

CHRISTIAN LIFE ACCORDING TO PHILIPPIANS

INTRODUCTION:

- A. The record of Paul's call to Macedonia and his preaching at Philippi is recorded in Acts 16
- B. Lydia, first convert Acts 16:15, then jailer and household Acts 16:23-34
- C. Later, during first Roman imprisonment, Paul wrote to saints at Philippi, with bishops and deacons Phil 1:1
- D. Through a study of this book we can see the kind of life we must live as a Christian.

DISCUSSION:

I. SAVIOUR CENTERED LIFE (Phil 1)

- A. Must have something around which our lives revolve
 1. Paul here shows this to be Christ
 2. Christ is mentioned on an average of more than every other verse in chapter one
- B. Our lives are not centered around ourselves, family, some social event, television, etc. etc.
- C. Our lives do not even revolve around the church, we are a part of the church because our lives revolve around Christ
- D. Note Paul's statement in verse 21
 1. His will must be considered in every decision
 2. His kingdom (body) given top priority Matt 6:33
 3. All is done to His glory
 4. I remember His sacrifice and look forward to His return
 5. I must walk with Him each day

II. SELF EMPTYING LIFE (Phil 2)

- A. This principle stated in verses 3 & 4
- B. It is exemplified by Christ in verses 5 - 11
 1. He retained the "form" of God while taking on himself the form of man
 2. As a man and as God's Son he submitted himself completely to God's will so that he became "as" a man
 3. (Vines) "KENOO" to empty, is so translated in Phil 2:7 RV - in KJV., "made. . . of no reputation." The clauses which follow the verb are exegetical of its meaning, especially the phrases "the form of a servant," and "the likeness of men." Christ did not empty Himself of Godhood. He did not cease to be what He essentially and eternally was.

- C. This life is illustrated by Timothy & Epaphroditus verses 19-30
- D. We must be crucified with Christ Gal 2:20
 1. We divest ourselves of ourselves, yet we are still who we essentially are. We are still human, but take upon ourselves the characteristics of God
 2. Then we can be interested in others and helping others

III. SOUND LIFE (Phil 3)

- A. Paul warns of the errors of Judaism verses 2-11
- B. Paul warns against enemies of the cross vs 18 & 19
- C. "Anti-nomianism" the idea that salvation was already attained, therefore a person need not strive for Salvation not be concerned with moral and ethical standards; is dealt with in verses 12-17
- D. Sound = to be healthy, without any impurities or abnormalities.
- E. To be sound we must walk by the same rule and mind the same things verse 16

IV. SERENE LIFE (Phil 4)

- A. Note some reasons given by Paul why this is so
 1. It is a steadfast life v 1
 2. It is a happy life v 4 not dependent on externals
 3. It is a worry-free life v 6, 7
 4. It is a contented life v 11 Contented with what he has Heb 13:5,6, not with what he is Phil 3:13,14
 5. It is a victorious life v 13 through and with Christ there is:
 - a. No burden we can't bear
 - b. No challenge we can't meet
 - c. No responsibility we can't fulfill
 - d. No problem we can't solve
 6. It is a sacrificial life v 15-18 see also Acts 20:35
 7. It is a sufficient life v 19 (2Pet 1:3 all things that pertain to life and godliness)
- B. The Christian can be tranquil and calm amid all the storms of life.

CONCLUSION:

- A. The Christian life is the happiest, most rewarding life that a person can live
- B. The reason is because it is Christ centered not self-centered; it is sound (without spiritual disease); it has a purpose to work toward to give of itself to attain
- C. Do our lives match the one described here by Paul?