.
   3. Every man is grasped by Jesus for some purpose.
   4. He is in a race, puts forth every muscle and nerve to exertion.
   5. He puts every particle of his strength to this running.
6. Christian perfection is progressive.
7. There is a need to press on toward the ultimate perfection with all diligence.
8. Marion wanted her little fingers to properly address every key – at Harding.
9. Press in Greek was used of a sprinter and speaks of an aggressive, energetic endeavor.
10. Paul was running with all his might.
11. It is the intense action of a runner.
12. Literally – pursue.

B. Toward
1. It's the idea of bearing down upon in the direction of a goal.
2. Livingston ready to go anywhere provided it is forward.

C. Mark
1. Goal – a mark for shooting at.
2. Spiritual target of a goal.
3. That on which one fixes his gaze.
4. Used only here and in verse 14.
5. Other translations have goal.

D. Prize
1. Incorruptible crown.
   1 Cor. 9:24-25 Now they do it to obtain.
   2 Tim. 4:8 Hence form there is laid up for M

Rev. 2:10 Be thou faithful unto death.


1 Peter 5:4 And when the chief Shepherd shall

5. Note there is a prize!

E. High calling.

1. Literally "upward calling."

2. Call from Heaven issued by Heavenly Father through Jesus.

3. Common calling of all Christians to eternal salvation.

4. It's high – from above, above our aspirations.


F. In Christ Jesus

1. He is the author.

2. One is expected to run the race of life to the glory of God with all the energy he can muster.

3. We are to conform to the image of His Son.

4. To become Christ-like is the worthy goal of a lifetime commitment as we run with maximum effort.

5. He never actually reaches the goal of sinless perfection and absolute Christ-likeness.

6. We will never deserve eternal salvation.
7. Can't receive it as a free gift if we fail to maintain a living, obedient, trusting faith in the Savior.

Col. 3:1-2
2 Tim. 4:8

8. Faith in Christ leads me to do what He asks for.

Neely's Bend - 1/12/03
OUR FUTURE PLANS
Phil. 3:13-21

1. How long is tomorrow?
   A. This none of us know.
   B. Perhaps we expect & dream of certain things
      that will be ours - and these dreams are the
      universal property of every age.
      1. School
      2. Graduation
      3. Marriage
      4. Work
      5. Vacations
      6. Retirement - Havner Card #1
   C. But circumstances can keenly alter plans.
   D. So I raise the question - is there a plan for the
      future that is immune to circumstances?
      1. I think there is.
      2. I believe it's to be within the scope of
         every Christian.
      3. I'll cite two Scriptures to suggest it.

II. Our first Scripture is Phil. 3:13-21.
   A. There is a certain goal.
      1. It is not yet apprehended.
         a) Paul said this - we'd cry out to that man
            "yes you have".
         b) True he'd accomplished some things -
            but not all.
         c) He has not arrived after 25 years.
         d) Apprehend = grasp, take hold.
2. Needs be some forgetting & reaching.
   a) We can't forever stay in "the good old
days".
   b) Neither can we be uncharitable toward
ourselves about our past mistakes.
   (Ty Boyd poem) #2

c) We reach forth unto the before.
   1) That keeps us alive.
   2) There is more to be done.
   3) Compound word = stretching out more,
strain, exert oneself.
   4) I want to complete Christ likeness.
   5) We've a new word "burn out" - this
will avoid it.
   (a) 1/3 preachers consider quitting.
   (b) 2 out of 3 preachers experience
   anguish, worry, bewilderment, fear, 
   alienation.
   (c) Most stay less than 2 years.
   (d) Why burn out? - doubt effective-
ness or crisis in faith 2 prominent 
   ones.
   (e) They are in "people work". #2½
   "People servers" have highest rate 
of suicide.
   (f) Elders feel it - no one cares about
   me, we get little support, we go
   thru motions.
   (g) Kindergarten - I'm a people.
   (h) Peale clip of Emerson - #3
3. I press toward the mark.
   a) There is a prize.
   b) It's to be like Jesus.

B. Some are close!

1. As many as be perfect.
   a) Mature, fully developed.
   b) Article on King of Siam. #4

2. They share a common goal – you are not alone.

3. If we haven't grasped idea we need to grow more the Word will reveal it.

4. Keep walking by the same rule.
   a) Live up to what you have attained – don't slip back.
   b) Stay within the boundaries of the marked off course.
   c) Bishop Malone article. #5
   d) Knowledge increase card. #6
   e) Campbell card. #7
   f) "This is my way
      What is your way?
The way doesn't exist". Friedrich Nietzsche

C. Two Examples

1. Be followers together of me.
   a) Many are doing it.
   b) Keep your eyes on these.
   c) "Walk" is a symbol of the whole way of living.
d) We are all imitators.

e) Spurgeon on Daniel "How could the lions eat him when most of him was grit and backbone".

f) Stone card. #8

2. Some walk falsely.

a) Tell you weeping.

b) Enemies of Christ's cross.

c) End is destruction.

d) God is their belly.

e) Glory is their shame - take pride in what they should be ashamed of.

f) Mind earthly things.

2. Some walk falsely.

a) Tell you weeping.

b) Enemies of Christ's cross.

c) End is destruction.

d) God is their belly.

e) Glory is their shame - take pride in what they should be ashamed of.

f) Mind earthly things.

g) Clip on Statistics. (2 cards) #9 & #10

h) Luther clip. #11

3. You've a great end!

a) Conversation (citizenship) is in Heaven.

b) From whence we look for the Savior.

c) Change us from inferior to immortal & eternal.
Let Us - Three Times

Phil. 3:15-16

I. As we translate this paragraph Paul uses the same words repeatedly.
   A. Thus minded is one expression.
      1. In 46 (KJV) words he uses it three times.
      2. It's essential we know what this means.
   B. Let us is another expression and in 46 words he uses it three times.
   C. He repeats words he's just earlier used such as "perfect," "attained," and "walk."

II. So as Paul via inspiration repeats words let us repeat the same manner of living that got us where we are spiritually speaking.
   A. We will function out of the same frame of mind.
   B. We will reach the same attainment, same perfection.
   C. We will do so by practicing the same rules.
   D. Our existence will not be novel, new, or experimental, but will partake of the sameness yesterday, today and tomorrow.
III. The first "Let us" introduces us to perfection.

A. Perfection we never ultimately reach but it is our honest goal.

1. When used of offerings it means without blemish.
2. It is that which is fit to offer God as a sacrifice.
3. Early days of church it was used to describe martyrs.
4. A man's maturity goes beyond the sword.
5. It's a state not only he is reaching for, but so are the Philippians.
6. One never attains this except in the Lord.
7. MacArthur thinks he uses it somewhat sarcastically in reference to those who thought they reached perfection.
8. Our only perfection is through Jesus.
9. Verse 12 the word means without sin – absolute conformity to the holiness of Christ beyond which there can be no room for improvement.
10. Verse 15 is designated as a mature Christian who has reached the state of relative spiritual
maturity but who still has room for development and growth (Tolle).

11. Coffman says not that I've already obtained—never viewing the Christian prize of eternal salvation as being something one might get in any final and irrevocable act.

B. If there is more God will reveal it.
1. Reveal—to lift the veil and impart light from heaven.
2. Greek word means to uncover, unveil.

IV. For those super Christians.

A. We have already attained.
1. You followed a great standard and attained.
2. Higher officials are plodding and dull.
3. Lessor seniors are active only in intrigue against each other.
4. Junior men are frustrated and frivolous—Boice.

B. Let us (again) walk by same rule.
1. Be guided by what we have learned so far.

3 songs and 2 prayer
2. Walk - to stand in a row; or to walk in a line of orderly fashion.
3. It is a body of people going forward together.
4. It's a race to be won, life to be lived, course to be completed - no one ever had it made until the probation of life was completed.
5. This is to all who have a sincere desire to know and to do God's will, and without any wish or preference except to do the will of God (Lipscomb).
6. Keep on walking with the life they have already received to which they have come so far.
7. Literally walk by the saint, that is by which we have obtained.

C. Same Rule.

1. Keep moving from where you are but by the same principle that got you there.
2. Metaphor of a runner in a race, keep up same effort, stay in your own lane until you reach the finish.
3. Rule has been supplied - not in the Greek.
4. Subordinate everything to the Father's will.

D. Mind the same thing.
1. Vos says this is a poor translation and should not be here.
2. Only be guided by what you have learned so far.

[Signature]
MY MODEL: APOSTLE OR WORLD?
Phil. 3:17
1. It's no doubt I'm influenced by what I see around me that is formidable.

A. Clothing style - Zanzibar dress
B. Eating style - European held fork & knife
C. Even music.

II. I have a choice to imitate the world or an apostle.

A. God 1st told me to be like him.
Rom. 8:29 "For whom he did foreknow, he also
Matt. 5:48 "Be ye therefore perfect, even as
B. Could I warm more to an apostle?
1 Tim. 1:16 "Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy,
Phil. 3:17 "Brethren, be followers together of me, and
2 Thess. 3:9 "Not because we have not power, but to i
1. We need to imitate his dedication.

2. 1st imitate his conversion.

III. Several things, from Acts 22, are impressive.

A. For Paul, God had a purpose.
Acts 22:14 "The God of our fathers hath chosen
1. God called David for a similar purpose.
Acts 13:22 "A man after... which shall fulfill
2. God's will to be the blessed object of his life.
Matt. 18:14 "It is not the will of your Father
1 Thess. 4:3 "This is the will of God, even your sancti
Jn. 17:24 "I will that they... may behold my glory

3. Do I feel there is a purpose for me - pursue a goal
B. For Paul, God had a plan to reach his purpose.
Acts 22:14 "That thou shouldst see the Just
1. Wanted him to know Jesus.
Acts 22:8 "Who art thou, Lord?"
2. Wanted His word - "voice of his mouth heard."
   (a) Word of Today.
   (b) Do we give God a chance to speak to us thru word?
3. Have I responded to God's will for my salvation?
C. For Paul, God had a special project.
Acts 22:15 "For thou shalt be his witness
1. Not a judge.
2. Not vague, empty, an echo.
3. Not a cold book but a living epistle (2 Cor. 3:2-3).
4. Witness: word frequently expresses Chr. service.
   (a) Unto all men.
   (b) Whosoever.
   (c) Agreement of word spoken & life lived.
   (d) Do we live it & not speak up for word?
5. Called to be saved; saved to serve!
6. What kind of God do I radiate?

West End, 9-29-74
I. All of us come in contact with all classes of people.
   A. Some we admire and follow.
   B. Some we see and avoid.
   C. Our discrimination is due to the standards these acquaintances embrace.
      1. People do influence people.
      2. We should ever want to be influenced in the right way.

II. Paul tells us of two classes of folk.
   A. There are those who follow the apostles and are great examples of goodness.
   B. Consistently there are those who are enemies of the cross - do not follow them.
   C. Each group points toward an understandable end--be sure you follow the right ones.
   D. Read again our text - Phil. 3:17-19.

III. Let's study the admirable group--v.17.
   A. Brethren
      1. As salt and light we are exposed to the world.
      2. You have some brethren to be proud of.
B. They "be followers together of me."

1. Imitation implies four things:
   a) Doing what another does.
   b) Doing it in the same manner.
   c) Doing thereof grounded on the same affection as a child endeavors to imitate his father.
   d) Doing it with an earnest love to be like him. (B.I.)

2. To imitate there must be action - it is not to commemorate, admire or commend, but to do likewise.

John 8:39

3. It is conformity to the example both for matter and manner with some affection of zeal and courage against sin. *Imitation* is a natural thing.

4. It is not by accident.

5. Mimic comes from this term.

6. Lightfoot translates it "vie with each other in imitating me."

7. Bengel "become fellow imitators with me in imitating Jesus Christ." Paul was able to invite his friends not simply to listen to him but also to imitate him.

8. It's to observe fix gaze on something. (MacArthur)
9. We are to be joined together in imitating Him - an expression of great unity and unified action.

10. Unabashedly Paul put himself before them - me - not do as I say do, but do as I do!

C. Mark them which walk so as ye have us for an example.
   1. Mark is to fix attention upon with a desire for, or entered in, to observe attentively. (Tolle)
   2. This is not egotism - note the "us" but humbly to pattern a life after Jesus even as Paul was doing.
   3. This will restrict our view--we can't be so liberal as to think any and everything is okay if sincere.
   4. We focus on the good example.

D. Example
   1. We have an example to follow.
   2. Shortly we'll see one to avoid.

IV. Now we see the walk to avoid. (v.18)
   A. Many walk.
      1. We cannot follow the crowd.
      2. The walk of these is vastly different.
      3. We must not imitate evil doers.
4. They walked in circles not following the line.
5. They viewed Christian liberty as giving freedom from moral restrain.

B. Repeatedly Paul has warned them.
   1. His sermons had some negative things.
   2. There is a single purpose in life—saints must grow in sanctification.

1 Thess. 2:17
3:10

3. Sometimes we view preaching that is distinct and clear as offensive.

4. Told them even weeping.
   a) No weakness in tears.
   b) What is there in the sins of others that makes you weep today?
   c) Do we cry over those who hinder the cause of Christ?
   d) Weeping came because of injury to the church and peril to the soul.
   e) Is this the only reference to Paul weeping?

2 Cor. 7:2–16

f) No thought of person vindictiveness.
C. They are enemies of the cross of Christ.
1. Some men's zeal against error is as much to be feared as others lapsing into it. (B.I.)
2. Their lives tacitly repudiated his ethics. (Tolle)
3. Have we the discernment to flee enemies of the cross?
4. Enemies not specifically identified.
5. Are they saying the cross is insufficient to bring salvation?
6. They abuse Christian liberties—I'm saved, I can do anything.
7. They separate religion and ethics
8. Cross means to bring the body into subjection.

D. Their end is destruction.
1. Perdition, loss, lost.
2. Their ultimate destiny.
3. We'll eventually live with endless joy or misery.

Luke 16:24-25

4. To trust in anything beyond Christ is damning.

E. Whose God is their belly? Rom.16:18
1. Their god, their appetite.
2. They live with no reference to eternity.
3. Their religion is for today.
4. They make a game of godliness and live only to drink, eat, be merry. (Clark)
5. Provisions for the flesh is the sum of worldly happiness and the world yields no more than food, clothing and even the poorest have this.
6. Chrysostom "Thou hast received a belly that thou mayest feed, not distend it; that thou mayest have mastery over it not have it as a mistress over thee, that it may minister and thee for the

not that thou may minister to it not that there mayest exceed limits."
7. Belly to be taken literally - they lived to eat, not eat to live.
8. Real purpose of their living was to please self, not God.
9. Belly stands for sensuality, gluttoness, drunkenness, works of the flesh.
10. They took pride in their degraded condition instead of being ashamed.
12. They have lost sight of Christ.
13. We cannot support a gospel which does not oppose fleshly appetites.
14. Gnostics began with the principle that from the beginning of time there have always been two realities—spirit and matter. Spirit they say is altogether good and matter is altogether bad.

If matter is essentially evil, then the body is essentially evil, and because it is matter, it will remain evil whatever you do with it. Therefore, do what you like with it. Gluck and sate its appetites. Since the body is evil anyhow, it makes no difference what you do with it. Gnostics taught that gluttony and adultery and homosexuality and drunkenness are of no importance because they only affect the body and the body does not matter.

Therefore, they said it is man's duty to plumb the depths of sin just as much as it is to scale the height of virtue.
14. (cont'd)

To such men, to sin became nothing less than a duty so that experience might be complete.

Thus there were people who sin and in Christianity all law is gone and that the Christian has perfect liberty to do whatever he likes. In giving their lusts and passions full play, they were thus distorting the Christian doctrine of grace. They said the grace was wide enough to cover every sin and stain; that the love of God was great enough to forgive any sin. Therefore, let a man sin as he liked and not worry. It would make no difference to all forgiving grace of God.

F. Glory is their shame.
1. They sink back into ungodly living.
2. We can't be at ease with those who curse, use drugs, enjoy pornography.
G. Who mind earthly things.
1. They can't stay in focus.
2. Word for appetite is Koilia from which we get colics—refers to the mid section of the stomach.
3. This closes the four fold description destiny of perdition, god their bellies, glory their shame, mind earthly things.
4. Drunkeness is not funny as Larry Williams said about his drunkard brother.
5. The place of life belongs to God but gets us wiped by lower nature.

Neely's Bend BC - 1/26/03
Neely's Bend BC - 2/2/03
Just Where is My Citizenship?

Phil. 3:20

I. It has been said in polite conversation there are two things that should never be discussed: religion and politics.

II. Yet in this lesson we want to do both.

III. We will candidly ask ourselves some personal questions.
A. Are you a registered voter?
B. As I live with you from day to day can I accurately determine your political persuasion.
C. Am I able to observe where, via your emphasis in living where your political appetite rests?
D. By virtue of your contributions can I note the picture on your wall that telegraphs immediately the extent of your political activities--the more you give the longer the picture you display.
E. Does it really make a difference whether I'm a Democrat, Republican, or Christian?
F. Can I go to heaven and be politically wrong?
IV. Our true citizenship.
   A. It is in heaven—we are not citizens of this world.
      1. In our materialistic age we rarely experience delayed gratification.
         a) We want our wants satisfied immediately.
         b) We are credit card crazy.
         c) We haven't time to build it—only we buy it.
      2. We are registered citizens of another kingdom.
      3. In Old English a man's conversation meant not a mere act of his tongue, but rather his conduct. This revealed the kingdom to which we belonged.
         Eph. 2:19
      4. We obey heaven's laws and get heaven's protection.
      5. We have access to our sovereign.
      6. We render heavenly obedience and perform heavenly functions.
      7. Conversation is politics, policeman, politician.
      8. Could be a citizen of a city and live in a foreign land.
      9. Amaranth—city gates, while transacting business in the low country our eyes are on the city gates—we see the Lord one day come through them.
10. We could take our lessons from the Roman colonies—wherever there was one they wore Roman dress, Roman magistrates governed, Latin tongue was spoken, Roman justice and morals administered.

11. We live on earth as those whose home is in heaven.

12. Obligated to live after the laws of that city.

**B. But look at us:**

1. Does our increasing emphasis on success, prosperity, personal problems show our right citizenship?

**Matt. 6:19**

2. Do we allow Satan to interfere?
3. Do we show proper responsibility?
4. Word "rendered" denotes our constitution endures—states have their heads—ours is Jesus Christ. Remember our relation is not hereditary, but moral.

5. When we meet another does our speech betray us—from Nazareth.

6. Do our active concerns reflect proper regard to our heavenly city?

7. Here we have no continuing city.
8. Which "city" does our dress, work speech, use of time reflect? Which fatherland?
9. Are we maintaining community with the mother country? Is the Bible our only newspaper?
10. Is our emphasis on heaven? Are we pre-occupied with heaven?
11. Is heaven very far away--to thief today be with me.
12. Here we are but straying pilgrims.

C. From heaven we look for the savior.
1. Better translation "we wait for."
   a) Form of the verb implies a full waiting of attention, perseverance and desire.
   b) It's a strong word indicating patient waiting and expectation of Christ's return.
   c) With his coming he'll bring full deliverance from all sins, infirmities, and the complete of the full process of the progressive perfection spoken of earlier.
2. Our Lord's in heaven and will come to take us there.
3. We are not waiting for an event but for a person.
4. Anticipating Christ's return is the greatest source of spiritual motivation, accountability and security possible.

2 John 8 "Look to yourselves that we lose not..."

D. How does this affect me?

1. Do I "eagerly wait"?
   a) Patiently?
   b) With great anticipation?
   c) Joyous expectation.

2. The blessings of Christ comes to those who faithfully obey him regardless of the cost.

Rom. 8:23 "We ourselves groan within ourselves waiting for the adoption..."

Gal. 5:5 "For we through the spirit wait for hope..."

Isa. 25:9 "And it shall be said in that day."

E. Wait for the savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

1. Paul rarely uses savior as he looks to the future for deliverance from miseries and frustrations.

2. Caesar was not savior—Jesus was.

3. Have you been baptized into the savior?

4. Does he know you?

Neely's Bend BC - 2/2/03
I. Our first word is Cullum
   A. Stands for faithfulness.
   B. Known for leadership.
   C. Blessed in thought and music.

