

Scripture: Exodus 20:1-17 & Phil. 2:12-18 & 4:10-23
Singing: 227:1-3 – 123:1, 3 – 121:1-4 – 236:1-2 – 88:1-3

Let Us Study Philippians (20)

A. Satan's tools to hinder the work of Christ!

B. Definition of discouragement

C. Even Jesus Christ was no stranger to discouragement: Is. 49:4

D. How to fight discouragement: *many good answers!*

1. To turn to God and cling to His Word: Is. 49:4b; John 6:37; Is. 55:10-11

2. Find a bosom friend and seek prayer support: 1 Thess. 5:25; 2 Thess. 3:1

3. Think on positive things instead of indulging negative: Phil. 4:8

4. Be an encourager like Paul: Phil. 2:16-18; 4:1; 4:14-18

ENCOURAGEMENT BRINGS GROWTH AND JOY

I. How encouragement brings growth II. How encouragement brings joy

I. How encouragement brings growth

A. Paul charged the saints in Philippi to grow in godliness

1. Yet he reminded them that *they are not on their own* (1:9; 2:13)

2. How encouraging is this reminder!

B. Paul encouraged the Philippians *Christian life is worthy his own offering*

1. Paul is facing unknown future which could lead to his death

2. Yet he considers his death *an offering* upon sacrifice & service of their faith
- C. Paul's use of encouragement is purposeful and follows God's own pattern
1. Encouragement is like fertilizer

 2. God's own pattern is to encourage His saints with their *efforts*
 - a. Rom. 12:1; 1; Rom. 14:18; Heb. 13:16; 1 John 3:22; Phil. 4:14, 18
- D. Be committed to be an encourager according to God's command: Heb. 10:24

II. How encouragement brings joy

- A. Paul's encouragement of Philippian Christians increases joy!
1. It would bring joy to Paul now (17-18)

 2. It would bring joy to Paul in the future (16b)

 3. It would bring joy to the Philippians (18)
- B. Proper encouragement brings joy
1. What exactly is encouragement?

 2. How joy-filling when someone will help you to regain right perspective!
- C. Paul calls all God's saints to "be followers together of me!" (Phil. 3:17)