



KING'S CHAPEL

Daily Devotional - Philippians Study

Week 4 - Day 5

Approaching God

Read Psalm 69:29-36

But as for me, afflicted and in pain— may your salvation, God, protect me. I will praise God's name in song and glorify him with thanksgiving. This will please the LORD more than an ox, more than a bull with its horns and hooves. The poor will see and be glad— you who seek God, may your hearts live! The LORD hears the needy and does not despise his captive people. Let heaven and earth praise him, the seas and all that move in them, for God will save Zion and rebuild the cities of Judah. Then people will settle there and possess it; the children of his servants will inherit it, and those who love his name will dwell there.

When we think of humility and lowliness, we can often become slightly suspicious, and think of false humility or lowliness. But the Psalmist here is not thinking of this at all; instead he is trying to describe our absolute need and reliance on God. How much do you rely on God in your life? **'I will praise God's name with a song; I will glorify him with thanksgiving...'** This, according to the writer of the Psalm is what God wants most of all. It is tempting when reading this to think of God as arrogant. But this isn't the case; we praise God because we love Him and he accepts that praise because He loves us! Take a moment to praise God for His Love for you. **'Let the poor/oppressed see it and be glad...'** The writer is continuing to think here of God's Salvation; of God's wanting to bring the whole of Creation into accord with His will. Spend some time praying for people you may know who are in need of this reconciliation. Pray also for those in the world who suffer today because of injustice and oppression. Stand in solidarity with them.

Bible Reading, Study & Meditation - Philippians 3:17-21

Slowly & carefully read the passage 2 or 3x's before taking notes & answering questions

"our citizenship is in heaven" does not mean we're waiting until we can go live in heaven where we belong. If someone in Philippi said, "we're citizens of Rome," they wouldn't mean, "we're looking forward to living there one day." Rather, the task of a Roman citizen in a colony like Philippi was to bring Roman culture and rule to expand Roman influence in that area presently.

Philippians 3:17-21

17 Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. **18** For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. **19** Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. **20** But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, **21** who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

Start with Engaging the Text: Take a few minutes to highlight, circle, or underline key words. Which words or phrases stand out to you as significant?

Daily Study Questions

Continue trying the A.B.C. method for studying & meditating on a passage of scripture. The questions below are meant to help you get familiar with this method.

To Study the Passage:

- What are some things you learn or observe about God in this passage? (Father, Son, Holy Spirit?)
- What might this passage reveal about you, your neighbor, human nature, people?
- Are there any commands to be obeyed or things to be avoided, or examples to follow?

Now choose the verse or truth that is most striking and helpful to you so far. Paraphrase the thought or verse in your own words.

Meditation & Reflection Questions

- How would believing this truth or taking it seriously change your life? If it were fully alive and effective in your innermost being - what might be different?
- Why might God be showing you this truth today? What might be going on in my life that he would bring this to my attention?

Close in Prayer:

Rejoice: - What 1 or 2 things can you praise and rejoice in from today's study?

Repent: - What 1 or 2 things do you need to confess and ask for forgiveness?

Request: - What 1 or 2 things do you want to ask God for today as a result of your study?

Resources for Further Study

Commentary on Philippians 3:17-21

A Call to Follow Paul's Example of Commitment to Jesus as Lord. Paul calls the Philippians to imitate him, a common theme in his letters (cf. 1 Cor. 4:16; 11:1; 2 Thess. 3:7-9). Paul's intent is not for the Philippians to focus on him per se but rather for them to join him in humble, radical dependence on Christ.

3:17- As a mature Christian and an apostle, Paul can confidently tell others to follow his example, especially in response to what he has been teaching. He is not perfect, but he is blameless by human standards. His life is a good picture of Christian living, and the same goes for the lives of his traveling companions. When they were in Philippi, their lives had left a clear example for others to follow. Christian living is not taught only through words, but also through deeds. We need to see other believers incarnating the truth for us so we know how to apply it. That is one reason the Bible is full of stories. God did not just give us a list of rules. He also sent Jesus to be the Truth incarnate, our example.

3:18 - He has told them this truth before, and as he writes it again there are tears in his eyes and heart for he loves God's flock so much. He is grieved that there are false teachers who not only lead themselves astray, but also seek to lead others astray as well. These false teachers that he refers to here and in 3:19 are antinomians; probably Gnostics who relaxed the moral law and said that it did not matter how Christians live because they are already forgiven and physical deeds do not matter. They teach that only spiritual things matter. He calls them enemies of the cross, because they are against everything Christ died for. They are in the local church, but not genuine believers.

3:19 - If they stay on this path of opposing Christ and his truth, they will be destroyed in hell eternally. Their master and hope are their appetites. They follow every physical whim they have without the restraints of the moral law of God. (The law of God is great for telling us how to obey and please God after we are Christians. It is of no use in saving us or earning salvation.) Their highest hopes and joys are not found in God but only in physical sensations. These actually take pride in how they break God's law. They think of it as a badge of righteousness because they are flaunting their freedom. Their thinking and soul and heart are totally set on things here and now, the temporal, rather than on the eternal as they should be. (Colossians 3:1-4)

3:20 - Christians are different than these false teachers. Our whole life is in heaven. That is our home. We are merely pilgrims here, passing through. We are positionally seated above with Christ now and our names are written in His book. (Ephesians 2:6) We live on the earth looking forward to His return. Our end, glory, and hope, and destiny do not terminate on this earth. This is merely the beginning. Our whole lives are wrapped up in a holy anticipation of His return. Our Lord will finally come to complete our salvation and make it full and grant us our prize, which is perfect fellowship with Christ Himself.

3:21 - He is Lord of all and has power that controls all. (Hebrews 1:3) When He returns, He will instantly finish His great work in us. He will make us like Him spiritually and physically. We will be fully conformed to His image in all ways. We will share in His glory. (John 17:22-24) This is our hope and joy that enables us to persevere and suffer and not be slaves to our appetites and not look for our glory in this world.