II. Next is citizenship.
   A. Earth is not our home.
   B. Our full devotion another area.

III. Our third is look for Jesus.
   A. He will return.
   B. This purifies and motivates.

IV. Our next is change.
   A. Vile body - pain and weakness.
   B. Fashioned after his.
   C. Glorious body.

V. Lastly, He is able.
   A. Supreme authority in great commission.
   B. Can do all He said He would.
I. With this passage Paul lets you see the greatest change you will ever experience.
   A. We changed from children to adulthood.
   B. We changed from dependency on others to independence in life.
   C. We changed from being a passenger to being a driver.
   D. We changed from bread eater to bread winner.
   E. We changed from sin to salvation.
   F. All of this is great but it pales into great significance as we put off this body of humiliation and changed into the likeness of his glorious body.
1. That's what this passage is all about.
2. We read it again and catch the magnificence of several words or phrases.
   a) Conversation
   b) Heaven
   c) Look or wait for
   d) Savior
   e) Change
   f) Vile, humiliation
   g) Fashioned
   h) Glorious
   i) Workings
   j) Able
II. So we read again in several translations:

KJV "For our citizenship is in heaven."

NKJV " "

NIV " "

Moffat - "But we are a colony of heaven."

ASV - For our citizenship - whence also we wait for a savior who shall fashion anew the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory.

Gspd. But the commonwealth to whence we belong is in heaven.

NEB - And give it a form like that of his own resplendent body.

Tay - "Using the same mighty power that he will use to conquer all else everywhere."

III. Let's go to our text.

A. Our first big word is conversation.

1. For us today a better word is citizenship.

a) We are not citizens of this world rather we are a colony of foreigners.
b) We are registered citizens of another planet—namely heaven.

c) In old English, conversation was a mere act of the tongue, but was descriptive of his conduct and this would reveal the Kingdom to which his heart belonged.

d) Our citizenship comes via Christ.

Eph. 2:19

e) We are to obey heaven's laws and receive the protection and comfort it gives.

f) We have access to our sovereign.

g) We render heavenly obedience and perform heavenly functions.

h) Thus the word denotes politics.

i) Could be citizens of a city and live in a foreign country.

j) While transacting our business here we have our eye in this low country on the city gates (amaranth) into which he entered and one day we will see him come through it again.

2. We can take our lessons from the Roman colonies, for wherever there was a Roman colony Roman dress was worn, Roman magistrates governed, Latin was spoken, Roman justice was administered, and
Roman morals observed—thus today wherever a Christian is, his conduct proves he's a citizen, the heavenly kingdom.

3. We live on earth as those whose home is in heaven.

4. Obligated by the nobility of the heavenly city to live here like it dictates.

5. Having God's guidance and protection, if Satan interferes, we say "I've already taken care of this on the cross." Citizenship involves responsibilities and obligations.

6. States have their heads—ours is Christ.

7. Our names are registered in heaven and God's name is on our hearts, not hereditary, but by our choice.

8. Three ways to gain citizenship: purchase, gift, birth.

9. "Our" is emphatic—our citizenship is in heaven; "they" mind earthly things.

B. This of course presents some problems.

1. We are not called to degrade or abandon our citizenship.
2. Does our increasing emphasis on success, prosperity, personal problems reflect our earth or heavenly position?

Matt. 6:19 "Lay not up for yourselves treasures..."

3. We ask ourselves: Where are we to reside forever?

4. Do our principles, habits, speech reflect where we belong?

III. That magnificent change.

A. The exchange of vile body for glorious body like his.

B. Here is a change I welcome.

1. I resist it to some extent on earth—particularly as I grow older—"who moved my catsup bottle?"

2. Yet when I do change I want it without waiting.
   a) No delayed gratification.
   b) No money - use credit card.
   c) No time to build something—just buy it.
   d) Instant food.

3. Yet the Lord has for us a change, a transformation.

4. God has a design, to fashion our bodies into one adapted to the eternal, holy heaven.
5. Note we will be changed, not annihilated.

C. Today I have a "vile body."

1. Poor translation as Paul never "slams" the body - rather keep it holy.

2. Better "body of our humiliation."
   a) It humbles us--reason I wear bolo--can't raise my arm and won't get gravy on the string.
   b) The body I've got cramps, needs sleep (even at church), has limitations.

3. "Vile" in 16th century came from Latin "villis."
   a) Meant cheap value.
   b) Clyde Hall used at funerals to talk about ashes.
   c) We are made of dust--someone under desk either coming or going.
   d) We die and putrify, dissolve, decompose.
   e) So we are subject to decay, illness, death.

4. We are characterized by weakness and finally death.

5. Sooner or later our bodies source of humiliation and ultimate death.

6. Our bodies greatest obstacle to complete happiness.
7. God knows our frame and remembers we are dust.
8. It's a fast fading flower (Isa. 40).
9. God does not intend for our state of weakness to last forever.
10. Not insulting body--it's the Holy Spirit's temple (I Cor. 6:20).
11. I read we can sell all our chemical parts for 97¢.
12. Matter, distance, time, endurance are our barriers.

D. The fashioning hand of God will change it.
1. He will fashion anew.
   a) Altered shape and guise.
   b) Change our outware and visible.
   c) Yet there is a continuity between the present and future bodies. The experience of Christ helps us see this--his glorified body after the resurrection was recognizable down to the scar on hand and side.
   d) There comes an alteration to that which houses our spirit.
   e) The identity of the individual is not changed, only his body.
f) We'll be free of all woes that men are subject to during their physical earthly stay.
g) The renovation is the most stupendous miracle that can be imagined. "The re-animation and organization of millions of dead bodies will not exhaust him who is able to subdue all things unto himself.
h) Flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God. We will be in holiness, in immorality in that new city.
i) Lay down tenements of clay to be clothed with temples that can stand the wear of eternity.

2. We will be like Christ, after his resurrection he ate, talked, walked with other men. He could appear or disappear while flying through space from earth to heaven at will. He was recognized as a man but was transcendent.

3. Free from all evil, sin, sorrow, pain, disappointment, doubt, fear, temptation, hate, anger, quarrels perfect comfort, pleasure, knowledge, love, joy.
E. Like his glorious body.

1. The same energy that provided the human body at the beginning will restore it from the lapsed and degraded state into the state of glory which it had at creation and render it capable of enjoying God throughout eternity (Clark).

2. His glorious body becomes the pattern for ours and it is his sovereign power that lends certainty to our hope and the connection between glory and the resurrection.

3. Moule wrote the glory of the gospel is the promise of eternal being and a blessedness of the body of the saints.

4. It will be like the "body of his glory."

5. It will no longer be subject to death and be released from the humiliations now endured. It will be a fit vehicle for our regenerated personalities.

6. Our hope—we'll compare to the glorious state of the risen Christ.

7. Our bodies must be putrified, dissolved, and decomposed then refashioned like his.

8. Our future looks great! You will have immortal power and beauty.
F. How can this be done?

1. By his workings.
   a) Literally according to the working of his being able.
   b) Word for Power—used exclusively by Paul.

2. His sovereign hand is still in control though his immediate purpose may not always be

G. He is able!

1. It is by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control.

2. He has the power to abolish all earthly authority, making all enemies even death, a footstool.

3. It assures the fulfillment of every promise.

4. Nothing can thwart his saving purpose—what he has begun he will complete.

5. The power of Christ is the guarantee that he is able to make our bodies liken his body of glory.

6. The center and sustaining power is the savior.
7. Close with this poem:

Before the judgement seat
Tho changed and glorified each face,
Not unremembered (we shall) meet,
For endless ages to embrace.

Mabel Bend BE-2/9/05
Prayer Words

Phil. 4

I. Perhaps there is nothing more evident of devotions to God than when one prays.
A. But there are many prayer words.
B. Let's cite these and try to see the difference in them.

II. We study prayer words, general and sacred.

A. Prayer - is it different from urgent petitions and pleas?
1. First of four words used here: prayer, petitions, thanksgiving, requests. (Idea that petitions and supplications are the same).
2. General act of devotion.
3. God is omniscient, but desires our reminding him of our needs.
   a) One wrote it begins with God.
   b) It is more listening than talking.
4. It is speaking to God at all times— even difficult ones.
5. Daniel knelt and prayed as he did "aforetimes."
6. It is offering a petition to a higher being.
7. Greek word pros—meaning toward or forward and the noun wish or request—offer our request to the Father.

B. Supplication
   1. Entreaty
   2. Earnest pleading
   3. Special idea for personal needs
   4. It means asking, but it's radical significance is want. It is a craving for supply.
   5. Cry for personal need
   6. Cry of conscious need

C. With Thanksgiving
   1. Gratitude expressed for past favors.
   2. Innumerable favors already received—overcome danger, evil, accident, death.

D. Entreaty
   James 5:16 "The prayer of a righteous man availeth much."
   1. Earnest entreaty
   2. Fervent appealing—produces results

E. Vow
   James 5:15 "Prayer of faith save the sick."
   1. Only once in New Testament
   2. Paul had vow (Acts 18:18)
3. Addressed to God as we perform something for his glory.
4. You promise something to God and you do it.

F. Interview, coming together, to visit, to converse.
   1. Idea of an appointment with God.

I Tim. 2:1
I Tim. 4:5

G. Intense, concentration

Mark 5:22
   1. Fall at the feet of the Master.

Matt. 15:22
   2. Crying aloud, plead, beg for mercy

Luke 18:35
Heb. 5:7

H. Requests
   1. Unreservedly expressed
   2. Tell God every detail
   3. Exactly as if he needed informally
   4. God answers by:
      a) Refusing to grant request
      b) Sending something else other than that requested
      c) Gradually answering it or by long delay or through natural law and processes. (Coffman)
III. What happens to the praying Christian?
A. Will know the peace of God
1. Peace is not stagnation nor insensibility.
2. It is feeling, action.
3. There are other kinds of "peace."
   a) An uninformed conscience
   b) An amiable disposition will win Heaven.
   c) Sleeping conscience
   d) Drugged conscience
   e) Refusal to see what lust does to this and the next life.
4. God alone can help. He is disposed to do it, but you must ask by prayer—without this he has not promised to help.
5. What can we request of God?
   a) Forgiveness of sin
   b) Wisdom (James 5:6)
   c) Relief from bitter experiences
      Matt. 26:33
   d) Daily bread
   e) Laborer
      Eph. 6:18
   f) Mercy
      Heb. 4:16
   g) Recovery
      James 5:14-15
   h) Deliverance from temptation
      Matt. 6:13
i) For those that despitefully use you.

Matt. 5:44

j) Rulers and those in authority

B. Peace that passes understanding
   1. Transcends
   2. Surpasses
   3. Can't comprehend the blessedness
   4. Almost inexplicable
   5. Exceeds, surpasses all men's normal power of understanding its full blessedness.
   6. Deeper than all knowledge

C. Guard your hearts
   1. Keep
   2. Garrison
   3. Mount guard
   4. Military term, sentinel
   5. God's peace is my guard
   6. Keep your heart as in a strong place or castle.
   7. Your heart is the seat of affection, passion, understanding, judgment and conscience.
   8. Wesley said it was that heavenly repose, that tranquility of spirit which God only can give.
   9. Guard as a garrison does a city.
   10. Mental reflection that affects one's conduct.
D. All this is in Christ Jesus
1. Have to be in Christ.
2. Frequently he points out our spiritual relationship.
3. It is in the Lord at all times.

Neely's Bend - 5/25/03
Six Compliments and One Command

Phil. 4:1

I. Do we ever grow weary of someone saying "I love you?"
A. Last expression Betty used.
   1. She kissed a man at 5th Quarter.
   2. Told everyone "I love you."
   3. Repeated it to me—but no longer words for her to say.
B. Contrasts with old married couple of 40 years.
   1. "You used to say 'I love you,' but you don't anymore. Why?"
   2. I told you I loved you 40 years ago when we married—-I'll tell you differently if I ever change my mind.
C. Six times as we put it in one verse Paul told Philippian church he loved them. They read: My brethren dearly beloved, and longed for, my joy, my crown, my dearly beloved.
   1. After six times he stays he loved them, he then gives the command to stand fast.
   2. This is a good equasion for us to follow.
   3. Want us to see the six times he states his love and then the one commandment.
Phil. 4:1 "Therefore, my brethren dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, my dearly beloved."

II. Six Statements of Love
   A. Therefore
      1. There was more love in Paul's heart than in his mouth—of this he had given Philippians proof (B.1.).
      2. We are going to read eight verses of Paul's exhortation before he concludes his letter with some personal notes.
      3. When there is a "therefore" we better stop and see what it's there for.
      4. We'll see six love statements embracing one essential command.

   B. My Brethren
      1. He began to heap loving titles on top of titles to express his love for them.
      2. He loves to tell his brethren (born of the same womb) his love for them.
      3. Christ sensitizes men (Bell).
C. Dearly Beloved
   1. 27 times he uses beloved.
   2. Dearly adds to the intensity of
      his love.

D. My longed for
   1. His love manifested in his desire
      to stay with them.
   2. Longed for only here in New
      Testament.
   3. Feels a deep sense of separation
      from them.
   4. Ardent desire.

E. My Joy
   1. Paul found happiness in the
      kingdom--to say the brethren were
      his joy bears witness to the fact
      Jesus was in the midst of them.
   2. No desire to be wealthy and filled
      with pomp, but the joy of the
      holiness in being in the flock.
   3. Joy like peace is not the absence
      of trouble, but the presence of
      the Lord.
   4. It's the flag that flies in residence
      when the king is present.

F. My Crown
   1. Subject of his honor and ornament
2. Greek has two words for crown.
   a) Diadem of the emperor
   b) Garland that decorated the winner of a contest. It is the one the wreath of victory in the games. The laurel wreath. Peak of athletic ability or crown of guest at a banquet. It was a chaplet showing victory or merriment.

III. After all these expressions of love comes now the command - stand fast.
   A. Exorted to steadfastness, perseverance in the gospel.
      1. Standing is a part of a military metaphor.
         2. Word is opposed to this so many times we are so instructed.

Matt. 26:41 "Keep watching and praying you do not enter into temptation."

1 Oeter 5:8 "Be sober, put on breastplate of righteousness, faith, love and helmet of salvation, the hope of salvation.

3. It's the picture of a soldier standing his ground in the midst of battle.

4. Spiritual stability must be our goal.
Acts 11:22
2 Peter 3:17
Acts 14:22
Gal. 5:1
I Thess. 3:8
II Thess. 2:15
I Cor. 15:58
Col. 4:12

5. You will not compromise your Christian testimony by allowing yourself to be overwhelmed by trial or temptation.

6. He surrounds this military term by gracious and tender words.

7. Photocopy page #87.

8. Jesus will provide help and so did many brethren and sisters.

9. Never stand still as to growth, but stand fast as to flesh (Moule).

10. As we look for a savior from heaven, let's stand fast in Him.

Eph. 6:1
Eph. 6:11-14

11. Conqueror or stand fast—it is the latter I'm commanded.

12. Some men flash like a meteor—need steadfastness (Meyer).

13. Stay faithful regardless of circumstances.
B. This is to be done "in the Lord."
   1. Rest on the rock.
   2. The presence of Jesus is a constant refinement.
   3. Let all life be lived in His presence.
   4. Closer we are to Him less room for waywardness and discension.
   5. Note how often He uses "in Christ" -- must see our spiritual relationship.

Neely's Bend BC - 2/23/03
Charlotte Ave. Ladies BC - 3/5/03
Central Pike & Natchez Trace BC - 4/1/02
Woodbine BC - 4/16/03
Madison BC - 4/21/03
Shipps Bend, Centerville, TN - 4/27/03 (BC)
New Concord, KY Ladies Class - 6/26/03
Walter Hill BC - 6/29/03
WHAT ARE THE BRETHREN TO YOU?
Phil. 4:1
I. Just how do you feel about --
   A. The President?
   B. The Economy?
   C. Your brethren - let me tell you how I should.
II. I want you to see things:
   A. Life has concluding obligations.
   B. Life's bigger when the love of brethren's better.
   C. Life has a holy purpose.
   D. Life has a central position.
III. Life Should Have a Concluding Obligation.
   A. "Therefore".
      1. Bible filled with - Behold - wherefore.
         a.) I am presented a duty. - New baby - things needed worse
         b.) It presents an obligation.
      2. Therefore is a conclusion connected c the previous
      3. Old preacher said "when ever you read a
         'therefore' you better see what it's 'there for'."
   B. Am I conscious of my current obligations?
IV. Life's Bigger when I love the brethren better.
V. "Therefore, my br., dearly beloved & long
   A. He speaks in endearing terms.
      1. Brethren.
         a.) Not ashamed.
         b.) Grateful for them.
      2. Dearly beloved.
         a.) Used beloved 27X.
         b.) Intimate love.
         c.) Delighted to tell brethren he loved them.
3. Longed for - ardent desire. 
   a.) Where are your closest friends?
   b.) Do you utilize all occasions to be c brethren?
   Joy now - crown later.
   Phil 2:16 "Holding forth the word of life; that I may not
   B. How do I compare c the tender regard for brethren.

V. Life Has a Holy Purpose.
   "So stand fast in the Lord
   A. Stand fast. 
   1. Part of military maneuver.
   Eph. 6:11-14 "Put on the whole armor of God, that ye
   2. Conqueror vs. Stand - it's the latter commanded.
   I can't guarantee success. Al least seventy percent.
   3. Some men flash like a meteor - need steadfastness.
   4. Rest on the Rock. 
   B. In the Lord. 
   1. Christ brings Salvation.
   Phil. 3:9 "And be found in him, not having mine own
   2. Sin's removed.
   3. Christ bore our punishment - same crime not
   punished twice.
   Ps. 103:12 "As far as the east is from the west, so far
   Isa. 43:25 "I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions from mine eyes."
   4. Jesus arose.
   5. 3X in 4 vs. "In the Lord."
   6. Steadfast in self is stagnation in Jesus.
   7. If we love him, we will urge steadfastness because we are!

West End 5-18-79
Older, valley, Fellowship, Reubenburg. W. De. Elder, preacher, Dinner.
I. Wasn't it Maurice Chevalier who sang "Women - God bless 'em, can't live with them, can't live without them."
   A. Our story concerns several
   B. Like men, they have their plus and minus. (Colby Clip) #1
   C. In our text we see both!
      1. None like R. Dig story #2

II. Text Opens with a Vowed Love for the Church.
   A. See verse one - "Therefore, my brethren, dearly beloved
      1. Look at endearing terms
      2. Longed for
         a. This word used only here
         b. Do we so feel?
      3. Joy and Crown
         a. Brought marvelous ' blessing
         b. Crown is chaplet or wreath not diadem
         c. Conveys victory or merriment.
      4. Standfast
         a. What is superior to faithfulness?
         b. Do we do regardless of circumstances.
         c. Perhaps women have more to bear than men.
5. It is all "in the Lord"
   a. oft repeated phrase
   b. ever keep in mind our spiritual relationships
   c. Power in prayer, Lord's Supper, fellowship

B. How expressive are we in voicing our love for our brothers and sisters? (Article on Cottonmouth) #3

III. Now He comes to Trouble and Correction
   A. Most anyone can see a problem.
   B. It takes wisdom to correct it.
   C. Paul will cite and then offer measuring correction.

IV. Handling a Problem
   A. Two women at fault
      1. I beseech
         a. like obligation
         b. exhort
         c. beg
         d. handles delicately, alphabetical, so I don't know who, if either, carries greater fault.
         e. Both equal to censure.
      2. Avon Malone asked, "If your name was going to come to all posterity for all time because of differences, would you try to solve it before it was so notarized?"
3. Have you ever had a misunderstanding with a fellow Christian?

B. Euodias and Syntyche

1. Ever heard of a girl named for them?
   a. Were they parties? not people?
   b. Gentile vs. Jew?
   c. Husband and wife?
   d. Euodias = prosperous journey - successful
   e. Clip on Thinking #4

3. Syntyche
   a. Means happy chance
   b. Means pleasant acquaintance
   c. Thus sister efficient vs. sister personality.

4. Conflicts ever come
   Eph. 4: 30-32 (read)

5. Plea - Be of same mind
   a. Possible it was personal and not a doctrinal matter
   b. Apostle gave no doctrinal correction
   c. Need unity for good of church and reputation
   d. Resolve differences because they are in the Lord and both love Him.
   e. The human tongue weighs very little, but some of the strongest people are
6. Needed assistance to solve it
   a. *Yoke* fellow
      1) Who better could help?
      2) Are we hurt by church differences?
      3) Syntyche – name or description?
   b. Help
      1) Lit. "take hold with" -- (not of!)
      2) Lend a hand to these women as evidently they are trying to
         solve their problems.
      3) Are we wound healers or salt pourers?
      4) "I shall never believe God plays dice with the world."
         A. Einsteine

C. Women Labored Much
   1. Labor was not preaching
      1 Tim. 2:8-12
      1 Cor 14: 34-35
   2. Were teaching –
      Purse to Office #6
      Titus 2:3-5
      Acts 18: 26-28
3. Labor
   a. Strove as athlete
   b. Agonizing effort
4. Strange Lyddia not mentioned as was not Annias by Paul.
5. Women first heard gospel in Europe - first told resurrection story.
6. Had co-workers like Clement in the gospel

D. Names in Book of Life
1. 7X in Revelation
2. Book that shows the right of citizenship in a Roman city as our voting rights today.
3. This one is the Heavenly Kingdom.
4. Can be blotted out
   Rev. 3:5 "He that overcometh, the same shall..."

