

Scripture: Exodus 20:1-17 & Philippians 1
Singing: 256:1-3 – 141:1 – 177:1-3- 1:2 – 84:2 – 266:1-3

Let us Study Philippians (9)

Intro: Paul was a sparkling man of God!

A. His letter breathes the beautiful spirit of a true Christian

B. His letter breathes the spirit of a pastoral mother and father

Growing Points for Saints (1)

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

I. Increased faith

A. Faith is to the soul what a muscle is to the body

1. Gal. 5:6: *faith works by love*

2. 1 John 5:4: *the victory that overcomes the world is our faith*

3. Luke 17:3-5: *to forgive like God takes an increase of faith*

4. 2 Cor. 5:7: *for we walk by faith, not by sight*

B. To keep faith *strong – healthy – grow* we don't only need 'exercises'

1. Faith needs to be nourished with solid Gospel food and drink

a. What happens when we feed on junk or baby food (Heb. 5:11 – 6:12)

b. What is the substance food faith is to feed on?

C. Reflection: *Are you disciplining yourself to dig in the rich mines of truth?*

II. Increased joy

A. Biblical joy defined (Gal. 5:22)

1. It is not like the 'joy people get from various earthly pleasures'

2. It is the joy that is twin to a peace that passes understanding (Phil. 4:4-7)

3. It is a joy capable of increase (v 26a)

B. How can this joy be increased?

1. When we grow in faith in Christ & live in close communion with Him

a. increase of joy is NOT in change of your circumstances

b. increase of Biblical joy is *always fruit of increase of faith in the Gospel*

c. joy-killer is *grieving or quenching of Holy Spirit* (vs. 27a)

2. When we *live in close fellowship with healthy Christians* (vs. 26b)

III. Increased holiness

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

1. "Only" is very emphatic (Phil. 3:13ff)

2. 'Conversation' related to one's citizenship

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

a. What is the worthiness of Gospel of Christ?

b. What happens when you ponder the glory of Him? (2 Cor. 3:18)

*But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord,
are changed into the same image from glory to glory,
even as by the Spirit of the Lord.*