

Philippians

(10) Preaching from Prison

Phil 3:1-4

3 Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord! It is no trouble for me to write the same things to you again, and it is a safeguard for you. 2 Watch out for those dogs, those men who do evil, those mutilators of the flesh. 3 For it is we who are the circumcision, we who worship by the Spirit of God, who glory in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh— 4 though I myself have reasons for such confidence. NIV

Paul's prison ministry...2:19-30

Who was truly "Paul's right-hand man"? 2:19-22

It was Timothy, Paul's own 'son in the faith'. Timothy was very dear to Paul's heart.

What was one prime characteristic of Timothy? 2:20-21 see 1Tim.3:2

He had a genuine interest in the spiritual welfare of the Philippians, those in Christ.

And was Paul's confidence in Timothy simply 'theoretical'? 2:22 Comment? 1Cor.10:33

No. It was based on observation, real-world working and praying. It's the real test!

What doctrinal truth is illustrated here? Mt.7:15-20

True saving faith works out in your life, in your deeds, in your actions. Demonstrable.

And what is the immediate tension on this truth? Mt.7:21-23 (work OUT of salvation, not for it)

It's possible to fabricate enough false 'evidence' (not out of faith), that deception is deep.

In addition to Timothy, who else was Paul planning to send to them? 2:25

Epaphroditus, Paul's brother, fellow worker, fellow soldier, sent from Philippians to Paul.

Why was Paul eager to send him back to Philippi? 2:26-28

He had been very sick, almost died. Paul wanted to relieve their anxiety for him.

What does this confirm to us about the sign-gift of healing? Acts 28:8; 1Tim.4:20; Heb.2:1-4

The purpose of the sign gifts was done and the sign gifts were fading. No gift of healing.

How would you describe Paul's 'limited' prison ministry so far?

Paul sounds a warning ...3:1-3

What's the difference between 'rejoice' and 'happiness'? 3:1a; James 1:2-4; Gal.5:22; Ps.13:5-6

Biblical joy is a gift of the Holy Spirit. It's not dependent on situation, not 'worldly'.

Paul now shifts to a repeat message, a 'safeguard' to them. What is it? 3:1b-3:2; 1:27-28

Watch out for those dogs! Those evil workers of the false circumcision. Aka, Judaizers.

Why does Paul consider these things a 'safeguard' for them, worth repeating? Heb.6:18-19

These truths are our 'anchor', our lock into the heavenly things. Steadfast and sure!

Paul next gives (3) strong 'beware' commands. Why repeat this (3) times!? 3:2

Be on the alert! This is serious! Ignore at your own peril! Three specific identifiers given.

Next: True saving faith is defined and defended:

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