



***What does it mean to seek the things of Christ?*** Pastor leads his family in today’s “Hopewell @Home” passage. *Philippians 2:19–24* prepares us for the evening sermon on the coming Lord’s Day. In these six verses of Sacred Scripture, we learn that since the goal of Christ’s sacrifice and ongoing work is the gathering in, building, and perfecting of His church, those who are becoming like Christ will devote themselves to the same.

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### Friday, May 7, 2021 ▫ Read Philippians 2:19–24

*Questions from the Scripture text: How does the apostle describe his hope to act (v19)? What does he hope to do? When? To gain what benefit? How? What doesn’t he have, apart from Timothy (v20)? In what aspect? What do all do instead (v21)? Rather than what? But what do the Philippians know about Timothy’s character (v22)? In what manner had he served, with whom, in what, to prove his character? When does Paul hope to send him (v23)? As soon as what? How, again, does he express his hope/plan in v24 (cf. v19)? What is he hoping/planning this time?*

Often, we borrow our way of talking about our hoped-for plans from James 4:15, “Lord-willing” (or *deo volente*/d.v.). The apostle here gives us a beautiful alternative for the same doctrine, but with emphasis on the hope that we have in Him. Both about his plan to send Timothy to them, and about his hope to come to them himself, he says, “I trust in the Lord Jesus to/that...”

But it must not just be a manner of speaking. How many good, biblical ways of speech are neutralized in their effect for us by unthinkingness in our repetition of them! We see that this trusting in the Lord Jesus for Timothy meant that instead of seeking his own, he would seek the things which are of Christ Jesus (v21).

It will do no good to trust the Lord Jesus for the accomplishing of our own will. If it is He Whom we are trusting, it must be for what He wills that we do this trusting. And what is it that Jesus cares about? Timothy’s sincerely caring for their state in v20 is set in direct parallel to his seeking the things which are of Christ Jesus in v21.

Christ’s thoughts are ever and always bent upon the good of His church, so the thoughts of those who trust in Him and who are being made like Him will be ever and always bent upon the good of His church. We may not think of ourselves as selfish, but this is the judgment that this Scripture makes of us, when we do not sincerely care for the state (especially spiritual) of believers: “all seek their own, not the things which are of Christ Jesus.”

So, Timothy sincerely cares for their state. And he learned this like a son apprenticing under his daddy, which the Philippians themselves had observed (v22). And the fatherly apostle himself hopes to make the same journey out of the same care.

I wonder what those who have seen our interaction with the church would say we have proven about our character. Our attendance. Our giving. Our effort. Our seriousness. Our sacrifice. Our praying. Our tears. Our joys. Do they clearly testify, “Sincere care for the state of the church”? For here, the Holy Spirit says that this is what it looks like to “trust in the Lord Jesus” and to “seek not our own but the things which are of Christ Jesus.”

What are some examples of how trusting in the Lord Jesus is reflected by prioritizing the same things as Jesus in your life? What does your “proven character” say about whether your agenda is set by self or by Christ?

Suggested songs: ARP197 “Christian Unity” or TPH405 “I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord”

For more Hopewell @Home devotionals, please visit [bit.ly/harpchAH](https://bit.ly/harpchAH)

**(The following is a machine-generated transcription.** Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording referenced above)

Words but I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you shortly that I also may be encouraged when I know your state. For I have no one like-minded who will sincerely care for your state. For all seek their own. Not the things which are of Christ Jesus, but you know his breathing character that as a son with his father, he served with me in the gospel, therefore.

I hope to send him at once as soon as I see how it goes with me. But I trust in the Lord that I myself shall also come shortly. So for the reading of God’s inspired and thereward. You probably heard people who and they are saying their plans, they don’t want to be like the farmer who thought that he would build bigger barns and and fill them and that.

And that he would enjoy himself for a long time and he was a fool because the soul would be required of him or those who say come let's go to such and such city and by and so on so forth and scripture says in cases like that to use the phrase willingly he's gonna say I will do this you should say Lord willing I will do this.

That's a good thing to say about your plans. Lord willing I will do this Lord willing I'll do that but when your plans are things that are not about earthly provision and pleasure which are not in and of themselves bad but are not the priority of our lives, what are your friends are things that are good and in the service of the Lord and others, especially of his people is even better to say I trust in the Lord Jesus to.

Be talking about some kind of service that you want to do for the Lord and for his church you see they also hear use that in verse 19 and then again in verse 24, I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you shortly and then in verse 24, I trust in the Lord that I myself, so also come shortly so this gives you another way of talking and thinking about what you're going to do it's good to say Lord willing I'll do this Lord willing I'll do that it's also good to say to use the Bible pattern here get given to us.

Today. I trust in the Lord Jesus to wake up early tomorrow and read my Bible and pray and then be able to finish with a good will my school quickly so that I can serve mom and be an extra pair of hands and feet for her for the rest of the morning.

