

THE FAMILY OF GOD

Philippians 1:1-18

Introduction:

1. I am a member of two families.
2. It's my obligation to bring honor to both of these families and especially the second one.
3. I can be a member of two families because I've been born twice.
4. (vv. 1-2) Paul established this kinship even while he was in bonds.

I. (vv. 3-7) THANKFUL MEMORIES OF THE FAMILY.

1. (v. 3) They had thankful remembrance in all things.
2. (v. 4) They had remembrance in prayer.
3. (v. 5) They had remembrance of fellowship.
 - A. The Greek word for fellowship is *koinonia*.
 - B. The real meaning of fellowship can be compared to "two fellows in one ship."
4. (vv. 6-7) They had remembrance in service.
 - A. The good work must continue.
 - B. One of the devil's greatest tools are those folks who began a good work, but have gone back to the old paths of sin.
 - 1) These folks' testimonies hurt the furtherance of the family.
 - 2) Just as one would stay in trouble and break our hearts as a family member, these "black sheep" hurt the heart of God and His family.
5. I would love to be thankful for every remembrance.

II. (vv. 8-11) FRUITFUL DESIRES FOR THE FAMILY.

1. Built within every species is the desire to multiply.
2. God told Adam and Eve to be fruitful and multiply.
3. Likewise, the family of God needs to be fruitful.
4. (v. 9) He desires the fruitfulness of increased love.
 - A. In I Cor. 13, Paul says though you can remove mountains, cast out demons, prophesy, but if you don't have love you're nothing but clanging noises.
 - B. Paul wants them to grow spiritually.
5. (v. 10) The word "sincere" means pure and not mixed.

6. (v. 11) Fruits of righteousness bring glory and praise to God.
 - A. Fruits of righteousness are revealed in the fruit of the Spirit - Galatians 5:22-23 – ***But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, self-control; against such there is no law.***
 - B. Fruits of righteousness are revealed in moving from milk to the meat of the Word – Hebrews 5:14 - ***But solid food belongs to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.***

{We've looked at the thankful memories and fruitful desires for the family, and lastly . . .}

III. (vv. 12-18) THE FURTHERANCE OF THE GOSPEL FAMILY.

1. (vv. 12-13) Being in jail promoted the furtherance of the gospel.
2. (v. 14) Paul's courage gave courage to others.
3. (v. 15) Some preach the gospel, but with the wrong motives.
4. (v. 16) The gospel has power to save even when the preacher is lost. (Story of Nathan Blackwell)
5. (vv. 17-18) Joy comes when Christ is preached in love and truth.
6. We further the family by joyfully sharing the gospel which brings new births to the family of God.

Conclusion:

The family of God is the greatest place to be on earth and the only place you'll want to be for eternity.