Exo. 32:33

Ladies Class, Mt. Home, AR - 11/19/91
Ladies Class, Maryville, TN - 2/12/92
Freed-Hardeman Lectures - 2/7/92
Huntington Park, Shreveport, LA (Ladies C.)-3/3/92
Men—Women—39

Men walk from the knee, women from the hip. Men strike matches toward themselves, women away. Men dress to look like other men, women to look unique within the current fashion. Men look at their fingernails by cupping their palms and bending their fingers toward themselves, women extend their fingers palm outward. Men nag their wives for what they do, women nag their husbands for what they don’t do. — Dr. Kenneth Colby, Property.

My mother returned home late one night, having worked until past midnight remodeling her dress shop. Just after crawling into bed, she got a phone call from a city policeman, informing her that she had forgotten to lock the front door of her store. She got up, drove downtown, locked the door and returned home, confident that at last she was going to get some rest. No sooner had she snuggled back into bed than the phone rang again. It was the same policeman—she had locked him in.

— Contributed by Barry C. Maulding

... indecision...
To Think or Not to Think

An educational study was done in which a group of people was presented a new concept. Fifty percent of the group believed the new concept immediately without thinking, and 30 percent disbelieved it; 15 percent wanted to wait a little while before they made up their minds but didn’t ask for more clarification or information. Only 5 percent analyzed all the details before coming to a conclusion. According to that study, one could say that only 5 percent of the population thinks, 15 percent thinks they think, and 80 percent don’t even pretend to think (cited by Tim Timmons, *Maximum Living in a Pressure-Cooker World* [Waco, Tex.: Word, 1979], p. 11).

When my second daughter was born, my mother came to help me with the new baby and my 14-month-old toddler. On one occasion, when both girls were fussing and wet, my husband remarked, “At times like this, I think I think a mother should have a crane!” Mother-in-law—she Never Yelled.
Ann Connolly was shopping for groceries. While she was momentarily distracted, somebody snatched her purse from her shopping cart.

Now, Miss Connolly carries one of those talkback beeper devices for telephone paging in her purse.

She hurried to the manager’s office telephone and dialed herself. Then she spoke into the phone, knowing her voice would be transmitted through the beeper in her missing purse. Because she always carried the beeper in her purse, she had the beeper turned up good and loud.

The Produce manager says you should have seen that surprised man standing there - with her purse - and the purse was talking.

And the voice was saying, “Take this purse to the manager’s office immediately!”

And he did!  

June A. Westgaard
I. In our series "In Christ" as in Phil. we come to the final chapter. It has a trio of discoveries.
   A. Stand fast in the Lord.
   B. Be of the same mind in the Lord.
   C. Rejoice in the Lord.
II. These we want to study individually.
   A. Stand fast in the Lord.
      1. After a most affectionate salute where he truly brags on the church, he makes a most necessary request – stand fast.
         a.) They were his joy & crown.
         b.) It was the "that's my boy" spirit.
         c.) Crown of a victorious athlete – peak of athletic ambition or crown of guests at banquet.
         d.) He found it a joy to bring one to Jesus.
         e.) All our joy must terminate in the Lord.
         f.) Enough in God to furnish us joy in the worst situation of life. – Henry.
         g.) This joy can only be understood by those who have children in the faith.
      2. But still wants them steadfast, in the Lord.
         a.) Only Jesus can let you do this.
         b.) It's words of a soldier standing fast in face of enemies.
         c.) Some people make it easier for you to do right.
         d.) Never stand still as to growth but do stand fast in the faith.
         e.) Are you looking for Jesus from Heaven – are
2. Beseech. Eph. 6: 10 "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord."
B. Be of the Same Mind in the Lord.
1. Our loyalty to each other depends on loyalty to our leader.
2. Barclay, "Brotherhood of man is possible thru Lordship of Christ."
3. It was two women at odds.
   a.) GK idea of women, "See as little, hear as little & ask as little as possible."
   b.) She was never on St. alone, had her own apt. in the house & never joined males even for meals.
   c.) Never in public life.
   d.) Different in Macedonia.
   e.) Whole church mobilized to mend a quarrel.
   f.) If your life summarized by one sentence, what would it be?
   g.) Are you a part of grumbling & questioning?
   h.) Is your unity in the Lord, or is there another cement?
   i.) These women labored (wrestled) - didn't apply to preaching, but danger & toil endured for the gospel's sake.
   j.) They joined in my struggle.
C. Rejoice in the Lord.
   1. 3X in 4 verses "in the Lord."
   2. 3X Beseech.
   3. Rejoice - repeated.
a.) Shermerhorn said at Nash. Symphony all conductors repeat in subtle form – nothing subtle here.

b.) Rejoice is not connected c material things.

c.) Happiness depends not on things, places, but persons. To be into some of the thing you can

d.) Another meaning – farewell, God be with you, good-bye.

e.) Delight in the Lord.

Ps. 37:4 "Delight thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart."

Frank Clark: I think a person ought to be able to live a saintly life with appearing to have indigestion.
You took the good things for granted. Now you must earn them again. For every right that you cherish, you have a duty which you must fulfill. For every hope that you entertain, you have a task that you must perform. For every good that you wish to preserve, you will have to sacrifice your comfort and your ease. There is nothing for nothing any longer. — WALTER LIPPMAN.

Watch Your Words
A careless word may kindle strife;
A cruel word may wreck a life.
A bitter word may hate instill;
A brutal word may smite and kill.
A gracious word may smooth the way;
A joyous word may light the day.
A timely word may lessen stress;
A lovely word may heal and bless.

Pulpit Helps

Many famous novels of the past were satirical. Many famous novels these days are satyrical.

Nuggets
Mr. Easterling should not be a stranger to us. His name dates back to the 13th century, and his fame is world-wide. He has maintained a reputation for hundreds of years, and it’s now a symbol for honesty and quality. Look in your home—perhaps in your pocket. Mr. Easterling is better known to you for that priceless hallmark, “Sterling,” which appears on fine silver. He was the spirit of the Easterling Guild, a group of Saxon merchants who went to London to establish a reputation for honest silvercraft. So high were their goals of quality—and so unvarying was their excellence of workmanship—that today the Easterling name, now shortened to “Sterling,” is an international standard for silver.

The largest mental hospital in the world is Pilgrim State Hospital on Long Island, New York, with 12,800 beds.
I. Philippians 4:1
   A. Six times I love you.
   B. Beloved 27 times.
   C. Stand fast in the Lord.

II. Philippians 4: Euodias, Syntyche – same mind.
   A. Unity for all.
   B. True yokefellow – labored.
   C. Clement – unknown.
   D. Names in Book of Life.

III. Philippians 4:4: Rejoice, moderation, at hand.
   A. Three commands.
   B. Happiness only in things of Christ.
   C. Moderation – hard word.
   D. At hand – ever near.

IV. Philippians 4:6
   B. Four prayer words: Prayer, Supplication, (special needs), Thanksgiving, Request (2 prayer leaders who gave topical sentences.)
      1. Begins with God.
      2. Anecdote to worry.
3. Prayer range - everything.

V. Philippians 4:7
A. Peace of God.
   1. What robs you of peace?
   2. Not stagnation, being insensitive.
   3. Feels - active.
   4. Passes all understanding.
B. Peace keeps hearts and minds through Jesus.
   1. My guard.
   2. My sentiments.
   3. Three usages.

II Cor. 11:32 - with a garrison.
Gal. 3:23 - strong room
1 Pet. 1:5 - preserve as a fortress.

VI. Then eight areas of thought.

VII. Back to verse 6 - Thanksgiving.
A. Past favors.
B. Dangers avoided.
C. Evil heart overcome and turned not away.
D. Truly we can rejoice.

Neely's Bend BC - 8/3/03
Riverwood BC - 8/10/03
New Concord, KY BC - 9/21/03
Phase Two of Corrected Church Troubles

Phil. 4:2

I. We have just studied Paul's introduction of the problem involving two very prominent women and a bump in the road at Philippi. Now we want to see the continuation of the story.

(G.B. Shaw on Book) - # 1

II. Paul makes the appeal that the sisters "be of the same mind."

A. Conflicts will come.

(Washington and Boat) # 2

Eph. 4:30-32

B. Rifts can be healed.

C. How deeply are we concerned about peace in the church?

D. "I can never believe that God plays disc with the world." - Einstein

E. Unity is needed - same mind.

1. Union is power. "The most attenuated thread when sufficiently multiplied will form the strongest cable."

2. The best examples of self-denying liberality, of loving service, of conquering prayer are recorded by a woman.

End of - Good Journey

A day for Fortune
3. Conflicts rob the church of its power and destroys its testimony. Enemies of Christ are eager to find ways to discredit the church. Apparently the disunity of the church was about to destroy the integrity of its testimony.

4. Put jealousy and ill will aside.

5. Prayer beings with God.

F. Same mind called for.

1. To be "in the Lord" recall former matters in which there was agreement. If "in the Lord" various things are requested.

2. Christ has called us into one body having members. If in the Lord quarreling is out of place.

3. Safety of anyone who has strong convictions can be a hindrance or a help.

G. Calls earnestly for others.

1. I entreat.

2. Exorts mutually.

III. Paul promises help.

A. Calls on true yokefellow.

1. True not counterfeit.

2. Paul works well in double harness

3. Do not identify yokefellow

4. Was it Clement?

5. Whole church is in the Lord.

6. Exhorts to mutual assistance.
7. Roosevelt card - # 3

B. Yokefellow
1. Term for comrade - two oxen in yoke pull same load.

Heb. 6:10
2. Was yokefellow his name? Thus act according to your name.
3. Friends can help reconcile.

C. Help the women.
1. Lit. "take hold with."
2. Labored-work of athlete signifying strenuous and agonizing effort.
3. Those that err ignorantly are to be helped.
5. Help those who stood well even if now are wavering.
6. Card from Dear Abby - # 4

Matt. 5:9

D. Labored
1. Safety of anyone who is not a laborer is in doubt.
2. Prominent in church and major in efforts.
4. Some are worthy of special attention.
5. Resolve differences because they are in the Lord.
6. Card on today I didn't do it. # 5
E. Book of Life - Powell statement # 6
1. Whole church in it.
2. Register of the redeemed kept by God.
3. Christian service may pass unnoticed on earth but not by God.
4. Does not mean unconditional, irreversible predestination for names can be blotted out.
5. Book

Dan. 12:1
Rev. 3:5
13:8
17:8
20:12
21:27
Exo. 32:33

6. All Paul did not name are in the Book however.
7. Christian service does not go unnoticed.
8. Book shows rights of heavenly citizenship - even as book shows you can vote.
9. Seven times in Revelation.
10. Do not know who Clement was.

Neely's Bend - 3/9/03
A friend of George Bernard Shaw had written a book and sought an endorsement from the great author. “For anyone who likes this type of book,” wrote Shaw, “this is just the type he will like.”

Standing Up In a Rowboat

When asked whether George Washington was a soldier or a sailor, a school boy replied, “He was a soldier. I saw a picture of Washington crossing the Delaware, and any sailor knows enough not to stand up in a rowboat.”

We stand up in a rowboat when we jump to conclusions. Things are not always what they seem. When we make premature judgments, based on incomplete facts, we are likely to get in deep water.

We stand up in a rowboat when we run down others. Sitting in judgment of our fellow man is neither nice nor necessary. Giving the other person the benefit of the doubt is both benevolent and becoming.

We stand up in a rowboat when we bend God’s rules and break his laws.

Actually, we do not break His laws and commandments; rather, we break ourselves on them when we insist on disobeying them.

Have you stood up in a rowboat lately?
President Theodore Roosevelt, one of the great populist presidents who with his swashbuckling style charged San Juan Hill, explored Africa, and took the American flag across the globe, said:

After a week on perplexing problems it does so rest my soul to...come into the house of The Lord and to sing and mean it, "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty" ...[my] great joy and glory that, in occupying an exalted position in the nation, I am enabled, to preach the practical moralities of The Bible to my fellow-countrymen and to hold up Christ as the hope and Savior of the world.

--Franklin Graham
The Name
pg. 5

I once read in Dear Abby, "There are two kinds of people in this world: those who walk into a room and say, 'Here I am!' and those who walk into a room and say 'There you are!' What a profound statement! As we will see, it is the key to understanding how to network with other moms.

--Jill Savage
Professionalizing Motherhood
pg. 93
One afternoon a man came home from work to find total mayhem in his house. His three children were outside, still in their pajamas, playing in the mud. Empty food boxes were strewn all around the front yard. The door of his wife's car was open, as was the front door to the house.

Proceeding into the entryway, he found an even bigger mess. A lamp had been knocked over and the throw rug was wadded against one wall. In the front room the TV was loudly blaring a cartoon channel and the family room was covered with toys and various items of clothing.

In the kitchen, dishes filled the sink, breakfast food was spilled on the counter, dog food was on the floor, a broken glass lay under the table, and a small pile of sand was spread by the back door.
He quickly headed up the stairs, stepping over toys and more piles of clothes, looking for his wife. He was worried she might be ill, or that something serious had happened. He found her lounging in the bedroom, still curled up in the bed in her pajamas, reading a novel. She looked up at him, smiled and asked how his day went.

He looked at her bewildered and asked, "What happened here today?" She again smiled and answered, "You know every day when you come home from work and ask me what in the world did I do today?" "Yes," was his incredulous reply.

She answered, "Well, today I didn't do it."

--Jill Savage
Professionalizing Motherhood pg. 43

My faith has never been stronger; my hope has never been brighter; my head has never been clearer; my heart has never been calmer; my life has never been purer. I love all; I hate none. My love for some lifts my soul into the realm of the sublime. I am willing to die today; I am willing to live a thousand years, to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love. My friends are dearer to me; associations with them sweeter to me; my sympathy for suffering souls is stronger; my love for all the pure, the true, the beautiful, the good, and the sublime--from the bud, the blossom, the babe, up to Him from whom all blessings flow--is truer, tenderer, sweeter, than ever before.....Truly I am debtor to all. I sleep soundly, dream sweetly, and "rejoice evermore."
Yokefellow - The Greek word for "yokefellow" is syzygos found only here in the NT. It is an adjective (used here as a substantive) meaning "yoked together." Concerning this word Thayer says:

Used by Greek writers of those united by the bond of marriage, relationship, office, labor, study, business, or the like; hence, a yokefellow, consort, comrade, colleague, partner. Accordingly, in Phil. iv.3 most interpreters hold that by the words gnesie syzyge Paul addresses some particular associate in labor for the gospel. But as the word is found in the midst of (three) proper names, other expositors
more correctly take it as a proper name. . . and Paul, alluding (as in Philem. 11) to the meaning of the word as an appellative, speaks of him as "a genuine Synzygus," i.e., a colleague in fact as well as in name (p. 594).

The fact that the Epistle is addressed "to all the saints. . . at Philippi" makes it impossible to identify this "loyal comrade" (NEB) unless it is taken as a proper name.

Ralph Earle  
Word Meanings in the New Testament  
pg. 344-345
Church Trouble and Women Folk

Phil. 4:2-3

I. If you have lived long enough you have known sadly some church trouble.

II. No section of the church is immune to it. It can be caused by:

A. Preachers
   1. Let go
   2. Choose sides
   3. Above reprimand in their mind

B. Elders
   1. Covetous of position
   2. In name only
   3. Feel they are above reproach
      "I know only two tunes; one of them is Yankee Doodle, and the other isn't." (Ulysses S. Grant)

C. Youth minister
   1. Inexperience
      "Nearly all men can stand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power." (Abraham Lincoln)
   2. Overly Zealous
   3. Romantically involved

D. Women
   1. Does not take away their value
   2. Where would church be without them?
3. Hurt for their husbands, be it elder, deacon, or preacher.
4. Overly zealous and ambitious.

III. How do we handle it?
   A. Here is an example of church trouble involving women—very able women!
   B. It is handled by an apostle.
   C. It leaves us a great example—not that we want ever any trouble to come, here is a good way to overcome it.
   D. Read our text.

IV. Church Trouble and Its Solutions
   A. I
      1. Paul put himself into it.
      2. Silva wrote, "Paul is very concerned that his motive and attitude not be misunderstood. His emotional concern reveals the spirit of profound love and admiration for those he is about to rebuke."
      3. Record of intimate love.
      4. We are not to allegorize the ladies' names to thus become parties in the church.
5. He yields his personal rights to all kinds of folk, but does not sacrifice the truth.

6. Beseech – three times used.
   a. Greek term "I urge."
   b. He did not feel the trouble was insignificant.
   Four things can't come back—the spoken word, the sped arrow, the past life, and the neglected opportunity.
   c. Town means I appeal, I entreat.
   d. Paul at his practical best.
   e. We see him comfort the bereaved, lifting the faith, counseling those who need to be loved.
   f. Will exhort all to mutual assistance.
   g. We can make the whole of life burdensome to someone else by a malicious tongue.
   h. A trifling act or word can split a church and a slanderous hint whispered about a minister's doctrine or practice can ruin his life.
i. There is a period when a quarrel can be checked, but when it is once started who can say where it will end.
j. Those who are so keen to detect evil in others are often themselves most guilty.
k. When Christians are unanimous the church is invincible; where divided the church falls to pieces.
l. Remember how much the church owes to women—they are worth every effort to serve.
m. Paul faces a disagreement that was public knowledge—he is not airing a secret.
n. He will assign no blame—please note.
o. Beseech will be repeated with each name this puts both on equal footing.
p. Remember were it not for women, their finances, their service, many churches would close.
q. Laurin wrote that Christianity must be of divine origin for it lives in spite of its adherents.
r. Read some cards from "His Name" about Christianity.
s. Peace comes when we avoid extremes.

7. Euodias
   a. These persons mentioned here are nowhere else in the Bible.
   b. Must be ladies of influence.
   c. Remember the exalted and excellent among believers are not always exempt from trials and error.
   d. He will personally address those in need of rebuke.

Acts 20:31 e. But do observe his gentleness. Those who boast of being his successors do not show it.

f. Some think it's too great a condescension to speak to a woman, much less entreat them.

g. He realizes there are two sides to the question.

h. He does not mention the dissention. Both women are active and evidently love the Lord.

i. Much in the church the women can do.

Titus 2:3-5 Aged women
Acts 18:26-28 Teach the heard took aside
j. This church started with women.

Acts 16:13 *Speak to the women*

k. In those days the Greek's idea of woman: see as little, hear as little, ask as little as possible.

l. She was never on the street alone, had her own apartment in the house, never joined males even for meals, never in public life yet here in church in a leadership role.

m. Her name meant something:
   1) Fragrance
   2) Pleasant scent
   3) One who has arrived
   4) RV has Euodias
   5) Prosperous or successful journey

n. If your life in the church was to be summarized in a few words--would it be "two women who quarreled?"

o. Would I be a woman mature enough to handle an unusual admonition?

p. Would I enter the dispute or would I shy away lest you say I'm meddling?
8. Our second woman - Synthche
   a. Whole church is gong to be mobilized to settle the quarrel.
   b. Paul with beseech is saying "please." (Like kid who pumped organ).
   c. Joint obligations placed on both women.
   d. Her name has meaning:
      1) Talker
      2) Pleasant acquaintance
      3) Good mixer
      4) Affable
   e. Please note Paul played no favorite.
   f. Both are great enough to be worthy of special honor.
   g. Names come in alphabetical order.
   h. Yet if you are to be mentioned once in all holy writ how would you want it to be?

Neely's Bend (BC) - 3/2/03
The nineteenth-century atheist philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche said, "Jesus died too soon. He would have repudiated His doctrine if He had lived to my age." Nietzsche was so hostile that he wrote a book entitled The Antichrist in which he said:

I condemn Christianity; I bring against the Christian Church the most terrible of all the accusations that an accuser has ever had in his mouth...The Christian Church has left nothing untouched by its depravity; it has turned every value into worthlessness, and every truth into a lie, and every integrity into baseness of soul.

-- Franklin Graham
The Name
pg. 3

Even entertainers join the bashing. John Lennon of the Beatles made big waves when he said, 'Christianity will go. It will vanish and shrink I needn't argue with that; I'm right and I will be proved right. We're more popular than Jesus now: I don't know which will go first--rock and roll or Christianity."

-- Franklin Graham
The Name
pg. 3
"Christianity is a religion for losers," said one famous American billionaire.