I trust in the Lord Jesus to.Keep the Lord's day well and encourage others and keeping the day well on the coming Lord's day. I trust in the Lord Jesus to do a better job paying attention this week to the sermon that I have lately. I trust in the Lord Jesus to use the time that I'm falling upon falling asleep upon my bed tonight and for prayer like I heard about and thought about from Psalm 17 in the lesson the scriptural lesson of the prayer meeting this week, I trust in the Lord Jesus to it's a good thing a good way to.

Think about what we're going to do but if you're going to say I trust my Lord Jesus to do something you had better be doing what the Lord Jesus wants you to do. I trust in the Lord Jesus to commit some terrible sin, of course not but there are people who justify all kinds of things that come from their own flesh and that they haven't even considered because perhaps they don't even know the Bible well enough to consider there's a thing that they want to do is wicked and yet they say the Lord told me to do this, so the Lord gave me this thought for.

Her some other blasphemy that they had to their own wicked intentions by bringing the Lord and some special revelation idea into it. God help us and God help them. But you see he says, I trust him the Lord Jesus to do what send Timothy to them where did Timothy learn the proven character for which he Paul is trusting the Lord Jesus descend then says verse 22, but you know his proven character that is a son with his father he served with me in the gospel perhaps if I were a great craftsman in wood or some other craft and the boy.

Is where apprenticing with me someone would be able to see in the work that they did later in life. I hope that looks like a James hockey, are you the son of that James? Hakeem? I can see it in your work. Well Timothy's proven character was learned by watching and learning the manner in which Paul ministered the gospel and served the churches the night and day with all his heart and all his effort wanting not to cost anyone anything with a clear conscience before God boldness to declare the whole counsel of God all these other things that we know about how Paul served in the churches.

Timothy had learned that Timothy had. Learned to love the church as especially Christ's church as you see what he is describing when he says he has proven character we have some details about that character that he learned from Paul in verse 20 and 21 he says for I have no one like-minded in the implication is no one as like-minded or perhaps there were times in his ministry where he actually ran out of like-minded people and he would say hurry send to me marks and to be Timothy there's, Nobody left.

So I have no one like-minded who will sincerely care for your state we do know that he had one like-minded that he was gonna send as a password I guess and we're gonna hear about him in the next next paragraph, but who will sincerely care for your state for all seek their own?

Not the things which are of Christ Jesus you hear what the apostles say in here that if you seek the things that are of Christ Jesus then instead of seeking your own state you will especially seek the good the well-being of his people why does why will Timothy sincerely care for the state of the Philippian church because Timothy is seeking to care for those things that Christ cares about he's not like other people who seek for their own instead of seeking that which is for Christ.

That which is of Christ Jesus and that's why Paul can say I trust in the Lord to do this. I trust an award to do that why because he's not doing what Paul's flash wants to do he's not seeking so much the good of Paul he's seeking the good of the Lord's people because that's what Christ is seeking that's what Christ has always doing in this world is gathering in those elect that he has loved from before the world has began building that church, that is the whole point of history and that will be the only thing left.

When history has done any wipes everything else out the thing that will go into the new heavens and the new earth is the church and the building of the church is what this age is about. And so that's what Christ is after and so that's what all is after and that's what Timothy learning from Paul apprenticing under Paul learns to be after I have no one like-minded who else sincerely care for your state for all seek their own not the things that are of Christ Jesus, but you know His proven character.

And so, I wonder. If people who had observed us like they had observed. Paul when they had observed Timothy. Would be able to say they know our proven character. If they had observed our attendance if they had observed our giving it had observed the manner in which we worshiped the reverence of the diligence and the joy and the the grief under conviction of sin with which we worship.

If they did if they observed the effort we put in and the gladness with which to do it and how we're not sour when we have 2ds that that we do for the church and nobody else shows up to do them with us. We do doing them for recognition and to feel like others are doing them with us or are we not seeking our own?

But seeking the things which are of Christ Jesus. Would someone who is going to send us to a church that had observed the way we are in our own church be able to say but you know her proven character. You know their proven character, you know is proven character.

So let us trust in the Lord for what we are going to do but let us take seriously the fact that in order to be able to say and think that way about our plans legitimately. Then they need to be plans that are participating in his that are especially for the glory of God.

And the building up of his church.

Oh Lord grant. Lou working of your spirit on our minds and on our hearts. That we would be like apprentices under Christ. That we would learn from our elder brother who himself is the chief cornerstone. From whom the rest of the foundation comes in the apostles and prophets upon him the whole building is built up into whom we grow as his body up into the bed.

And so we pray O Lord that your spirit would use this portion of your word with time that we have spent together in it to make our heart and our effort. To be aimed at serving you in the building of your church until the work is done in this world is over and you are glorified.

And you have given to us to be perfected and holiness. So that that glory is our great desire. And is infinitely abundantly fulfilled. Pray from our children. That in a world and even in an age in the church where we could almost say we have no one like this.

That you will God or have mercy upon them. And by your blessing upon the word make them like this. Make them. Not so much like their earthly father that I pray that you would make me a faithful example to them. But make us all like Christ we ask in his name.