

Scripture: Philippians 1
Singing: 394:1-3 – 175:1-4 – 111:1-4 – 162:1-2

Let Us Study Philippians (12)

GOD'S TWIN GIFTS OF GRACE (2)

I. To believe in Jesus Christ II. To suffer for Jesus Christ

I. Review: God's Gift of grace is faith to believe in Jesus Christ

A. Did we practice *thanking* the Author and Finisher for our faith in Jesus Christ?

B. Did you/are you placing your confidence in Jesus Christ?

1. Saving Faith *places trust or confidence in Jesus as prophet, priest, and King*
 - a. what is needed before we place our confidence in Him?

2. God's call is to *consider and receive* this great Savior (Isaiah 55)

II. God's second gift of grace: to suffer for Christ

A. Obverse Paul's peculiar wording about suffering: *given as a favor*

1. not true about all suffering we experience: 1 Peter 2:20 vs. 3:14

2. What suffering did Paul refer to here?

a. vs. 30: define conflict

b. Paul's conflict was because of the Gospel he preached (1:17)

- compare Acts 26:6-8 & 16-18; 9:15-16

c. note that the Philippians also experienced this:

B. Be prepared:

1. The more faithful to and reflective of Jesus, the more 'conflict'

*2 Tim 3:12 Yea, and all that **will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.***

Living these truths ...

A. We need to be *converted* in our thinking about sufferings for His sake

1. Believing in Jesus & suffering are ***twin gifts of God***

a. review Acts 5:41; 2 Cor. 12:10; Col. 1:24; Matt 5:10-11

2. Why do not we generally think like this?

a. because we forget that suffering in a Christlike manner, glorifies God!

b. because we forget that suffering in a Christlike manner is evangelism

c. because we forget that *all our suffering for Jesus will be rewarded*

- meditate frequently on Matt. 5:10-12; 19:27-30; Eph. 6:5-8; 2 Tim. 2:12

d. because we forget that *what we suffer now does not compare to the glory we shall inherit*: 2 Cor. 4:17-18

Gems on Trials

Suffering prepares us for glory. (David Kingdom)

A gem cannot be polished without friction,
nor a saved man perfected without trials.

The brook looses its song if you remove all the rocks. (Fred Beck)

Troubles are God's tools by which He fashions us for better things. (Beecher)

Afflictions ripens the saints' graces. (T. Brooks)