Organized religion is a sham and a crutch for weak-minded people who need strength in numbers," said a famous American politician.

It makes no sense! What drives two such otherwise intelligent, motivated, and successful men to publicly slam the followers of the greatest Name in history?

The wealthy man founded a television network, owns two sports teams, and several ranches in the United States. He is an outstanding yachtsman who once won sailing's prestigious America's Cup. Time magazine once selected him "Man of the Year," and he is generous in supporting favorite charities and causes. Even though he may apologize later, this man has a habit of bashing...
Christians. Why does a brilliant man like Ted Turner go out of his way to blast believers loyal to the Name?

Then there's the politician. As a young man, he valiantly served his country as a Navy SEAL. Later he made a name for himself as a professional wrestler and actor. He has served as a volunteer for organizations like the Make a Wish Foundation. His entry into politics was as the mayor of a large suburb adjoining a major American city. In 1998, he shocked the political world with his election as a third-party candidate to the governor's chair. With so many outstanding credits to his name, why does Governor Jesse Ventura of the great state of Minnesota say that religion is just for the "weak-minded?"

Adolf Hitler, who was a "philosophic disciple" of his fellow German Nietzsche, had some demented words of his own to describe Christians:

We are fighting against the most ancient curse that humanity has brought upon itself. We are fighting against the perversion of our soundest instincts. Ah, the God of the deserts, that crazed, stupid, veneful Asiatic despot with his powers to make laws! That poison with which both Jews and Christians have spoiled and soiled the free, wonderful instincts of man and lowered them to the level of doglike fright.

-- Franklin Graham
The Name

pg. 3
WOMEN AND THE GOSPEL
Phil. 4:2-3

I. The respect the Bible pays women is inspirational. Let's see some.

II. Euodias & Syntyche.
V. 2 "I beseech Euodias & beseech Syntyche that the
A. Euodias. 30 yrs. old-pract. Church burned 1926
   1. One who has arrived.
   2. She'd gotten somewhere. Seen lie detector?
   3. Church owes much to women. Married one
   4. Were it not for women many churches would close - financial support & special services rendered.

B. Syntyche. - Neighbor hat like my new-
   1. Pleasant acquaintance.
   2. Good mixer. Tell what time's having by look
   3. Affable. on wife's face
   5. No allegorizing the ladies names to be parties in the church. Hate to see ladies stand

C. Beseech.
   1. Names in alphabetical order.
   2. Verb repeated c each name to put both on equal footing.
   3. Showed no partiality or blame.
   4. Beseech is like "please".
   5. No blame assigned nor was cause of dissension stated tho all there must have known.
   6. Disagreement public knowledge.

D. Same Mind.
1. Needed unity.
1:9
1:27
2:2
3:16

2. Put aside jealousy & ill will.
3. Sometimes Chr. get cross ways & do not see eye to eye.
4. "Christianity must be divine origin for it lives in spite of its adherents.
5. In the Lord - closer we are to him, less room for dissension.

III. Enter Yoke Fellow.

A. He's true vs. counterfeit.
   1. Pulled well in double harness.
   2. Take hold c another in a task.

B. Name.
   1. Don't know who he was.
   2. Same say "Yoke Fellow" was his name - thus act according to his name DeMaunbrem - man of brown

C. Needs to help.
   1. Take hold together.
   2. Get involved in their problem.
   3. Friends can help reconcile.
   5. Christ sensitizes men.
D. Labored.
1. Strenuous, agonizing effort of athlete.
2. Shared my struggles.
3. Part of gospel effort.

E. Clement - mentioned only here.
1. Some are worthy of special mention.
2. Some remain unnamed.

F. In Book of Life.
1. Written on imperishable pages.
2. Book of Life NT expression.
3. Everybody Paul missed naming was in Book of Life anyhow.
4. Chr. service does not pass unnoticed.

IV. Two duties.
A. Rejoice in the Lord always. *Preacher have picture*
1. Repeated instruction *Made "A solemn expression."*
2. No nitpicking.
3. Not occasional, but always - not sulky.
4. It's in the Lord.
5. This is the Key.

B. Moderation.
1. It's necessary.
2. Sweet reasonableness - Matthew Henry.
3. Not unduly rigorous over unimportant matters.
4. Forebearing.
5. Power of yieldings - not stubborn or thoughtless.
6. It's to all men - hard to do it for thankless & unkind.
7. All men know your forbearance.
8. Yield personal rights to all kinds of folks, but do not yield or sacrifice truth.
9. Peace comes when we avoid extremes.

C. Lord is at Hand.
1. 2nd coming? O.K.
2. We see his continuing & constant presence.
3. This a refinement.
4. Let all life be lived in his presence.

West End 5-20-79

Elder Rechevarry, Dinner, Ohio Valley College 4-5-79
Holmes Road, Memphis, Ladies Bible Class 4-26-79
Firstwood Church, Ladies Bible Class, McMinnville 11-26-79
Belgrade Church, Montgomery, Ala, Ladies Class 4-22-80
Pleasant Valley Church, Little Rock, Ark, Ladies Class 4-29-80
Almeda Church, Norman, Okla, Ladies Bible Class 7-14-81
Avenue Church, Decatur, Al, Ladies Class 10-14-81
Grott, Kansas Church 11-4-81
Benton, Ky, Church Ladies Class 11-11-81

Training for Service Series, Shawnee, OK (Ladies Class)

Hillsboro Ladies Class - 12/7/89 10/8/85
WOMEN

Who is the nation's most powerful woman? Many say Rosalynn Carter, but she ranks only third in a listing of the nation's most influential women compiled by World Almanac. Katherine Graham, owner of the Washington Post, ranked No.1; actress Jane Fonda was second. The voting was from the staffs of 126 newspapers, which the Almanac editors said represented "a broad spectrum of American thinking." New to the list for 1980 were Chicago's mayor, Jane Byrne; a consumer columnist, Bess Myerson; a television commentator, Shana Alexander; the Children's TV Workshop president, Joan Ganz Cooney, and the opera soprano, Beverly Sills, who heads the New York Opera. The Almanac editors themselves, however, called Mrs Carter "the most powerful woman in the country today."

January 17, 1980
If it wasn't for Abe Lincoln, I'd still be on the open market. — DICK GREGORY.

Democracy is the art of running the circus from the monkey cage. — H L MENCKEN.

I believe in exercising but the trouble with Yoga at home is that I'm forever seeing places I didn't dust. — GLORIA PITZER.

The pill has done more to broaden womenhood than have seats. — Dr O A BATTISTA.

By working faithfully eight hours a day, you may eventually get to be a boss and work twelve hours a day. — ROBERT FROST.

The no-mind not-thinks no-thoughts about no-things. — BUDDHA.

We think in generalities, we live in detail. — ALFRED NORTH WHITEHEAD.

February
Let Me Be Remembered for Three Things

Phil. 4:4

I. For what would you like to be remembered?
   A. Tallest guy in the class.
   B. Had the largest family.
   C. Most successful—buy for $2.00, sell for $3.00—just keep making that 1%.

II. I'd like to be remembered for:
   A. Attitude of rejoicing always.
   B. Moderation known to all men.
   C. Living like the Lord is at hand.

III. We'll examine all three.
   A. First, rejoice.
      1. Joy is the reoccurring theme of Philippians.
      2. Neither difficult circumstances, grave danger, imprisonment robbed Paul of his joys.
      3. Silva wrote, "Genuine Christian joy is not inward looking. It comes by concentrating on the needs of others. We must look out for others. We do not put priorities on personal rights.
      4. There is joy in conversion. The eunuch went on his way rejoicing.
5. Nit-picking is not rejoicing.
6. Nothing breaks down the opposition to Christianity like a cheerful life. Christ came to make the world glad. We rejoice in and trust Him.
7. Paul the prisoner was full of joy, anticipated seeing the Philippian church again.
8. David was happy when he collected temple funds.

1. All life is to be lived in His presence.

2. He very often uses "in Christ."

1 Chron. 29:9 God's will is perfectly pleasing to the Lord.

9. Greater joy in building the walls of Jerusalem.

10. Merry heart does good like a medicine.

11. Holding a grudge endangers health.

12. More flies are caught by a spoonful of honey than by a barrel of vinegar.

13. Time for rejoicing is "always" -- so he says it twice.

14. It's in the Lord and at all times.

15. Our joy is derived from things in Christ, not in the world.

B. Rejoice in the Lord

1. All life is to be lived in His presence.

2. He very often uses "in Christ."
3. You can rejoice in the Lord because He is always good and He never changes.
4. Early church rejoiced they were to suffer for Christ.

Acts 5:41

5. God is sovereign—nothing is outside His control.
6. He makes all things work together for our good.

Romans 8:28

7. He has infinite understanding of every aspect of our lives.

Psalms 139:2-4

8. He can give you great joy.

1 Peter 1:8 Not seen ye love, rejoice full glory


10. He supplies all your needs.

Phil. 4:19 According to the riches of glory

11. To Him you can pray all time.

Heb. 4:15-16

12. In Him death is gain.

C. Rejoice always.

1. He sweetens prayer with joy.

Phil. 1:4 Always in every prayer make request with joy
2. Rejoice Christ is preached.

Phil. 1:18 whether in professe or faith


Phil. 2:2 fall fei ye my joy

4. He does not run in vain.

Phil. 2:16 nor labored in vain

5. Calls His converts His joy.

Phil. 4:1 my joy and omn standfast

6. We cannot amuse ourselves at the expense of our wife, or our children.

7. Think of the misery of the infidel. The infidel cannot be habitually cheerful. "I am affrighted and confounded with that forlorn solitude in which I am placed by my philosophy. When I look abroad, I see on every side dispute, contradiction, distraction. When I turn my eyes inward, I find nothing but doubt and ignorance. Where am I and what? From what cause do I derive my existence and to what condition shall I return? I'm confounded with this question and begin to fancy myself in the most deplorable conditions imaginable."

Here you have one of the philosophical and respected infidels making this confession.
8. So he repeats it again.

IV. Next desire to be remembered in moderation known to all.

A. Moderation

1. Reasonableness.
2. Not undue rigorousness over an important matter.
3. Erdman called it the power of yielding, not stubborness or thoughtlessness.
4. All men know your forebearance.
5. Hard to translate:
   Wiclffe - patience
   Tyndale - softness
   Cramer - Softness
   Geneva Bible - patient mind
   Rheims Bible - modesty
   Modern version - forebearance, gentleness, meet all men half-way, sweet reasonableness.
   Luther - yieldingness
   Tolle - consideration of others

1. Moderation - the word rendered moderation in our Bible is connected by derivation and usage with ideas not of control, but of yielding. It is yieldingness, giving way, the proper interpretation. Forebearance, gentleness are the alternative renderings
that suggests the thought of giving away.

2. The yieldingness which is here enjoined is nothing akin to weakness, indolence, or indifference.

3. His is near, not here in the sense of coming soon, but in that of standing by; in the sense of His presence, and the secret of it around his servant.

4. Moderation is not temperance in the gratification of our desires generally, but specially temperance or self-restraint in our relations to others, abstinence from anger, harshness, vengeance. Elsewhere in the New Testament where this original word occurs, the rendering is gentleness, clemency, patience, anyone that is preferable to this ambiguous moderation.

B. Known to all men.

1. This meekness under provocation is known far beyond the church.

2. Elsewhere it may be known it works.

V. Finally known to believe the Lord is at hand.
A. All life lived in His presence.
B. Closer we are to Him less room for discussion.
C. Lord can come at anytime.

Mark 13:33
2 Tim. 4:1
James 2:13

D. Do not drop out of everything expecting the return--do not set dates.
E. Nearness must apply either to time or place.
F. Near--at hand--his presence rather than his Parousia.
   1. Near could mean either space or time.
   2. The chair is near or in chronology-Monday is near.
   3. He encompasses us with his presence.

Psalm 119:151

4. Moule says it's the sense of his presence, not of his coming.

Neely's Bend BC - 3/31/03
Paragon Mills - 6/11/03
Franklin, KY (BC) - 6/15/03
Riverwood - 6/25/03
Walter Hill - 6/29/03 (Afternoon Service)
Southern Hills - 7/9/03
Funeral, Frank Halcomb - 5/3/04
Imperative Commands—Joy and Moderation; Plus Leftovers
Phil. 4:4-5

I. We come via verses 4 and 5 of Philippians 4 to two of the best known and maybe hardest commands for busy city folk.
A. Mary Blazer (Sister Trail) always quoted this.
B. If we are 10 o'clock news folk we have so much to keep us tense and tight.
C. Nevertheless there remains two commands I must obey: Rejoice always—moderation to all (not just outsiders, but to wife and children).

II. But before we move to this there are some "leftovers" (and such can be real good like my mother's baptized biscuits) and these we want to see.
A. I've just been introduced to church trouble--irrespective I'm to "stand fast in the Lord" here or somewhere!
1. I am in the Lord—that means I am in the church.
2. To promote steadfastness, unity will certainly help.
3. The world awaits to believe until the disciples of Christ are one.
B. I want to be a yokefellow with you. 
(William Potts knows the name of a man in Miss. who dis mission work--Joe James wants to know--how would I know?)
1. Yoke means hard work!
2. They are alive and giving their best proof of life.
3. Dead people don't work.
4. If we love Jesus we long for the spiritual welfare of our brethren.
5. We also long for communion with them.
6. There is a joy of comfort bearing we want to see the wound heal.

C. We want to see every Christian; faithful, standing fast.
1. Truth is permanent.
2. Error is changeable.
3. Unless we are correct how can we stand fast?
4. Tradition passes away, but sometimes hands on tightly.
a) Hill of Calvary
b) Broken body
c) Angels singing
d) Pinch loaf--the largest houses in Corinth were small--many one room as we've unearthed them.

Rom 10:17 So then faith.
Heb 2:3-4 Yah. 23/8-10
e) Speculation does not bring stability.

f) Neither does feeling.
   1) God is ever so merciful.
   2) Is he ever just?
   3) Does he demand obedience?

D. Steadfastness

1. He that endures to the end shall be saved.

2. Not a time to pull anchor and drift with the wind.

3. Stand fast without wandering.

4. Wellington and Stonewall Jackson

5. Wellington got message that said, "Tell my commander and chief to move me--I cannot hold my position any longer--my numbers are so thin."

6. Wellington wired back: "Every Englishman must today die where he stands or else win the victory."

7. We must die rather than yield ground to the enemy.

8. One wrote about steadfastness: "That is life for the body, inspiration for the mind, rapture for the soul. If there is an occupation that yields such mighty satisfaction in all the world I have never heard of it."
E. We read of two women having trouble—why?
   1. Important point of doctrine—call no man father yet we use rabbi.
   2. Trifling difference of opinion.
   3. Some slight act.
   4. Some careless word.

F. "Longed for"—used only here and I doubt it used as much as it should be. Love me into greater steadfastness!

III. Thus in the words of our next command: Rejoice in the Lord always and let your moderation be known to all men.

A. Rejoice!
   1. We all have enough discouragements disappointments and pains, yet take the work as a whole, there is no profession that compares with Christianity—nothing that brings such peace and joy.
   2. Opposite of nit-picking.
   3. Always joyful.
   4. Some Christians like artificial limb—no life, no warmth, never try to be a vital part of the body, just stumble along with artificiality strapped on.
B. Moderation

1. Forbearance is meekness under provocation.
2. Readiness to forgive injuries
3. Equity in management of business
4. Candor in judging the character and action of others.
5. We waive our rights and do not push them to the uttermost.
6. Henry Evans - was Mary slandered. Armstrong forgot it.
7. Gentleness is the opposite of self-assertion and rivalry.

Neely's Bend - 3/16/03
I. What's the hardest task you face?
   A. Supporting your needs?
   B. Holding my tongue?
   C. Keeping thoughts clean?
   D. Being content with what we have?

II. What if I added "Be careful for nothing?"
Or in other translations:
   A. Be anxious for nothing.
   B. Let no care trouble you.
   C. Do not worry about anything.

III. The weapon we use to overcome this is prayer. But I want us first to see the prohibition.
   A. Do not worry about anything.
      1. This was written among men with most adverse circumstances.
      2. I'm told anxiety is to be avoided.
      3. Does this discourage economy and industry?
      4. Carefulness comes from a word of which the original signifies "to divide."
      5. We are tempted to be careful about things which perish their worth is but little and it stretches but a little way. We believe less and are consumed with care.
6. All creatures are dependent.
7. Am I the master of circumstances, or are they "of me?"

B. Anxious means a divided mind.
1. We will find as prayer advances care recedes.
2. Yet worry is our modern plague.
3. We find the antedote is prayer.
I Peter 5:7 *Casting all your care upon him*
4. If I could learn to be anxious in nothing, prayerful in all things, I'd be moving toward peace of mind.
5. Anxious is akin to worry, fretfulness, oppressive state of mind.
6. We have the prohibition "let nothing worry you. We have the command," tell God what your requests are.
7. The opposite of anxiety is relief that God gives in answer to prayer.
8. Remember God knows our needs.
9. Can we let joy take the place of our discontent and anxiety?
10. Look away from ourselves to the needs of our brothers being willing to yield our rights for their sakes.
11. Much of our life is frittered away with care and anxiety. This comes from too close a look as things that are temporal. To a man who has no feelings of the Lord's nearness, every trouble exaggerates itself. (B.I)

12. Read cards from B.I.

13. Erdman asks, "If the Lord is at hand" why worry?

14. Cure for anxiety is found believing in prayer.

15. He further said, "Nothing is too great for God's power and nothing is too small for God's care."

16. A. Clark, "When he said be careful for nothing, it means to not be anxiously solicitous, do not give praise to carking care, let what will occur, for anxiety cannot change the state or condition of anything from bad to good, but will infallibly injure your own disposition.

17. Paul was content because of his forbearing spirit, not his circumstances.

C. What causes anxiety?
1. It arises from common delusion that happiness depends upon material possessions. This anxiety injures our body, fills the mind with earthly care, blocks out the elevating influence of heavenly things, exposes us to terrible temptation of seeking forbidden paths. (Vos)

2. Remember, nothing is too great for God's power, nothing too small for his fatherly care.

D. The antedote "but in everything, under all circumstances," pray.

1. The range of prayer — in everything.

2. Prayer tends to place everything in God's hands.

3. Prayer and supplication often occur together.

Eph. 6:18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication.
I Tim. 2:1 I exhorted, that they should all supplicate
I Tim. 5:5 giving of thanks

a) Prayer conveys the (Tolle) general idea of intercourse with and dependence on God while supplication conveys the idea of asking God to supply one's personal needs.
b) The word requests emphasizes that prayer and supplication must always be accompanied by appreciation of God's blessings.

c) Nothing is too common to be brought before God who made the earthworm as well as the archangel. (B.I.)

Neely's Bend BC - 4/13/03
WHILE visiting my 5-year-old granddaughter, Brenna, I absentmindedly called her by her mother’s name. Realizing my mistake, I said, “Honey, I’m sorry. Grandma is going senile.”

Brenna’s response was, “Grandma, do you have to stay there?”

—Teresa Madsen
I. All of us have received taff assignments—list your toughest one.
   A. Physical—Broken Body, Bible 12:10
   B. Mental—Stress, Puzzles, Confusion, Puzz—up
   C. Moral—Chant War, Badword & Body Shame
   D. Social—Dance, Drink

II. Surely none greater than our text:
   Phil. 4:6-7 "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing
   A. Be careful for nothing.
   B. Have faith in God, using Prayer.
   C. Possess peace.
      1.) Beyond understanding.
      2.) That's a sentry.
      3.) That's thru Jesus.

III. Let's examine our assignment.
   A. Be careful for nothing.
      1. It means today to exercise caution—be careful.
      2. Here he is prohibiting the continuation of an
         action habitually going on.
      3. They were to stop habitual worry.
      4. Nothing, lit. "not even one thing."
   Is. 26:3 "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whos
      5. Anxiety from same root as anger—physical act
         of choking.
   B. This accomplished by prayer.
   Ps. 50:17 "Seeing thou hatest instruction, and castest
      1. Prayer & supplication.
a.) Does prayer change things or change people?

b.) Does God change His mind as a result of our praying?

c.) Prayer here is reverent - an act of worship.

d.) Supplication means to put forth one's personal needs.

(e.) Requests are specific things asked for.

f.) It takes us into the "presence of God," thus how could I be anxious in His presence?

g.) Are you in a position to pray?

1. Are you a Christian?

2. Are you clean?

Ps. 66:18 "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord doesn't say God fulfills our requests.

h.) Doesn't say God fulfills our requests.

