

EXHORTATIONS TO HEAVENLY LIVING

Philippians 3:20-4:7

Introduction:

One of the duties of a preacher is to exhort the saints. Exhort means to strongly instruct the saints as to God's desire for their lives. Paul exhorts the saints with God's message for them, because both he and God loved the church. We must exhort first by being an example and then give biblical exhortation in love.

I. (vv. 20-21) EVENTS THAT PROMPT HEAVENLY LIVING.

1. (v. 20) We have the promise of a heavenly home.
 - A. I enjoy biblical preaching and rejoice in it (until tired).
 - B. In an evangelism conference, I came to appreciate the fact that in heaven God shall wipe away all tears and fatigue.
2. (vv. 20-21) We have the promise of a returning Savior.
 - A. (v. 20) This gives assurance to the suffering saints.
 - B. (v. 20) This gives strength to keep on for Christ.
 - C. (v. 21) This gives assurance of a perfect body like His.
 - D. (v. 21) This gives assurance of a perfect environment.

II. (vv. 1-7) EXHORTATIONS THAT PROMPT HEAVENLY LIVING.

1. (vv. 1-2) Stand fast in the Lord.
 - A. One can't serve the Lord while sitting down (unless an invalid).
 - B. Workers for the Lord are always referred to as standing.
 - C. An appeal to unity among church leaders is given.
 - 1) Both leaders having the mind of Christ is the key.
 - 2) If we follow the Holy Spirit, we will know the mind of Christ.
2. (v. 3) Help the needy.
3. (v. 4) Rejoice in the Lord always.
 - A. The circumstances don't decide whether we can rejoice, because the Lord is the Author of our joy.
 - B. Rejoicing in the valley is evidence of what the Lord can do.
 - C. Our relationship with the person of Christ makes this possible.

D. There is a belief that a man will live without any troubles if he is a Christian, because all of life is mountain tops.

- 1) I've never known that kind of Christianity.
- 2) I know I'm saved and the Holy Spirit is in my life, but life is one struggle after another.
- 3) Those that reason this way haven't looked at the "Man of Sorrows" who was "acquainted with grief" (Isa. 53:3).
- 4) They haven't considered Paul who was stoned at Lystra (Acts 14:19).
 - a. Jesus and Paul were Holy Spirit-filled, but they found the Christian life to be a struggle.
 - b. If they had looked at their circumstances, they would have quit, but they chose to live above their circumstances.

5) (II Tim. 3:12) **All that will live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.**

4. (v. 5) Govern your life to honor Christ.
 - A. Refrain from evil, for God and others are watching.
 - B. (I Thess. 5:22) **Abstain from all appearance of evil.**
 - C. Knowing that The Lord is near is why we need to set the example.
5. (v. 6) We are exhorted to pray.
 - A. Pray about all things.
 - B. Thank God for all things.
 - C. Make your request known to God.

Conclusion:

(v. 7) When we exercise these exhortations to heavenly living, we then receive the peace of God which passes all understanding that keeps (or guards) our hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

The minds of many are tangled up because they haven't lived according to these exhortations.