

The Godly Man's Portion & Sanctuary

Lesson 1: Introducing the Text, Phil 4.9

- I. Richard Alleine (1611-81) was the uncle and father-in-law of Joseph Alleine, author of *Alarm to the Unconverted*. Joseph was eventually imprisoned for nonconformity. Richard was fined several times for holding conventicles, unlawful religious meetings, but due to his popularity, the magistrates dare not imprison him.
- II. What is *Vindiciae Pietatis*?
 - A. *A Vindication of Godliness*. A four volume work promoting godliness: *A Vindication of Godliness in the Strictness and Spirituality of it* (Eph 5.15; Jn 1.47), *The Godly Man's Portion and Sanctuary* (Phil 4.9), *Heaven Opened, a Brief and Plain Discovery of the Riches of God's Covenant of Grace*, and *The World Conquered by the Faithful Christian* (1Jn 5.4).
 - B. Its history and importance.
- III. *The Godly Man's Portion and Sanctuary*, Phil 4.9.
 - A. Richard's ejection sermon, Aug 17, 1662, ahead of *The Great Ejection* of over 2000 nonconformist, Puritan ministers on Aug 24th, occasioned by the Act of Uniformity. He'd ministered in Batcombe, Somersetshire for 20 years, following Richard Bernard, and was now being forced out.
 - B. Richard took Paul's text from Phil 4.9 for his farewell sermon because he greatly appreciated Paul's farewell charge to the church in Philippi and felt it embodied the very message he wanted to leave with his beloved congregation. He chose the text "as a hammer to fasten and drive home those nails of instruction and consolation" which he'd so long endeavored to get into the hearts of his people.
- IV. Introducing Phil 4.9.
 - A. The outline: a precept, a promise, and the relationship between the two.
 1. In the precept we find our work: *what you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things*.
 2. In the promise we find our reward: *the God of peace will be with us*.
 3. By the connection of the two with "and" we find our encouragement: *do the work and we'll receive the reward*. Obey the *precept* and we'll enjoy the *promise*. Be diligent of the former (the work) and don't worry about the latter (the reward), because if we see to the *precept* on our part, then the *promise* will surely be performed on God's part.
 - B. Several doctrines or lessons arise from this verse.
 1. Christians must be learners before they can be doers. *What you have learned, do*.
 2. He has learned well that has learned to do well. Christian doctrine is never mere information, but is rather truth meant to transform, so that he whose life is transformed by the truth he learns has learned the truth well.
 3. The holy examples of ministers should be living sermons to the people, Phil 3.17; 1Cor 11.1. *What you have seen in me, do*. "Those ministers may go off the stage with honor and comfort, who have left behind them the good seed of sound doctrine and the good savor of a holy example."
 4. When godly ministers must part from their people, their great desire is to leave God behind them to stay and abide with their people.
 5. Faithful ministers should be messengers of peace, coming and going. They should come preaching peace (Mt 10.12-13) and they should go preaching peace, Rom 15.33.
 6. Whenever ministers part from their people, if they can but leave *godliness in them*, then they shall certainly leave *God with them*. Or, *those that obey the gospel, whatsoever or whensoever they*

lack, shall ever abide in a peaceful and blessed condition. For if we live in the practice and power of the doctrine of godliness, which we have received and heard, then we need not fear, but that, according to the promise of Phil 4.9, the God of peace will be with us.

C. Assuming that by God's grace we *have godliness within us* and are sincerely and truly *living in the pursuit of an entire and consistent godliness* by faith in Jesus Christ, we can look to the *promise* of the text for all our comfort and encouragement and joy: that *whatsoever or whensoever we lack, we shall ever abide in a peaceful and blessed condition.*

D. There are *two reasons* that this promise holds true for all those who live godly lives.

1. The God of peace will be with us, Phil 4.9.
2. And if God be with us, then all things whatsoever befalls us will work for our good, Rom 8.28.

V. The God of peace will be with you, Phil 4.9.

A. This glorious promise is pregnant with all the blessings heaven and earth can afford. Why? Because *God* is in the promise. *All that is in God* is here assured to the godly as their portion. And how can this not be a most excellent and precious portion? Gen 15.1.

1. God is free from all imperfections, corruptions, limits, or bounds. And *this God* is with the godly.
2. God is the fountain of all excellencies and perfections. And *this God* is with the godly.
3. God's excellencies and perfections surpass and transcend all that's good and beneficial and helpful and pleasant in creation. He is Almighty, Omniscient, Omnipotent, Infinite, Eternal, Unchangeable, All-sufficient, Holy, Righteous, Gracious, Good, the portion, the protector, the exceeding great reward of those who sincerely seek Him. And *this God* is with the godly. *This* is the God in the promise. *This* is the God who shall surely give *Himself*, and with Him, *all that He is*, to those who live by the doctrine of the gospel.

B. If this is so, then who among us would not so live our lives as to be sure to have God for our portion? Is having God as your portion sufficient reason to live a godly life?

1. May God enable us to say with the psalmist, "there is nothing I desire besides you," Ps 73.21-28.