2. Do you make specific requests?

3. He expects you to make it known.

C. Promised the Peace of God:

1. Passes understanding.

a.) Some we work out - how to pay bills, etc.,

good health, prosperity, good friends, or some system of that.

b.) One in Christ - our peace.

c.) Nothing too great for God's power: nothing too small for His fatherly care - Vincent.

2. It keeps.

a.) Word for sentry duty.

b.) He patrols & keeps out intruders.

c.) Master carpenter may let the sand paper dig deep to get a more ultimately beautiful product.
d.) Military "shall mount guard."

e.) Heart's door is patroled.

3. It's only available in Christ.

Shad End, 3-7-82
Area Wide Training for Service Series 3-15-82
Memorial Parkway Church, Huntsville, Ala.
A goal that each of us seems to have in common is to obtain peace of mind. We all have our individual barriers that challenge and occasionally prohibit us from obtaining a precious inner peace. Struggling with alcohol, social acceptance, the depths of depression, or any other struggle that diminishes the inner peace.

The following are just a few suggestions derived by a research group at Duke University regarding happiness. These particular research findings actively confirm my faith in Christian principles.

**Formula for Peace of Mind**

1. Shun suspicion and resentment. Nursing a grudge has been found to pull down happiness levels an average of fifty percent.

2. Live in the present and the future. Most unhappiness stems from an unwholesome preoccupation with the mistakes and failures of the past. They are important only as your passport to a better and wiser today. Forgive yourself freely for past mistakes. It is as vital to your happiness as forgiving others.

3. Don’t waste time and energy fighting conditions you can’t change. There is little you can personally do, for instance, about stopping a war, healing the incurable disease of a loved one, or changing the nature of those with whom you live. So stop hurling yourself against stone walls.

4. Cooperate with life instead of either trying to demolish it or run away from it.

5. When you find yourself in the grip of emotional stress, force yourself to be outgoing to other people instead of retreating within yourself and building a prison of loneliness.

6. Refuse to pity yourself or seek self-justification (concluded on page two)
in easy alibis that make you appear "noble" to yourself and others.

7. Cultivate the old-fashioned virtues of love, honor, loyalty, thrift and church attendance.

8. Stop expecting too much of yourself. When there is too wide a gap between the standards you set for yourself and your actual achievement, unhappiness is inevitable. If you can't improve the performance, try lowering the demands instead.

9. Find something bigger than yourself in which to believe. Self-centered materialistic people score lowest on the Duke University tests for measuring happiness. While those who average high in altruism and religious attitudes generally come out with the top happiness ratings.

I announced on Youth Day that I would begin minimal office hours on March 2nd, but due to my participation in a Alcohol-Drug Seminar at Reidland Elementary School, I will begin those same hours on March 9th.

Welcome...

Placed Membership:
Mattie Grimmitt
310 Wallace Lane, Zone 7

In Baptist: Claude Guill, 431
Sadie Hoover, 436
Norma Taylor, 305
Ken Donaldson, 325

In Lourdes: Lionel Solomon, 416
A TOUGH DUTY INDEED
Phil. 4:4-7

I. Our Lord calls no sissies.
   A. As he courageously "went before" to his death at Jerusalem, he expects the same of his followers.
      1. We sing "Faith of our Fathers."
      2. We deny self & take up crosses.
   B. But what are his toughest commands.
      1. Turn other cheek.
      2. See no evil.
      3. Pray for enemies.
      4. Be baptized.
      5. Be faithful.

II. Admittedly these are but I think now of another--knew it was coming via earlier teaching.
Matt. 5:11-12 "Blessed are ye when men"
   A. It came via Paul.
Phil. 4:4-7
   B. To like Thess. letter "rejoice evermore" is tough.
   C. Let's study the Phil. one.

III. I Am Commanded to:
   A. "Rejoice in the Lord always and"
      (Phil. 4:4)
      1. Rejoice always--Keynote of Epistle.
2 Cor. 7:4 I am exceedingly joyful in all our tribulation
      a)"Grimness is not next to godliness" (Ogilvie)
      b) Rejoice--same force to obey as baptism.
      c) Hard to do yet I hear a man in chains and prison saying it.
2 Cor. 6:10 As we suffer yet always rejoicing
d) It must not have much to do with circumstances—rain or shine.
e) Joy is to be continuous, always—even repeated.

2. In the Lord
a) "Joy like peace is not the absence of trouble but the presence of the Lord". (Malone)
b) It's the flag that flies in residence when the King is present.
c) To some Christianity is like an artificial limb—no warmth, no life, helps them stumble along but never part of them, strapped on each day. (Ogilvie)
d) Can't do this unless in the Lord.
e) Our joy is not derived from things in the world but faith in Christ.
f) He will make things right.
g) Not happy about everything Louise Turner "never felt happier never had less," stated when Charlie died—misunderstood my question.
h) No joy in selfishness.

B. Let me cultivate this spirit of joy.

IV. Then he lays another hard one on me.

v-5 "Let your moderation be known"

A. Moderation

1. Forbearance, yieldingness said Luther, consideration of others, meekness under provocation, gentleness toward others.
2. Barclay calls it an untranslatable word.
3. Bear with others—and we'll see a reason for it momentarily.
4. Let it be known in and out of the church.
5. Our disposition must not hinder others coming into the church.
6. Arnold—sweet personableness.

B. Reason—The Lord is at Hand.
1. I know He can return at anytime.

Mk. 13:33 Then He came to them and said, "Watch and pray; for you know not when the hour is coming.
2 Tim. 4:1 Judge yourself dead at the appearing of the Lord James 2:13
2. He will return but don't drop out of every earthly duty nor set dates for his return.
3. But has to do more with now:
   a) In view of his return set few earthly rights.
   b) He's here now where 2 or 3 gather together.
   c) It's the continual nearness of Jesus we must see & feel.
   d) Bear with others since the Lord is near & we expect Him to do this with us.

V. He sends me reeling with another command. v-6 "Be careful for nothing."
A. Worry Abolished.
   1. Anxiety
   2. Divided mind
3. Worry our modern plague—when I announced about Michael at Birmingham, wanted to prescribe something for me.

B. But I had it—In Everything by Prayer.
1. As prayer advances care recedes.  
I Pet. 5:7 Casting all your care on Him for He cares for you.
2. This is antidote to worry.
3. Prayer begins with God.
4. Prayer is more listening than talking—how else do we get His decisions? Ask and wait.
5. "We & God have business with each other; and in opening ourselves to his influence our deepest destiny is fulfilled." (Wm. James)
6. As with rejoicing we are praying always.
7. Do it in difficult times.
8. Daniel kneeled at his open window & prayed as he did "aforetimes."
9. Range of prayer—everything so this circumscribes our behavior!
11. Our supplications are our special ideas for our personal needs.
12. Remember to be thankful.

VI. Results—Peace!
A. Peace of God
2. It is not stagnation.
3. It is not insensibility.
4. It is feeling.
5. It is action.
6. It is of God.

B. Further it passes all understanding.
   1. Can't comprehend its blessedness.
   2. Can't put this on NBH's postcard.
   3. Almost inexplicable.
   4. So wonderful it's incomprehensible.

C. It's my Guard
   1. Military term--sentinel.
   2. Group who guards the castle.

D. In Christ.
   1. Something robbing you of peace--must not be in Christ.
   2. In his salvation is peace.

Locust Grove, Franklin, KY - 12/1/91
Westwood, McMinnville, TN - 12/22/91 (BC)
I. We have just been enjoined to embrace three magnificent attitudes of life.
A. Rejoice in the Lord always.
B. Let your moderation be known to all men.
C. Live knowing the Lord is at hand.

II. To these beautiful principles he now adds three more—oh so practical.
A. Be careful for nothing.
B. In everything by prayer, supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be known to God.
C. Receive the peace of God which passes all understanding as the sentinel of your heart and mind through Christ Jesus.

III. Central to all these matters is the condition that you are in the Lord, sustained by Christ Jesus.
A. If one is not in Christ these blessings and promises will not be his.
B. It is imperative that you know how to come into Christ and faithfully abide there.

IV. As rewarding as are the three new principles, we by no means have exhausted the blessings and instructions of: rejoicing in Jesus, practicing moderation toward all men and living with a nearness to Jesus and his presence and parosia.

A. It's first necessary to review these three matters.

B. We'll study them in the order of their being named: (1) rejoicing, (2) moderation shown, (3) nearness to Christ and being at hand to him.

V. Reviewing three principles.

A. Rejoice always in the Lord.

1. Rejoice always.

2. Cultivate the habit of looking on the bright side. (Operation on tater time—either digging or planting).

3. Be on the lookout for compension—you'll get a blessing.

4. Think positively of what one gains by his difficulties, his lessons of adversity, even the tears of sorrow.
5. There is nothing in Jesus that is not the occasion for joy, life, righteousness, abounding grace.

B. Let your moderation be known to all men.

1. It is a sense of yielding, not stubborn resistance.

2. Forebearance, gentleness, giving away—alternate thoughts.

3. This yieldingness is not akin to weakness, indolence, or indifference.

4. It is temperance, self-restraint in our relations to others.

5. It is the absence of anger, harshness, vengeance.

6. Other synonyms in New Testament are gentleness, clemency, patience.

7. Clark said its meekness under provocation, readiness to forgive injuries, equity in the management of business, candor in judging other character and actions, sweetness of disposition. The government of passion, said MacKnight.

8. Bruce said it comes from a Greek word meaning yieldingness, sweet reasonableness.

9. Show moderation to all men even the perverse so that we may win them.
10. None are to be ungracious as not to be kindly to someone, from some motive or another, or some occasion.

11. The believer is to be unto all men at all times.

12. Harshness to others is the opposite of moderation.

13. We do not prematurely take matters into our own hands.

14. The perogative of judging others belongs to the Lord.

15. MacArthur translates it graciousness.

16. Some say it's patience referring to one who submits to injustice or mistreatment—yet does not retaliate with hatred or bitterness.

17. Existentialism implies every man has the right to do whatever makes him feel good. If something makes him feel good but it hurts you, do it anyway. Sin always ends up hurting someone else.

C. The third matter was to know the Lord is at hand.

1. One who walks with God is characterized by stability and productivity.

2. One who rejects him flounders in meaningless existence.
3. He is near, not here in the sense of coming soon, but in that of standing by.
4. It is the sense of his presence and the secret of it around his servant. 

D. Finally all of this is in the Lord.

VI. As it is easy to see, we have yet to get to those three additional principles.
A. We are careful for nothing.
   1. Not doubleminded.
   2. Wrong is our modern plague.
B. Contrastingly by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your request be known to God.
   1. Great antedote to wrong.
   2. Several kinds of prayers.
C. Receive the peace of God as the guardian of your heart.
   1. Guard--military term.
   2. God's place is yur safeguard.
D. Let's explore this fully in another lesson.

Neely's Bend BC - 4/6/03
Great steve ever asked (R.C. Shonew)

I. Bible is filled c.Bts.
   A. What think ye of Christ? Whose Son is he?
   B. Man's Greatest - What shall I do to be saved? Acts 16:30
   C. Soiler asked the right man - Paul, Apostle, God sent
   D. Other times
      NK 10:19 - Do inherit eternal life
         Acts 2:38 - Asked of Peter
         Acts 7:1-18 Soul of Ananias
         Asked Right Man
   E. Asked Right Question
      1. Seved - Knew he was lost
      2) Many don't know they are lost
      b) Jesus - seek lost
      c) Peter - not will any perish
      d) John - whosoever belie贞罚
      e) Paul Rom 1 (Gentile) R. 2 (Jew) R3 eu
      2. Word Must
      3. Personal - I do
      4. Not God do, Jesus do, Spirit, Y do
5. Active do - not feel, think
Thus asked At: Question
6. Get Right Answer
1. Believe on Lord
2. Spoke words unto him
3. Beginning of sermon
4. End of sermon where Paul began
5. Repented, Baptized
6. Several answers - depending where you are.

1. Acts 2:38 - No mention of faith

H. Sweeney Illustration
How far to Needle Point 3 miles
at Bolivar Rd
2 miles - Foy farm
1 Brick - Asked next door
Depends on where you are the answers vary.

I. Not pray sinners prayer - not in Bible
   " Accept Christ - Not rec, Christ
J. Ask at person, isn't Right?
   Do right thing
K. Pay $20 loan - give note, give 20,
   Give $20 will cause of use, it
   Set test course - do what Bible says
A scientist has discovered that if the earth were entirely flattened, the sea would be two miles deep all over the world. An Oklahoma newspaper editor, upon reading this bit of information, published this warning: "If any man is caught flattening the earth, nab him on the spot. A whole lot of us here in Oklahoma can't swim."

Little Johnny had to stand in the corner at school for putting mud in a little girl's mouth. His mother was horrified when she heard about it. "Why in the world did you put mud in Margaret's mouth?" his mother asked.

"Well," said Johnny, "it was open."
THE INHERITANCE

In 1949, Jack Wurm of San Francisco, California, was broke and out of a job. Mr. Wurm was walking along the beach when he came across a bottle with a note inside. Upon reading the note, he discovered it was the last will and testament of Daisy Singer Alexander, heir to the Singer sewing machine fortune. The note read, “To avoid confusion, I leave my entire estate to the lucky person who finds this bottle and to my attorney, Barry Cohen. Share and share alike. Daisy Alexander. June 20, 1937.”

The courts accepted the theory that 12 years earlier Mrs. Alexander had thrown the bottle into the Thames River in London and that it had drifted halfway around the world to the feet of Mr. Wurm. This discovery netted Mr. Wurm over 6 million dollars in cash and Singer stock.

Each of us has the opportunity to inherit something far greater, for we are joint heirs with Christ of the glories of heaven through salvation. I Peter 1:3-4 says God caused us “to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you.”
Everyday as we read a newspaper, listen to the radio, watch television or visit with friends and fellow workers, we are constantly bombarded with the events of the war in Iraq. Our hearts are touched by the pain, suffering, worry and death that are happening to both sides in this conflict. Our prayers and thoughts are constantly with our troops and with the World leaders that peace may soon prevail.

We as Christians find ourselves in a battle everyday. It is a battle with a much stronger foe than Saddam Hussein. It is with Satan himself. “Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour” (I Peter 5:0). The devil never quits trying to devour Christians. Peter continues in Verse 9 “Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.” We are not alone in this battle as Hebrews 12:22-24 points out. “But you have come to Mount Zion, to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly to the church of the firstborn, who names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the judge of all men, to the spirits of righteousness men made perfect, Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel”.

The battle goes on but we can win against the forces of evil because we have God on our side. Will we be prepared to face God with the words Paul penned in II Timothy 3:7 “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith”?

For the Elders
Paul Scott
The Arena of Christian Thought

Phil 4:8

I. From time to time we've been doused with great claims:
A. No one can tell me what to think.
B. Thinking is my private affair.
C. I'll think what I please and it is no concern of yours.
D. No one can read my mind and thus my thoughts are my own.

II. The only thing to say is that the above just is not true.

III. There is the arena of Christian thoughts and God sets the boundries of it.
Phil. 4:8--"Finally, brethren whatsoever things are... think on these things.
A. We see Heaven set the boundries.
B. Our task is to see the dimensions.

IV. It begins with Finally, brethren.
A. What are real values?
   1. He lists seven.
   2. It lists that of moral value, worthy of praise.
   3. Behold the minds of understanding and things the Lord says are valuable.
4. We must ever practice the presence of our Lord—He's always at hand.

B. This is not for everybody, but it is for the brethren.
   1. You make a difference.
   2. You are a vital part of society, but all are not alike.

V. Paul gives his list of seven.
   A. We must be careful with how we fill our minds.
   B. We must feed on noble things.
   C. Allow your reflection to shape your conduct.
   D. His list:
      1. Whatsoever things are true.
         a. One volume com. says there are eight particulars placed in two 4-fold rows—the former containing their beauty and the latter the commendation of it.
         b. The first word in the former row answers the first row in the latter; the second word, the second and so on.
         c. Barclay said a man should always set his thoughts on things on which he could rely, things that will not fail him or let him down.
d. Keep in mind the Greek for "think" has the idea of thorough, logical, carefully evaluated.

e. True = veracity, fidelity, motives, conduct.

f. Idea of account, reckon, reason, serious matter.

g. True, not feigned, not invented to please, but really subsist.

h. Full of lies, desperate, false.

2. Things: Honest

a. Honorable, morally attractive.

b. Worthy of respect.

c. Refers to that which is noble, dignifies, reverent.

d. Idea is not "how will it make me feel?" or "will it offend," but rather "is it right."

e. It has to do with Christian decorum, self-respect, consistent with true humility.

f. It's reverence for the temple of God, thus worthy of reverence, deserving respect.

g. It is noble, serious, not frivolous.

h. Venerable, worthy (Moffatt).

i. When it is used for a man it is one who is said moved throughout the world as if the whole world were the temple of God.
j. It is things that are grave, serious, dignified.
k. Venerable, dignity of the high vocation to which God has called us, renouncing frivolity and folly.
l. That which is august, majestic.
m. The idea of dignity, majesty, which is yet inviting and attractive, which inspires reverence.

n. Nowhere outside the Bible are we to consumate such a standard as this.
o. Christianity alone is the golden link between thought and practice (Biblical Illus.).
p. Remember this is the foundation for our conduct.

3. Just

a. Things which make us well spoken of.
b. Things right, totally of divine standard or action.
c. Justice, sense of doing good.
d. Righteous
e. Friendship and assistance toward equals.
f. Kindness toward all.
g. Observant of the rule of right.
h. Opposite of the unmannered life of wild tribe which are swayed by inclination, passion, caprice.

i. No wonder Christianity was spoken of as "that way" or "the way of the Lord," or "the way of life."

j. Note Paul says of these things "do practice" and will say they "learned...received...heard...seen."

k. Give God and man just dues.

4. Pure

a. Unstained, cleansed, can bring into presence of God.

b. Morally pure

c. Remember must have proper conduct of thoughts...thinking must be accompanied by resolution, followed by action.

d. Things we must do.

e. Preserve our bodies from pollution, also hearts, tongues, eyes, dress.

f. Cultivate modesty and avoid dissoluteness.

g. Unstained, free from debasing elements.

h. Unsullied, aking to holy, Our conscience unstained, does not exercise evil.
5. Lovely
   a. Only used here.
   b. Pleasing, amiable.
   c. Does not behave unseemly.
   d. Insures love.
   e. Things that promote brotherly love.
   f. Avoids friction—not destructively critical.
   g. Not a web of chronic negativisms.
   h. Moffatt translates it "attractive."
   i. Winsome.
   j. In the Greek it is something that calls forth love—opposite of those whose minds are set on vengeance and punishment that calls forth bitterness and fear.
   k. Some minds so set on criticism and rebuke they call forth resentment in others.
   l. The mind of the Christian is set on lovely things: kindness, sympathy, forebearance, love—produces such a response.
   m. Excites love and endears him who does such things.
   n. Amiable of its own accord, useful to others.
6. Good Report
   a. Good respect
   b. Fair sounding
   c. High tone
   d. Highly regarded
   e. Well thought of
   f. Gracious, high-toned
   g. Has a good name
   h. Fair speaking--fit for God to hear.
   i. Only here--sounding well.

7. Virtue
   a. Remember our character takes on what we think.
   b. Thoughts deeply affect us as we pursue our ideals.
   c. Excellent--only time Paul uses it could describe excellency of ground in a field, a tool for a purpose, physical excellency of an animal, courage of a soldier, virtue of a man.
   d. A woman's chastity.
   e. Scotch thrift, industry
   f. Excellency--moral, intellectual, physical
   g. Nothing but the best.
   h. We will have an influence in the world.
i. Moral courage and stability.

2 Peter 1:5
GOD'S PURITEX SYSTEM

Phil. 4:8

I. By my title I don't know what I'm talking about.

A. But I hear a lot about puritex.
   1. No allerby.
   2. No dog hair.
   3. No White Shoulders perfume.
   4. Only pure air to breathe.

B. If you have a competitive system and will tell me, I'll "advertise" for you.

C. All of us know of some purifying systems - air filter, car filter, on and on, but I want to tell you about the best one - it's God's.

D. He said the love of God would garrison our hearts - military term.
   1. It is impregnable - not like the Magineau Line.
   2. It occurs four times in the Bible.

II Cor. 11:32 - Garrison
Gal. 3:23 - Strong rooms
I Pet. 1:5 - Presence in a fortress
Phil. 4:7 - Keep

E. God can do it by the control of our thoughts, so let's use his system.
   It's fail proof, unlike the little boy that just had 10¢ to buy a watermelon
   He was offered a little green glob, left without it - be back in three months when it's ripe.
II. This starts with Finally - sweetest word the audience hears in a sermon.

A. Elizabeth would cry "Jesus" God's death to interrupt.
B. Betsy Brewer did it with "In Jesus' name."
C. Word used here and four other times in Pastorials.
D. Man must be careful with what he fills his mind.
E. Note this is for "brethren" - as everyone is not a brother, everyone won't do this.
F. Thou starts list of 8 safeguards.

III. List of 8 to think on - thorough, logical, valuate, to account, not casual but thorough.
Set your thoughts on things you can rely, things that will not fail or let you down.
No Place

Nowhere but in the Bible do we find such a consummate standard. Christianity the golden link between thought and practice. Word think - careful consideration.

A. First on list "True."  
1. Foundation of our conduct.  
2. True - not feigned, invented to please, *Vernacity Fidelity*  
3. Really substance.  
4. Speech free from lying, *Deception*  
5. No purpose to deceive or say what's false either by promise (Ed Steel & horse) or assertion.  
6. Lying is contrary to nature of God.

B. Honest  
1. Honorable or reverend a better translation.  
2. It has to do with Christian decorum, self-respect, consistent with true humility.  
4. Vulnerable - a man is so much what he thinks he is.  
5. Be acceptable to God and approved by men.

Rom. 14:18  
6. Some things are honorable within themselves.  
7. Disgrace is attached to dishonest action.
8. Be careful how you fill your mind.
9. Reflect on noble things and allow this reflection to shape your conduct.
10. Worthy of reverence.
11. Deserve respect.
12. Not casual, but serious thoughts.
13. Noble, serious, not frivolous.
14. Set your thoughts on things on which you can rely.
15. Things that will not fail or let you down.
16. Moffatt says worthy.
17. When it is used of a man to describe, it is of a person who has said to move throughout the whole world as though it were the temple of God.
18. Grave, serious, dignified.
19. All that relates to the dignity of the high vocation to which God has called us, renouncing all frivolity and folly.
20. Don't make the opinion of others the sole and ultimate rule of your conduct.
21. Dignity, majesty, yet still inviting and attractive—that which inspires reverence.
C. Just
1. It's right.
2. Tallies with divine standard or action.
4. Righteous.
5. Observant of the rule of right.
7. In opposition to unmannered life of wild tribes which are swayed by inclination, passion, caprice.
8. Called "that way," "the way of the Lord," "the way of life."
11. We keep trying to get the right word and its definition. Little girl told her dad one wanted to be a cupcake. Why? They earn badges and go to camp. No, you want to be a "Brownie."

D. Pure
1. Unstained.
2. Pure morally.  
3. Marvelously pure.
4. Undenied.
5. Cleansed, fit to be brought into the presence of God.
6. World offers the shabby and sordid, the spoiled and smutty.
7. Thoughts so pure they can stand the scrutiny of God.
8. Unsullied.
9. Akin to holy.
10. Influence of world stains our conscience.
11. It invites connivance at sin, excuses evil, makes insincere statements, have bad motives.
12. Clean.
13. Unstained.
14. Free from debasing elements.
15. Pure morally.
16. Whatever is worthy of praise.
17. Whatever is lofty.

E. Lovely
2. Inspire love.
3. Attractive.
4. Winsome.
5. It calls forth love.
6. Not a mind that calls forth vengeance, punishment, fear and bitterness in others.
7. Mind not set on criticism and rebuke.
8. Mind set on kindness, sympathy, forbearance, one that begets love.
9. Adapted to excite love and endear him who does such things. PeeWee's wagon and Jewell's cushion too precious, Botts' handshaking girl.
10. Endearing
11. Amiable
12. **Lovable.**
13. Kids interviewed each other via make believe phones. What does your dad do? He doesn't do anything—he's a preacher.

F. Good Report
1. Graciousness.
2. High toned.
3. Has a good name.
4. Fair speaking of that which is fit for God to hear.
5. Only such words, fit for God to hear, ever on our mind and tongue.
7. Sounding well.
8. Kindly spoken.
9. Whatever is gracious.
10. Whatever is fine.
11. Whatever is fine, the good things in others.

G. Virtue
1. Excellent, everything of excellency.
3. Intellectual.
4. Physical.
5. Nothing but the best—which piece of chicken do you eat first?
6. Only time Paul uses the word.
7. Excellent—like ground of a field, tool for a purpose, physical excellency of an animal, courage of soldier, virtue of a man.
8. Woman's virtue, her chastity.
10. Thrift, industry.
11. Signifies moral courage and stability.

2 Pet. 1:5
12. Make the dry tree to flourish.

Ezek. 17:24
13. To sprout or blossom again.

H. Praise
1. Excellent – nothing but the best.
2. Every man is moved and uplifted by the praise of good men.
3. That is, if he is a good man himself.

IV. Think on these things.

A. On these things reflect and act.
B. Thoughts on things on which you can rely.
C. It is the highest things Christians must think.
D. For right is right, since God is God.
E. The right the day must win. To doubt would be disloyal, to faint would be sin.
F. These things take into account.
G. Be such your treasures.
H. There let your thoughts dwell.
I. Let this be the argument of your thoughts.
GOD'S PURITEX SYSTEM

Neely's Bend (Part I) - 8/24/03
Neely's Bend (Part 2) - 8/31/03
CHATTANOOGA — A Chattanooga Police Department K-9 officer was fired and two others were suspended after an internal affairs probe concluded they falsified police dogs' certifications.

The investigation involved two drug-sniffing Belgian Malinois dogs, Casper and Viper, purchased last year for $7,000 apiece in South Carolina.

Officer Iran Meadows, the department's head trainer and a 12-year veteran, was fired Thursday for submitting false documents, untruthfulness during an internal affairs investigation, neglect of duty and conduct unbecoming an officer, department officials said Friday.

"Officer Meadows was found to be the author of the documents," said Capt. Mark Rawlston, supervisor of internal affairs.

"Officer Meadows continued to be untruthful during the investigation."

Officers Mark Haley and Ruth Bowman each were suspended for 21 days without pay for similar charges. Each will serve a six-month probationary period, officials said Friday.

In early June the Chattanooga Times Free Press asked Sgt. Dennis Pedigo, the police department's K-9 coordinator, to produce certifications by the United States Police Canine Association for the department's six police dogs.

Department policy requires each dog and handler to be certified by the organization before being put into service detecting drugs, patrolling streets and sniffing out explosive devices.

Certificates were produced for five of the six dogs, including Bowman's Casper and Haley's Viper. However those dogs' certificates appeared to have been doctored.

When officials checked with the U.S. Police Canine Association, they found the organization had no record of Casper or Viper receiving narcotics detection certificates at an April dog trial in Chattanooga.

According to the internal affairs report, Meadows used his own legitimate certificate to make copies for the other officers' dogs, officials said.

"Officer Meadows states he had no knowledge of how falsified documents were submitted when they are in fact copies of a document only he has had custody and control over," the report states.

Meadows and Bowman could not be reached for comment, and Haley declined to discuss the disciplinary action.

The dogs were removed from street duty during the investigation and were not expected to go through the certification process until after it was complete.

Sam, a Labrador retriever used to sniff out bombs and explosive materials, also lacked certification, according to the department which planned to seek it immediately for him.
One time Jimmy Durante was asked to be part of a show for World War II veterans. He agreed to perform, but just for a few minutes because his schedule was already quite full. However, once he got on stage that evening, he stayed much longer than he originally intended. After the extended show, someone asked him why he kept performing as long as he did. Durante pointed to the front row where two men were seated, each of whom had lost an arm in the war. One had lost his right arm and the other had lost his left arm. Together, they were able to clap. And that is exactly what they did, with excitement and exuberance. The inspiration of their teamwork kept the performer performing. Two, working as one, encouraged the heart of the one who had come to encourage their hearts.
I recall reading a story once about a philosophy professor who used an object lesson to underscore the importance of living a prioritized life. When class began, he picked up a large jar and proceeded to fill it up with rocks about 2” in diameter. He then asked the students if the jar was full and they agreed it was full. He then picked up a box of pebbles and poured them into the jar. The pebbles rolled into the open areas between the rocks. He asked the students again if the jar was full. They laughed and agreed it was. He then picked up a box of sand and poured it into the box, filling up every remaining space in the jar.

The professor then said, “This is your life. The rocks are the important things. The pebbles are other things that matter. The sand is everything else, the small stuff in your life. If you put the small stuff into the jar first, there is no room for the pebbles and the rocks. The same goes for your life. If you spend all your time and energy on the small stuff, you will never have room for the things that are truly important. Take care of the rocks first, the things that really matter. The rest is just sand.”
When former Speaker of the House Sam Rayburn was near the end of his life, he surprised his colleagues in Congress by informing them that he was going home to Bonham, Texas. His announcement made no sense to them. They wondered why he would choose to leave a place that had some of the best medical facilities in the world and go to a tiny town in north Texas. Rayburn explained his reasons in a simple and sincere way. “Bonham, Texas,” he said, “is a place where people know when you are sick and care when you die.”

Four high school boys, afflicted with a sudden but serious case of spring fever, skipped their morning classes. After lunch, they returned to school and reported to the teacher that their car had a flat tire. Much to their relief, she smiled and simply said “Well, you missed a test this morning, so take seats away from each other and get out your notebooks.” Still smiling, she waited for them to settle down in their scattered locations around the room. Then she said, “First question: Which tire was flat?”
THOUGHT CONTROL
Phil. 4:8

I. We've just had a magnificent list of 8 things on which we are to think; they are:
   A. Things that are true.
   B. Honest
   C. Just
   D. Pure
   E. Lovely
   F. Good Report
   G. Virtue
   H. Praise

II. Having understood this dimension, on this we are to Think!
   A. Obviously higher thinking will result in nobler acts.
      1. We are called on to have control of our thoughts.
      2. We need to first resolve that this is what we will do.
      3. Finally our thoughts are to be put into practice.
      4. Note the progression: things learned, things received, things heard, things seen and the fulfillment is Do!
      5. Obviously the church is the best educated group in all society. We all have received a Christian education whether we ever went to one of our schools or not. We've done it via the church.
6. Paul gave instructions but also gave them an example of how to do God's will.

7. In so doing please note God gave the promise that He would be with them.

8. It's simple: Think & Do!
   a) Life depends on thought.
   b) Thought is the precursor, the herald, the forerunner of action.
   c) Our character takes on the hue of our thoughts.

9. Take one example: Just & pure.
   a) We are asked to be without impurities.
   b) We are to have no mixture with sin as we are those well spoken of.

B. We are to reflect and act on:
1. Things learned--an intellectual apprehension.
2. Things received--we saw morality in Paul.
3. Things heard and seen as the life of Paul and others contributes to our Christian education.
4. This we are called on to "do!"
   a) "Practice"--a continual action.
   b) We are to be satisfied with nothing but the best.
   c) "How do you always eat the best piece of chicken?"
d) Word received characteristically means to accept and receive with fixed tradition. It's the accepted doctrine in the church handed down to them by Paul.

5. Since you are taught to "think" meaning careful consideration--are we doing that?

6. To receive comes from the idea "have made the dry tree to flourish" (Ezek. 17:24). Thus I sprout to blossom again.

III. The God of Peace

A. Believe in God is the only thing that can keep a man from ultimate despair.

B. For right is right
   Since God is God
   The right the day must win
   To doubt would be disloyal
   To faint would be to sin.

C. Behind everything is the love of God which will never let us go, that love which bears all things even with our sinning, that love that will never cast us off but will always strengthen man for the battle & struggles of life. (Barclay)
D. Consolation and Peace from same GK word.

E. Patience never means to just sit down and bear things, but to rise and conquer things. It does not mean to just accept things, but to change them into glory.

Neely's Bend – 8/17/03
I. Jesus needed none tell him of man—He made man.
Gen. 1:26 "And God said, let us make
John 1:1 "In the beginning was the word
John 2:25 "And needed not that any should
Prov. 4:23 "Keep the heart with all diligence
Matt. 15:19 "For out of the heart proceed
For as a man thinketh in his heart
Phil 4:8 "Finally br. whosoever things ar

II. We'd like to look at one of the mighty 6
whatsoever things are honest:
A. First we define our term.
1. Everybody knows what honest is!!!
   (a) "Characterized by integrity and
       straightforwardness in conduct,
       thought, speech.
   (b) Free from fraud
   (c) Genuine, full, unadulterated
2. It's more than paying debts, even by
dictionary standards.
   (a) We limit words sometimes more
       than the scriptures do.
3. This peculiar word in Greek (though
   Eng. word honest is used other times
   has 4 other appearances and that in
   Pastorial epistles.
   (a) Has to do with Christian decorum, self-respect consistent with true humility.
   (b) Has to do with whatever is deep, earnest.
   (c) It is venerable—a man is what he thinks
       (1) Man lecturing said we all are made up of what we eat, that's what we become. Little fellow said, "cancel my order of shrin
   (d) On all honest things we are to think and what are they?
5. Honest is reverend, deep, earnest, honorable, revered, approved of God and Man—on this I am to think.

B. Believing these things are honest I bid you think on them:
   1. It's honest to be honest.
      (a) Are we honest about our work, the joy of it, and the giving from it.
      (1) Recent survey said most Americans are dissatisfied with their income. The few who were satis-
fied were self employed thus in control of their financial destiny.
(2) Al Capone biggest, 1925, $105 million, J. O. Armour lost $1 mill per day for 130 days, 1922. #1
(b) B. Curtis Jones--52% male employees are dissatisfied and unhappy. #2
(c) R. B. Douglas in Ark, Baptist said "Modern American seldom pauses to give thanks for the simple blessings of life, we are used to having so much! #3
(d) Most Americans are in debt--$264 is personal debt of America
(1) Last 10 yr. bankruptcies tripled Clip on lost a $1.00--3 1/2
(2) 15% America's income goes to installment buying.
(3) Today's rate of delinquency is 1.58% in debts.
(4) Emerson said, "Pay every debt as if God wrote the bill."
(e) Are we thinking of being honorable with our money? Our jobs?
(1) Too busy sending telegrams #4
(2) Thief--I'd roost high #5
2. Honesty involves relations to God's word.
(a) Singh clip on Religion #6
(b) Games clip    #7
(c) Morton letter    #8
(d) Have I stolen your faith?
    (1) Mark Twain clipping    #9
(e) How much Bible do I know?
    (1) Report on survey    #10
(f) Do you think on word?
(g) Perhaps our failure to see our calling via word reflects in our meager dedication--read from Peace Corp book.

3. Honesty is genuineness in conduct.
   (a) Mark Twain "Always do right. This will gratify some people and astonish the rest."
   (b) Honesty is integrity.
       (1) Hawkins article #11
   (c) Teenager and morality
       (1) Old vs new morality
       (2) New is a philosophy about marriage, basic man-woman relationship and sex.
       (3) 3 traditional arguments against pre-marital sex and extra marital sex have been overcome
           [a] Fear of disease
           [b] Fear of pregnancy
           [c] Fear of public disapproval
   (4) New morality says:
a. Sex is mostly a game, like tennis. It's fun and stimulating God meant you to enjoy it. Why not?

[1] But it isn't a game--ask the girl who plays?

b. Sex is an appetite, a need, a drive--satisfy it as you do hunger.

[1] It isn't as vital as hunger or thirst.

[2] It isn't as important as approval or affection.

[3] You do not use sex to find love--it flows from love.

[4] It's something shared. Sexual intercourse--not a thing alone

c. Hippie says sex is a "getting-to-you-better tool"

[1] No, it's a mutual sharing--Bible calls it "to know".

d. Sex is alright if love is present

[1] Love involves fidelity to God and to another in a life long expression of love.

4. I close by asking you to chose the reverend to thing on:
(a) Honesty in dealings
(b) Honesty with word
(c) Honesty in conduct

(1) Metro Museum Bronze Horse.
THE PATH TO KNOWLEDGE
Philippians 4:9

I. It is ever a joy to be learning and as surely as the acquiring of knowledge blesses us, the route to it is specified.
   A. But first thing of the times of your own ignorance and embarrassment.
      1. Bernice cleaned our fuse box with a wet dish rag.
      2. We have said things we regret.
      3. Out of ignorance what is one of the most embarrassing things you've done?
   B. Purpose of this lesson is to know how to acquire knowledge and avoid ignorance.
   C. Many people think Phil. 4:9 is really the conclusion of the letter, the rest is details about personal matters: Paul's support financially, account of financial aid, work of Epaphroditus farewell notes. Thus a postscript.

II. The Science of Learning
   A. Consistently the Philippians were learning:
      1. I marvel at the knowledge of past leaders.
         a) Campbell--memorized 10 verses daily.
         b) Lipscomb--answer to church questions.
         c) Black preacher--P.B. Ark. to spell you/or quote.
2. Difference in teaching and learning. John 6:44 "No man can come to me except"
3. I've never been in a congregation that was not frequently quoting a teacher--past or present.
   a) Grace--Brother Miller
   b) West End--Dr. Cayce
4. What are you best remembered for here at Neely's Bend? Lie North

B. These things have you both learned.
   1. Uses 2 verbs Learned & Received.
      a) Learned activity of the taught.
      b) Activity of the Teacher.
   2. Teaching & Life go together.
   3. Transmission of man to man intended.

I Cor. 15:1-3 "I declared the gospel"
Gal. 1:12 "I neither received"
4. Heard the Word--hand it down.
5. Seen--Example.
6. Thus not Word only but living example.
7. Not as Baptist preacher "I say don't do as I do but do as I say do"--sound like Paul?
9. Truths children have learned.

E. Second great twin: Heard & Seen.
1. Paul moves into the very practical part of Christianity.
2. Taught by Word & by living example.
3. We see those 8 "through Gates" lead to practical action.
4. Heard when present as well as absent as heard of activities.
5. Seen—present fulfillment before their eyes the way of Christ.
6. Black preacher: when you were born you were the only one crying; when you die will you be the only one happy while others are crying?—quoted by Steve Flatt at Sister Hayes' funeral.
7. Rule of thought followed by rule of conduct.
8. Nothing enforces teaching like example: Dr. Cayce giving on varied amounts and don't call on visitors.
9. Self as an example—could we do it like Paul?
11. The only people you should ever want to get even with are those who have helped you—J. Honeyfield

D. Next chapter—DO!
1. Thoughts lead to action.
3. Well thought pattern put into action.
4. Hard to bring daily activities up to our righteous thoughts.
5. DO!—not asked to approve, criticize, think on—but DO it!
6. I tell you and you forget. I show you and you remember. I involve you and you understand. (Eric Butterworth)

E. Reward—God of Peace shall be with you.
   1. V-7 "Peace of God which passes—keep"
   2. V-9 "God of Peace be with you"
   3. Have peace glorious; have the God of it still greater!
   5. Free of malice, remorse, foreboding.
   6. Holiness flows from presence of God.

Neely's Bend BC - 9/7/03
Adventures for Jesus Ministry - 3/9/04
We need to learn to set our course by the stars, not by the lights of every passing ship.

— Omar Bradley

A teacher asked a student to sum up Socrates' life in four lines. Here's what he said:

1. Socrates lived long ago.
2. He was very intelligent.
3. Socrates gave long speeches.
4. His friends poisoned him.
Truths children have learned

- No matter how hard you try, you can’t baptize cats.
- When your Mom is mad at your Dad, don’t let her brush your hair.
- You can’t trust dogs to watch your food.
- You can’t hide a piece of broccoli in a glass of milk.
- Puppies still have bad breath even after eating a Tic-Tac.
My father used to play with my brother and me in the yard. Mother would come out and say, “You’re tearing up the grass.”

“We’re not raising grass,” Dad would reply. “We’re raising boys.”

— Harmon Killebrew
Carry On

Nothing in the world will take the place of persistence. Talent will not; nothing is more common than the unsuccessful person with talent.

Genius will not; unrewarded genius is almost a proverb.

Education will not; the world is full of educated derelicts.

Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent. The slogan "press on" has solved and always will solve the problems of the human race.

— Calvin Coolidge

• Walt Disney was fired by a newspaper for lacking ideas. He also went bankrupt several times before he built Disneyland.
WE LACK NO OPPORTUNITY
Phil. 4:10
I. Paul's letter to Phil. unusual.
A. Waited till last of letter to say thanx.
B. Expression of thanx was guarded.
1. Wanted to avoid ingratitude.
2. Wanted to avoid dependency.
3. Wanted to revive their concern.
   (a) Care flourished again - KJV.
   (b) Revived - margin.
   (c) Means like tree putting out new growth in Spring
   (d) Church that flourished after a long winter.
C. What was lacked - resources or way of getting gift to Paul?
   1. Did they know where he was?
   2. They'd helped when no one else did.
V. 15 "No church communicated c me as concerning g
2 Cor. 11:9 "Present..wanted..chargeable..Mac. sup 3.
3. Don't be afraid to be only one.
D. Obvious conclusions.
   1. Paul had a grateful spirit.
   2. Spiritual life is seasonal.
   3. Giving a fruit.
V. 17 "Not because I desire a gift, but I desire fruit
4. Under grace standard of living & giving goes up.
5. We render a service when we offer opportunity.
6. Clip on '73 giving.
II. May I tell you of Opportunity & Time.
B. Michigan Christian College.
C. Homes for Aged.
1. Lakeshore.
2. Eastland.
3. Chapel Ave.

D. Dec. 8 - Above Budget -
1. Herald of Truth - 1/2.

E. Size of job.
1. 213,000 more tonite than last nite. Union Carbide, "213,000 guests are coming."
2. John Haggai card.
3. Gen. Eisenhower during World War II, "There are no victories at bargain prices."

F. World Radio.
1. Howards & White's Ferry Rd.

G. World Evangelism.
1. "Insight" - 548 papers - 6 million circulation.
2. "Insight" on 88 stations.
3. Charlie Walton is script writer.
4. Druid Hills - Atlanta.
5. Got to be a Better Way - Top of Can
   Reached 97% of nation's TV receivers, audience of 55 million, 200 TV stations.

H. Herald of Truth.
2. 90,000 mail inquiries. 250 letters daily to Juan.
3. 5.76 sends TV film to station.
   29.00 - 100 Spanish N.T.
35.00 - 100 Portuguese N.T.
4. Humberto Rivas - 19 Mexican stations - 400 responses per month.
5. BBB does TV.
6. BBB & HH - do radio - 5 mo - Home, Church, Salvation, Chr. Living - Jan.
7. Summer - 13 guests.
8. 2,123 churches have H o T in budget.

Sheet End 12-1-74.
Americans gave more money to religion in 1973 than ever before—$650 million more than the $9.44 billion given the year before, according to the 1974 Annual Report of Giving USA. However, religion again received a decreasing share of the philanthropic total, 41.4 percent, representing the smallest percentage gain in all categories of giving. Health and Hospitals received the second largest total, with education ranking third.

In recent years, the words "population explosion" has been on everyone's lips. But what do they mean? Well, the population of the world increases by more than 80 million people a year. Hold on a second; don't let that slip by. Eighty million people is a third of all the people in the United States! It is ten times the population of New York City.

Every three years, the world adds as many new people as the entire population of the United States.

Let that soak in. The entire population of our country every three years.

Each year, as world population increases by nearly 80 million, world Christianity is increasing by about 7 million. We are winning year by year, no more than a tenth of the population increase. World growth is running away and leaving us behind. Each year, the percentage of the world's peoples who calls itself Christian
drops. Face the facts. We are failing to carry the gospel to every creature. Christ's command is plain, but we are not obeying it. What must we do?

"New Hope for Planet Earth" - By John Haggai - pp. 129-130
REACTION TO A DELAYED GIFT

Phil. 4:10-12

I. We come to that delicate matter - the support of a preacher.
   A. We have heard all kinds of things.
      1. He is in it for the money.
      2. He should not be paid above the average member.
      3. He lives off the kindnesses of widows.
      4. He ever wants a raise--Leonard asked when did you get a raise--it's been 5 years--you should be fired or the elders should.
      5. Every time he preaches on contribution he wants a raise.
      6. Or one who treads out the corn.
      7. These are days of fringe benefits-"I want the French Benefit."
      8. How to handle retirement?

B. Paul viewed it as an honest matter as he was paid after 10 years of nothing.
   1. Preacher asked for a raise and won't cost you one dollar above the one you are giving.
   2. Don't refuse--they will not respect you--Halbot said to me.
C. Let's plunge into a delicate matter as we ask is the workman worthy of his hire.

D. Strange way of gospel meetings—never know in advance remuneration.

E. Busby would not come if told in advance.

F. We lump it under "office expenses" and do not know the individual salaries.

II. Let's study Philippians 4:10-12.
   A. Read the text.
   B. Move to examine the words.

III. From Philippians 4:10-12.
   A. But I rejoice in the Lord greatly
      1. But I
         a. Have not been paid for a long time, but says it was circumstances they could not control.
         b. Throughout Christiandom churches have been remembered for things good and bad.
      2. The "I."
         a. Very emphatic.
         b. Can't speak for others but I can for myself.
         c. I can assure you of appreciation for all kindnesses.
d. Circumstances.
   1) OK under them vs.
   2) Live above them, not under them.
   3) Live through them.
   4) Not guilty of fatalism that cuts the nerve of ambition.
   5) Neither a stoic, had strong passions, but all devoted to God.

3. Rejoice
   a. Grateful for the surprise.
   b. "Vocal" to voice appreciation for kindnesses and remembrances.
   c. Expresses thanksgiving.
   d. Wants to avoid both ingratitude and dependency.
   e. Glad they revived their concern.

4. Note it is to the Lord that he makes acknowledgements.
   a. What they paid him was the Lord's work.
   b. That's a way of understanding your weekly gifts.

5. Greatly
   a. Emphatic occasion of special joy.
   b. Acknowledges the Providence of God. Ezra 7 the hand of the Lord as Ezra got everything.
   c. Ten years could not send him money.
d. Now able to do so and are disposed to do it.
e. It is evident they love him.

B. Now at last.

1. Partially responsible for his support while away from there.
2. Financially and morally speaking.
3. After ten years of nothing--no reason given.
4. Did they lack resources or no way to reach him?
5. Did they know where he was in Rome--IRS lost admittedly Houston Ezell's file.
6. Paul is saying you are the one that is profitted in sending--more than me in receiving the gift.
7. Does this mean Paul was not particularly enthusiastic about the gift?

C. Care of me has flourished again.
(Adkins)

1. No explanation for the delay--do we do missionaries the same way as we "pave the parking lot?"
2. Are they in the forefront of our fight but way ahead of our supplies?
3. He wants to say thanks and to make known the love he prized was as great and strong as ever.
4. Does not want feelings hurt by some misunderstanding—and money can do it both in our families and our congregation.

D. Flourished (budded into thought for me).
1. Shot forth as a branch, budded.
2. Made a tree flourish.

Ezek. 17:24

3. Trees bud—the long winter of silence is over.
4. It's like a plant that withers, revives and grows again.
5. Doesn't offend them—they'd always wanted to help—just no opportunity.
6. Spirited life has its seasons—reasons we have "revivals."
7. Gift a fruit (v.17).
8. Word flourish means they have helped before, they feast for a time and now begin again. Flowers that look dead in winter flourish in the spring.

E. Again
1. At last, not a rebuke but just occurs again after no period of contact.
2. Detached from outward feature of life.
3. Paul accused of making the gospel a basis for his livelihood.

1 Thess. 2:5 Put in unconscionable gospel
1 Cor. 9:3-18
2 Cor. 11:8-9
Gal. 6:6

4. We often ask what others are sending; Philippians did not, they just sent.
5. Do we make an excuse for charity? "We've given once."
6. No reproach for lateness.
7. They remembered to remember.
8. They followed Paul's work when in other cities and sent help.

2 Cor. 11:8

9. We've given once vs. we've given once and now again.

IV. But you were careful.
   A. We learn by waiting.
      1. He did not even hint they might have forgotten him.
      2. He seldom talked about his needs but when he had one he admitted it.
      3. Long tuition—-the school of discipline had many difficult courses.
4. He appreciated Christian kindnesses.
5. Careful—to think, to be minded, to be mindful of "thoughtfulness of my welfare"—revived your concern.

B. Lacked Opportunity
1. Gives them credit that their generosity had never died.
2. Knew all along they were thinking of him.
3. Many may want a greater service but have no opportunity. If Paul understood surely the Lord reads our hearts.
4. Seeks to avoid hurting their feelings.
5. Did they lack means or messenger to send to Paul?
6. Opportunity—the sermon is said, it reams yet to be done.
7. Guilty of no neglect—only opportunity.

C. Not that I speak in respect of want.
1. I is emphatic; auto-self.
2. Peter Decker speaks of four kinds of risks.
   One we must accept.
   One we can afford to take.
   One we can't afford to take.
   One we can't afford not to take.
3. Paul is a grateful man and he expresses himself.
4. He leaves the whole of his support to the Providence of God.
5. We can respond in bitterness.

Luke 10:38-42
6. Or heaviness.

Psalms 102:7
7. Or selfishness.

I Kings 19:10
8. Or peace—the produce of adequacy, absence of hostilities.
9. Some inconsistency.

Lam. 3:26-28
D. I have learned in whatsoever state I am therewith to be content.
1. Learned
   a. We learn by waiting.
   b. Never writes about doing best he can under circumstances, he was on top of them, undiscouraged by ups and downs of life. (Bell)
   c. Learned—contentness is not natural to most of mankind.
   d. I have learned (v.11). I am instructed.
e. Not a narrowing down of our desires to our poor possessions but a consciousness of infinite wealth in Christ in whose hands are all things already working for His servant moment by moment for his higher good. He who has this conscience is independent of his environment. (Beet)

f. Carries the thought of voluntary acceptance of a lowly position.

g. We are conscious of infinite wealth in Christ.

h. All repose of coping with life not in himself.

2. To be content—self-sufficient, independent.

a. Favorite doctrine of stoic—man should be sufficient to himself for all things, able by the power of his own will to resist the shock of circumstances. Paul is self-sufficient through the power of the new self: not he, but Christ in him.

b. Accept adversity with noble cheerfulness.

c. Not a victim of circumstances, but their master.
d. Dissatisfaction with manual labor stimulates inventions, art, and sciences.

e. It was very poor kind of learning if by content is meant stupidity, want of asperation and enterprise. If Paul meant I consider one thing or one place as good as another, poverty is good as riches, slavery as good as independence, he had learned nothing useful. (B.I.)

f. See photocopy attached.

g. Greek word for "content" only here in New Testament.

h. Lit. - self-sufficient; I can do it!

i. His self-sufficiency does not originate with him.

j. Contentment does not depend on where you are or what you have but who you are.

k. He shows contentment in all circumstances.

l. The contentment that is stated is independent of others and having sufficiency in one's self.

m. The enjoyment of material abundance is not the basis for contentment.
REACTION TO A DELAYED GIFT

Neely's Bend BC - 9/14/03
Neely's Bend BC - 9/28/03
Philippians 4:10-12
Ezekiel 17:23-24
I Thessalonians 2:1-5
II Corinthians 11:7-9

(Mike, I may not get to all of these, but if you'll have them ready I will appreciate it.)
1. The apostle had learned this lesson of accepting adversity with noble cheerfulness.

2. He is not the victim of circumstances, but is their master.

3. Dissatisfaction with manual labors stimulates invention, art, and science.

4. It was a very poor kind of learning if by content is meant stupidity, want of aspiration and enterprise. If Paul meant, I consider one thing or place just as good as another, poverty as good as riches, slavery as good as independence, he had learned nothing useful.

5. An inscrutable wisdom and overruling providence is at work. How unreasonable then to complain when trouble comes. It is either a deserved chastisement or a healthful discipline. Discontent is an injustice in high quarters.

6. Contentedness implies freedom from anxiety in reference to provision for our needs. Socrates said, "He is nearest to the gods who need nothing that needs fewest things."

7. It was his portion of worldly goods with which the apostle was content—not his spiritual condition.
8. Contentedness is now an endowment innate to us, but it is a product of discipline—"I have learned."

9. To be contented is to be contained, to be within limits. Whatever is within limits is likely to be quiet.

10. Contentment the outcome of a right view of circumstances: "How dismal you look," said a bucket to his companion as they were going to the well. "Ah!" replied the other, "I was reflecting on the uselessness of our being filled; for, let us go away ever so full, we always come back empty." "Dear me! How strange to look at it in this way," said the bucket. "Now I enjoy the thought, that however empty we come, we always go back full. Only look at it in that light, and you will be as cheerful as I am."

11. Contentment prevents many sins and temptations, and particular two: First, impatience and secondly, murmuring.
THE REVIVAL OF CONCERN

Phil. 4:10-13

I. Most everything we have is fluctuating and seasonal.

A. How many ball teams have an unbeaten record?

B. Which fruit tree yields the same every year or which strawberry plant is ever bearing?

C. Even in our religion we find ourselves seasonal—and we sing Revive Us Again. Chr. has summer & winter.

Phil. 4:10 “But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly,

1. We see:
   (a) Gratitude
   (b) Heavenly joy
   (c) Personal thought
   (d) Protective consideration.

2. Let's study these necessary Christian traits.

II. Let's Revive 4 Spirits.

A. Gratitude.
   1. He was a thankful man.
   2. He had to send “receipt for the gift”.
   3. Gratitude is a characteristic of the perfect gentleman.
   4. Do we appreciate Christian kindness & do we say thank you? See poem

B. Secondly, he rejoiced in the Lord.
1. This shows first he believed Christ was the governing force in the affairs of his people. Tho they gave it was Christ who motivated them.

2. It is faith strengthening to see one acknowledge the providence of God. Ezek. 17:24 "I the Lord have spoken & done it.

3. No one can accuse Paul of being a stoic.

4. Two lessons for us:
   (a) View everything in relation to Christ.
   (b) Rejoice in the greater things - he in what their gift represented in Christ's character rather than the gift itself.

C. Thirdly, he gloried in their Revival of:
   Personal Thought. I don't like revival.

1. Fortune fluctuates.  They don't last. Well.
2. Life moves - no state is static.
3. Spiritual life has its season - summer & winter.
4. These Christians had flourished again,
   (a) Like a tree that withers, revives, grows again.
   (b) Picture of a springtime tree after winter.

5. Do some think we have forgotten them--let's revive our care.
   (a) Remember our shut-ins.
   (b) Remember our weaker, older folk--all have given us something - let's respond.
(c) Philippi didn't care what others were sending - they had a personal obligation to Paul.

D. He exercised a Protective Consideration:
1. He didn't want to offend them - they hadn't sent - he excused it with "Ye lacked opportunity."
2. He gave them credit for always wanting to help.
3. He did his best to avoid wounding their feelings.
4. Why hadn't they sent?
   (a) Lack means?
   (b) Lack messenger?
5. What a spirit!
   (a) He excused what he had reason to resent.
   (b) He offers no reproach rather charity for their larenness.
   (c) He makes no effort to embarrass or make them feel little.
   (d) He said he felt all along they were thinking of him.
   (e) He gave them the benefit of the doubt.
      (1) Man couldn't get rid of dandelions.
          Wrote Agri. Dept. They ans. "We suggest you learn to love them."
      (f) Misunderstanding could cause hurt feelings - he'd give no quarter to it.
6. Do we make excuse for our charity: 
    "We've given once!"
7. Opportunity says the sermon is said, 
    it remains to be done.
III. Via Summation, let's have this spirit:
    A. Sincerely expressed gratitude.
    B. Demonstrated heavenly joy.
    C. Revived personal concern.
    D. Active protective consideration of our 
       brethren.

West End 2-14-71
University Church, Norman, Okla. Bible Class
2-14-71
Johnson Park Church, Borger, Texas 4-5-71
GRATITUDE

Because I have been given much,
I, too, must give:
Because of thy great bounty, Lord,
Each day I live
I shall divide my gifts from thee
With every brother that I see
Who has the need of help from me.

Because I have been sheltered, fed,
By thy good care,
I cannot see another's lack
And I not share
My glowing fire, my loaf of bread
My roof's safe shelter overhead,
That he, too, may be comforted.

Because love has been lavished so
Upon me, Lord,
A wealth I know that was not meant
For me to hoard,
I shall give love to those in need,
Shall show that love by work and deed.
Thus shall my thanks be thanks indeed.

By Grace Noll Crowell
The Exhorter
I. Of all the statements of Paul this verse surely would come to the front with the foremost. 

v. 13 "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

A. But note this occurs not only in connection with people—it also comes when of all things, discussing his financial remunerations.

B. So today people's salaries have a definite touch on our lives.

II. Things he has just written.

A. For I know how—

1. Does this mean his security is dependent on financies?

2. We have a graduation of expressions:
   a. I know.
   b. I'm instructed.
   c. I can.

3. Bruce wrote "There is no instance in the Scripture records of apostolic days of any servant of Christ making known his own material needs to any but to his Lord. Thus as Paul uses the "I" he is emphatically speaking from
4. We will see him emphasize that the enjoyment of material abundance is not the basis for contentment. Was it not J.D. Rockefeller who wished he could have that poor man's stomach?

B. He has spoken of contentment.
1. These truths are from the Biblical Illustrator.
2. It was a very poor kind of learning if by content is meant stupidity, want of aspiration and enterprise. If Paul meant I consider one thing or place just as good as another, poverty as good as riches, slavery as good as independence, he had learned nothing useful.
3. An inscrutable wisdom and over-ruling providence is at work. How unreasonable then to complain when trouble comes. It is either a deserved chastisement or a healthful discipline. Discontent is an injustice in high quarters.
4. Contentedness implies freedom from anxiety in reference to provision for our needs. Socrates said, "He is nearest to the gods who need nothing that needs fewest things."
5. It was his portion of worldly goods with which the apostle was content—not his spiritual condition.

6. Contentedness is now an endowment innate to us, but it is a product of discipline—"I have learned."

7. To be contented is to be contained. to be within limits. Whatever is within limits is likely to be quiet.

8. Contentment the outcome of a right view of circumstances: "How dismal you look," said a bucket to his companion as they were going to the well. "Ah!" replied the other, "I was reflecting on the uselessness of our being filled; for, let us go away ever so full, we always come back empty." "Dear me! How strange to look at it in this way," said the bucket. "Now I enjoy the thought, that however empty we come, we always go back full. Only look at it in that light, and you will be as cheerful as I am."

9. Contentment prevents many sins and temptations, and particular two: First, impatience and secondly, murmuring.

C. The word "know" is interesting.
1. It's like "secret" - initiates as used by entrance to pagan cults.
2. I am initiated in that mystery unknown to all but Christians.
3. Initiate is a secret teaching which is a mystery unknown to the world.
4. Recall the mystery of godlessness how could you fly a plane into World Tower and kill 3,000 innocent folk?
5. V.12 has one of two terms not known elsewhere in the New Testament: Lit. "I have been initiated." This verb normally used with reference to rituals of initiation into mystery religions.
6. The other a term popular among Hellenistic philosophers to describe self-sufficiency and independence from external pressures.

III. He knows how to be abased and how to abound--we look at both terms and we start with abased.
A. Abased
   1. Literally to make low, to bring low.
2. It is used to reduce the meanest circumstance, to bring to a humble condition.
3. Same word as a river running low.
4. Note poverty does not degrade nor prosperity exalt.
5. He doesn't call poverty a blessing nor say wealth exists only to be abandoned.
6. He knows life's contrast we will see.
7. Fortune fluctuates. Life is moving—no state is solid—rather static.
8. He emphasized what he had not—what he lacked.

B. How to abound. 2 Pet 1:5-8
1. Abound: to have in abundance. The faithful Christian does not allow poverty to degrade him nor prosperity to exalt him.
2. Abound is the opposite of abase.
4. For some harder to learn to be prosperous than poor.
5. Paul knows life's contrasts.
6. We become rich by possessing an abundance of things or else by losing our desire for it, or by abounding in everything, or content to have nothing. (Meyer)
7. It requires more effort to learn how to be prosperous and not be puffed up.
8. "Everywhere and in all things he was so instructed."

C. I am instructed.
1. He is initiated into that which is secret.
2. I possess the mystery.
3. He has kept a cool head in every circumstance in life.
4. Some people can love the Lord when abound, but fail Him when abased.
5. On the other hand some are strengthened in adversity but weakened when in prosperity.
6. Can do all things regardless when strengthened literally when infused strength in him comes to pass.
7. Use later word "how be it" to receive God's strength, yet does not disparage the gift of the Philippians.

D. Full and Hungry.
1. Either way - he is secure.
2. Full - give fodder to cattle--to feed animals or a multitude of people.
3. Remember he was chained and imprisoned when he wrote this.
4. Like Joseph, "it is not you that sent he hither but God."

Isa. 40:31 "They that wait on the Lord..."

5. Our God does not grow weary or faint.

6. Man could not get rid of dandelions. Agriculture Department said "we suggest you learn to love them."

7. All is of God and God is good.

Isa. 40:31

8. Learned that neither murmuring or complaining does any good.

Neely's Bend - 10/5/03
SUPPOSE WE'LL HEAR IT?

Phil. 4:10-14

I. I hear a multitude of good things.
A. Nell Wilkinson cleaned at Margaret Shelton's.
B. Wilson Allens were brought food by Wed. Class -
   "I think I'm going to cry." Joslins there previous
   Sunday.
C. Marian Whitfield called for me to bring Delia
   Hall.
D. List the good things you've heard all week.
II. In reading Philippians, I read a compliment:
   Phil. 4:13-14 "I can do all things through Christ whic
   14 "Notwithstanding ye have well done, t!
   A. An apostle puts forth a compliment.
   1. Throughout our lives we've remembered churches
      because of some outstanding service.
   2. It's important to remember to remember!
   3. They gave to Paul - no other church did.
      a) Irritated the Cor.
   2 Cor. 11:7-12 "Have I committed an offence in abasi
      b) Made him glad not only for himself, but also
      their sakes.
   Phil. 4:15-18 (Read)
      c) Odor of sweet sacrifice.
   Gen. 8:21 "And the Lord smelled a sweet savour; and
      d) Can't outgive God - nor become poorer via
      giving.
   4. What of our blessings & abilities.
      a) 1 chance in 3 to be born white.
      b) 1 chance in 20 to be born in America.
c.) 2 X as likely to be born in India as America.

d.) 5 X as much to be born in China.

e.) If born in India, 1 chance out of 4 to survive 1st yr.; 50-50 to make 7 years.

f.) Home windowless, small, dirt floor hut.

g.) Disease everywhere.

h.) Little opportunity to hear gospel.

5. God has the ability to use us.

Deut. 32:10 "He found him in a desert land, and in thy

6. "If we take seriously the philosophy of

responsibility, we must recognize the burden which comes in necessary associate privilege. Great advantages far from giving us easy minds, should give us uneasy minds. If the philosophy of responsibility is true, our burden is heavy."

Trueblood.

1 Cor. 6:9-10 (Read)

7. Covetousness keeps bad company.

8. Houston story.

B. "Your care has flourished again" Phil. 4:10.

1. You've helped Ed Brown c MS.

2. Kerr money via pharmacist in Carolina.

C. Flourish & Communicate.

1. Lit. "come into leaf, budded forth again."

2. He expected it.

3. "Now" - not too late

"at the last" - not too soon.

The time was suitable.

4. "Compound verb indicates that different persons had communicated differently." Word Studies
5. "Ye know" – he remembered former kindnesses.
6. "But my God" is the one who compensates.
7. "Needs" so great calls them afflictions.
D. Where do I stand?
1. Do I truly give as prospered?
2. Am I seeing needs & meeting?
3. Is there any thanks that comes?
Total Immersion

"General," the minister said, "I suggest that you take off that watch and chain. You'll ruin it if you get wet."

"Thank you, I will," Sam Houston said, handing the piece to a friend.

"And, General, perhaps you had better hand him your wallet, too."

"No, I believe not, preacher. I'm afraid it needs baptizing, too!"
I. We are in that delicate area of paying the preacher.

A. We learn many lessons.
   1. God's treatment of the Philippian church will correspond to the way they treated Paul.
   2. They met all his needs--God will meet all of theirs.
   3. There are times when a congregation cannot communicate with a preacher--we may not know why.
   4. Such circumstances can be hard on the preacher.
   5. From our first breath to our last there are needs: Insurance man sells when you have needs and when you have plenty.
   6. There is a distinction between needs and desires.
   7. Nowhere does God make birds, fish and lions without supplying their food--He can do no worse by us.

B. We've talked about contentment.
   1. A divine Providence is at work knowing our needs--never seen the righteous forsaken or seen begging bread.
2. Though never content with our spiritual condition we can be with our worldly goods.
3. Contentedment we must learn, now an endowment.
4. By contentment we are contained.
5. Contentment prevents many sins and temptations: impatience and murmuring.
6. Speaks of the pluck of the farmer on cross-examination, "Can you read Greek?" "Don't know, never tried it."

C. Learn to expect vicissitudes--abase and abound.

D. It is Christ who enriches.

1 Cor. 1:4–5
Eph. 1:3
2 Pet. 1:3–4

II. Now he turns his compliments to the Philippians.

A. Verse 14 not withstanding.
1. Rejoices in their gift as they used the opportunity to the full.
2. How could he thank them without suggesting he needed more.
3. Was he rebuking them for the delay?
4. Leave no doubt of his full appreciation for the gift.
5. They have been with him since the beginning of the gospel.
6. They did it again and again.
7. From the beginning.

B. No explanation why other churches did not help.
1. See the autonomy of the local churches.
2. They did not wait to see what others were doing.
3. Need to assume our obligations whether others do or not.
4. Were some not as interested in mission work?
5. Yet no blame assigned them.

C. Concerning giving and receiving.
1. They gave: I received.
2. As you meet his needs, God will meet their needs.
3. Credit to your account - language of finance.
4. Uses human instruments, but still (gospel) work of God.
5. His letter is like a receipt.
6. Credit and debit terms.
7. Interest to your account - Heb. 6:9-10.
8. Paid in full.

D. Even in Thessalonica ye sent.
   1. 90 to 100 miles apart.
   2. Only in Thessalonica a few weeks but they sent at least twice.
   3. Thus alert when they could be.
   4. Persistent sharing.

E. Met his necessity.
   1. Gospel not a means of making money.
   2. You gave in my distress – God will not suffer you to be hurt.

Neely's Bend – 10/19/03
I have been very thoroughly initiated into the human lot with all its ups and downs — NEB
both to abound and to suffer need. into prosperity and want — TCNT

13. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.
I have strength for all things in him which giveth me power — Alf
Nothing is beyond my power in the strength of him who makes me strong! — TCNT
I am ready for anything through the strength of the one who lives within me — Phi

14. Notwithstanding ye have well done,
Yet I thank you — Wey
But it was very kind of you — Gspd
Still, I think that you did the right thing — Nor
Yet you acted nobly — TCNT
that ye did communicate with my affliction.
in contributing to the help of my affliction — Con
in sharing my troubles — TCNT
for taking your share in my troubles — Wey

15. Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel,
... in the early days of the Good News — TCNT
... at the first preaching of the gospel — Wey
... in the early days of my mission — NEB
... in the beginning of my Gospel ministry — Nor
when I departed from Macedonia, — at the time when I had just left Macedonia — TCNT
no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only.
no church had fellowship with me in the matter of giving and receiving but ye only — ASV
no Church, with the one exception of yourselves, had anything to do with me as far as giving and receiving are concerned — TCNT
no church but yours went into partnership and opened an account with me — Gspd

16. For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity.
... you sent once and again to relieve my need — Con
... you sent more than once to relieve my wants — TCNT

17. Not because I desire a gift:
It is not money I am anxious for — Mof
but I desire fruit that may abound to your account.
but I seek the fruit which accrues therefrom to your account — Con
but I am anxious to see the abundant return that will be placed to your account — TCNT
what I am anxious for is the interest that accumulates in this way to your divine credit! — Mof
I set store by the rich increase that stands to your credit — Knox
but I seek for the profit which increases to your account — NASB
but I seek and am eager for the fruit which increases to your credit — the harvest of blessing that is accumulating to your account — Amp

18. But I have all, and abound:
... and more than enough — Alf
But I have all which I require, and more than I require — Con
I have enough of everything, and to spare — TCNT
You have paid me in full, and more too — Gspd
I am full,
My wants are fully satisfied — TCNT
I am fully supplied — Con
having received of Epaphroditus the things which were sent from you,
now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts which you sent me — TCNT
an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, well pleasing to God.
they are like the sweet fragrance of a sacrifice which is acceptable and pleasing to God — TCNT
It is like fragrant incense, just such a sacrifice as God welcomes and approves — Gspd
I. This current work I do among the churches has personal disadvantages but obvious advantages.

A. I do not personally baptize anyone as the guest preacher.

B. But I can preach giving, and no one can say I'm trying to get a raise.

C. This lesson is about giving, and it has us looking through a window at the relationship a preacher and a congregation shared.

D. Believing it can help us all do more let's study Phil. 4: 15-20

1. There is a principle in every verse.

2. I found the study more enlightening.

3. Colorado church asked for sermon requests - got 700, but not one on giving.

4. 500 ref. to prayer 500 to faith 2000 to money

II. Insights into N.T. giving - verse 15 "Now ye Philippians know also,..."

A. First, the whole church knew what was going on.

2. He will later "salute every
saint" (v. 21) and now feels every saint knew about his financial arrangement.

3. It's a good pattern for a congregation to follow today.

4. Keep the church informed.

5. Called their name - definite!

B. Only Philippians communicated or gave to him.

1. Recalls an event 10 years ago when he "began the gospel" in Europe.

2. These were days of his early preaching.

3. Paul notices who did and did not assist him.

4. About those who did not:
   a. No reasons are cited.
   b. No criticism is voiced - only history is recited.
   c. Autonomic right for each church to chart its own course.
   d. Phillipians felt it proper and were not afraid to stand alone, nor wait for someone else to start it.
   e. We must not read into a matter things we do not know: "disliked Paul," "paving parking lot," "not interested in missions" "had a greater work to do"
f. We must assume our responsibility whether others do or not.
g. No need to deny he had his hardships.
5. Local church not to jump every-time someone says "frog".

C. Giving has two parts: Giving and Receiving
1. Accountants language - profit and loss -- debit and credit
2. Two are essential to this transaction - giver and receiver.
3. Dad spanked boy - hurt me more than you - Boy "but I hurt in a different place."

D. Their giving was consistent, verse 16 "For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity."
1. Towns about 100 miles apart.
2. Persistent
3. Kept up their loyalty to this project.
4. Note "necessity" not luxury
5. "Give daily bread!"
6. It was his legitimate needs

E. The Shadow Dispelled - verse 17 - "Not because I desire a gift:..."
1. Not using gospel selfishly.
2. This, of course, is far wider than the preacher -- children's
homes, radio programs, etc.

3. His desire - their abounding fruit to your account.
   a. Giving benefits the giver.
   b. God is never in debt to us - "he has a bigger shovel."
   c. What they did for Paul on a lower scale, God will later repeat on a higher one for them.
   d. Another accounting term shows that a record of your gift is heavenly kept.

Matt. 10:42 "And whosoever shall give to drink..."
   e. Wants profit added to their spiritual ledger - The "occupy til I come" spirit.
   f. His letter serves as a receipt.
   g. Interest comes to your account.

Heb. 6: 9-10 "things that accompany salvation...in that you have ministered to the saints"
   h. Other people may not take notice of what you do -- nor do they need to -- but God puts it to your account.
   i. Interest is accruing to your credit - here and hereafter.
j. You give to God. He will take care of your needs.
k. We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give.
(Winston Churchill)

F. My Condition
verse 18 - But I have all, and abound: I am full - things received!
1. Paul got what was due him.
2. Has math usage of receipt for what was due -- then there was some arrangement - a contract?
3. I am paid in full.
4. They met all his wants -- God will treat them as they have treated Paul - that calls for candid thought.
5. More than enough - abound - run over.
6. Epaphroditus brought "things" - thus more than money.
Matt: 25:40 "as ye have done it unto one of the least of these... ye have done it unto me."

G. Picture the Giver's Gift - verse 18 "an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable..."
1. First of two pictures - sweet smell
Gen. 8:20  Noah's - smelled a sweet savor
Exo. 29:18  whole ram - a sweet savor, an offering
Ezek. 20:  40-41  (READ)

2. Second, Sacrifice
   a. O. T. sacrifices offered
   b. God's Son offered!
   c. Anything we give each other in the fellowship is an offering to God.
   d. Acceptable, well pleasing - thus gift not so much to Paul as it was to the Lord.

Heb. 13:16  "But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased."

   e. "I'm a-givin while I'm a living then I'm a knowin where it's a goin."

H. Resultant Blessing  - verse 19
   "But my God shall supply all..."

1. "My" God - personal
   a. Paul response with a prayer.
   b. God knows our every wish

2. Supply fully so
   Jonathan Swift clip
3. Needs
   a. Different from wants
   b. From cradle to grave we have needs
   c. Meets our needs as He sees them, not our desires
   d. No where does God make birds, fish, lions live without His supplying their needs - He can do no worse by us. (Meyer)
   e. God is committed to see that the giver does not suffer because he shares.
   f. God knows our needs whether we do or not.
   g. His promises have thus a just and obvious limit.
   h. We sing "every need he'll supply" - My Jesus knows just what I need."
   i. Supply - v. 18 same as in v. 16!

4. He draws on His riches in glory.
   a. Inestimable wealth
   b. Beyond imagination.
   c. We give not out of our wealth but according to- ($1 is out of)
5. Kicker - In Christ Jesus
   a. By obedient faith we come to Him
   b. Christ enriches
      1 Cor. 1:4-5 "That in every thing ye are enriched..."
      Eph. 1:3 "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all all spiritual blessings..."
      2 Peter 1:2-3 "According as his divine power hath given unto us all things..."
   c. Because of our union, we are blessed

Mt. Home, AR - 11/17/91 (BC)
Hermitage church, Hermitage, TN - 1/19/92
"...AND IT SHALL BE GIVEN..."

An alert preacher once spotted the noted English satirist, Jonathan Swift, seated in the church building. He prevailed upon him to make a plea for helping poor people. Swift entered the pulpit and purposefully declared, "I shall be brief." My text is: "He that giveth unto the Lord shall prosper." Brethren, you have heard the terms of the loan. If you are satisfied with the security, put down your cash. That was it! The contribution broke a record!
A MULTIPLYING GIFT

Phil. 4:17-18

I. Paul is closing his letter to the Philippian church and most of the close is about money.

II. It's also extremely interesting because of terms used.
   A. Initiate.
   B. Accounting - profit and loss.
   C. Gospel from the beginning.
   D. As church treats the preachers so shall they be treated.

III. There are great lessons to be learned.
   A. Contentment in Christ is learned irrespective of the circumstances.
   B. For the believer the Lord is our source of strength.
   C. Blessings come when needy missionaries are supported.
   D. God will meet the needs of those who give sacrificial support.
   E. Nature of Christian giving:
      1. Systematic
      2. Proportionate
      3. Duty
      4. Honored privilege
      5. Persistent--once again.
      6. Called a fruit.
IV. The money bears great interest.

A. Abound to your account.

Heb. 6:9-10

1. Idea of receipt for what's due.
2. Spiritual investments—these needs met as they in turn helped Paul.
3. Credited to their eternal account.
4. Received full payment—even beyond the call of duty.

B. Gratefully said he had "all."

1. I am in receipt of all.
2. Means I'm paid in full—yet not coldness or aloofness implied.
3. God meets our needs—not our whims or desires—it is in accordance with his riches in glory.
5. Money can be spiritual.

C. I am full.

1. God can and does provide all that believers need so full contentment can come.
2. Nichols own the world—I don't but my father does!
3. More than enough—full and running over.
D. Odor of sweet smell.

1. Reference— you stink – moved ball 15-year penalty—how do I smell from here?

2. Sweet incense along with sacrifice.

Gen. 8:21
Ex. 29:18
Ezek. 20:41

3. They gave in Paul's distress – God will never suffer that church to want—trust Him.

V. Well Pleasing to God.

Heb. 13:16

A. They were liberal but God has more to give than they do.
B. Keeble "God has a bigger bucket."
C. God knows our needs.
D. It's because of our union with Christ we are sore blessed.

Neely's Bend BC – 11/2/03
I. Paul closes with a fabulous promise:

v. 19 "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

A. But - against all opposition - nothing is greater than God.

1. "My" is emphatic--every faithful Christian can be assured that everything he needs will be supplied him by his God.

2. Called the greatest promise in the Bible.

3. It includes all other promises God has made.

4. Do you stand in need of salvation? Do you need strength for life's trials?
   Are you lonely--He gives comfort.
   Are you discouraged--he'll lift you up.

5. No need is left out--it is by the riches in glory by Jesus.

6. Seven times he uses the phrase "My God" - thus not to him (Paul) nor to them, but to God be glory.

7. Through Christ alone is the grace achieved.
8. More than forty times he uses in Philippians the expression "Jesus Christ."

B. Salute every saint in Christ Jesus.
   1. Salutes every single member of the church.
   2. Saint shows exalted privilege of being set aside by God and the obligation of holy living.
   3. Three salutations.
      a) Every saint.
      b) Brethren that are with me.
      c) All saints salute you.
   4. Spiritual life developed everywhere.
   5. Rome a place where its most needed.
   6. When world is at its worst, the church can be at its best.
   7. Great to be at centers where it is needed so much.
   8. Individually addressed.
   9. Appeal for sacrifice necessary to effort.
  10. Only time saint is singular.

C. Brethren saluted.
   1. With Paul as fellow workers.
   2. His goodwill knows no exception in brethren.

D. All the saints salute.
   1. Every saint--no lines of demarcation.
2. Every Christian a saint—not the route of Catholism.
3. Loves every member of the church.
4. One time saint singular; 57 times plural.
5. No place in New Testament is one saint elevated above another.
6. From highest official to lowest slave term applies.

E. Salute saints in Caesar's household.
1. Christ at never center of world.
2. Should encourage to know in wicked Nero's house are Christians
3. It could be Nero's kin or his slaves.
4. Paul has used every opportunity to make known the Christ.
5. Width of conversion:
   Fisherman - Peter.
   Doctor - Luke
   Lawyer - Zenas
   Soldier - Cornelius
6. Possible to be a Christian anywhere.
7. Also love every saint.
8. Kind words never die.
9. Christianity is holy, mighty, fearless, kind.
10. In 30 years gospel had touched Imperial family..
11. Christianity is indigenous to all climates.

12. Household includes palace officials, secretary in charge of imperial revenues, were responsible for day to day administrative, civil servants of the day, also slaves.

F. Grace

1. With minor variations such benediction in all Paul's epistles.

2. Different ones seen in 2 Cor. and Ephesians.

3. Content of benediction.
   Content - grace
   Comprehensive - all
   Power - yea, amen

4. Grace its source, fullness, flow, power

5. In parting Paul wished them blessings and cheer, strength and consolation, all that ripens into glory.

6. Amen lit. to the ages of ages.

7. Begins with grace (1:2) and ends with it.

8. Calls for a constancy of service--not a chameleon like circumstance.

9. Can't lay blame on our circumstances.
Three Salutes

Phil. 4:21-23

I. Have you never said?:
"Tell everybody hello."

II. Or did you ever narrow it to?:
"Remember me to your folks" or
"Remember me to all I used to
work with."

III. Have you ever said?:
"Give a hug to all the church for
me."
A. If you have, then you can feel
Paul and his "Three Salutes"
as Philippians closes.
B. We'd like to study these
three salutes.

Phil. 4:21-23

IV. Obviously there are three salutes.
A. Every saint saluted.
B. Brethren that are with me
salute you.
C. All saints everywhere in this
great family of God salute you.
D. The first salute is for him-
self, the second salute for
brethren with him, third
salute the large circle of
ascenting hearts.
E. From the first salutation we learn he loved:
1. Every Christian - every church member.
2. Every individual was precious and of worth
3. His good will knows no exception.

F. From the second salute we learn:
1. Some brethren are with Paul
2. Was he in jail in Rome - the corp varied in time with him.
3. Usually you can count on some faithful workers.

G. All the saints show:
1. Saints an honored word.
2. This were ones in Rome.
3. Saints shows it's an exalted privilege to be set aside for the work of God anywhere.
4. Yet with it comes the obligations for Holy living.

H. Highly significant is the identification of saints in Caesar's household.
1. Household: servants in the imperial palace - singled out as special.
2. One of last places you'd expect to find saints.
   a.) Nero wicked and cruel
   b.) Profligate
   c.) No spot more corrupt

3. "Amid all darkness, superstition, wickedness the gospel took root and produced rich fruit." (Erdman)

4. There are no conditions over which the power of Christ cannot triumph.

5. The surprise that the gospel is there shows it to be in the place where it is most needed.

6. Where the world is at its worst, the gospel should be at its best.

7. Here is a matchless appeal for sacrificial missionary efforts

8. It's wise to bring influence to bear on centers where power will be most widely distributed.

9. The opportunities for Paul to preach there can possibly give reason for his imprisonment.

10. Think of the encouragement this will give his fellow Christians.
11. The church then had a powerful influence.
12. He made good use of his time and opportunity.
I. Paul recognized brethren virtually unknown have as much right to salute saints in Phillipi as he does.

V. Then comes the benediction.

v. 23 "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all."

A. Oldest manuscript close with "Be with your spirit and omit the amen."

B. One spirit - desire for unity in the church - that it never be endangered.

C. Grace
1. Always closes with a benediction.
2. Same as Philemon 25 and like Galatians 6 and II Timothy.
3. Grace the most determining influence in Paul's life
4. Starts with it, closes with grace.
5. Grace compelled him to strive constantly for moral progress.
6. You can breathe no better prayer for your friends than this one.

D. Remember -
1. Possible to be a Christian in royal courts or slums, among rulers and among destitute.
2. Christianity is indigenous to all climates and will flourish in any soil.