

February 10, 2008
The Bridge Bible Fellowship
Pastor Paul S. Brown
Philippians 2:17-24

**“From Heavenly-Minded to Earthly-Good” Part Three
Heavenly Mindset & Human Mentors of Maturity**

Living for Jesus or living for Self?

- Take focus off yourself in daily situations and relationships (Lk. 9:23f; Jn. 3:30; 12:24-26; Rom. 12:3; 14:7f; 2 Cor. 5:15 by following God’s commandments Mt. 22:37-39).
- Regard others as more important than self and serve God and others (Mt. 20:26-28; Lk. 4:8; Jn. 13:3-17; Rom. 15:1-3; 1 Cor. 9:19; 10:24, 32f; Phil. 2:3-8; Col. 3:23f; 1 Pet. 4:10f)

How has selfishness manifest itself in our culture (our lives)?

How has selfishness manifest itself in American churches?

I. 2:12-13 = Heavenly Motivation to Maturity

II. 2:14-16 = Heavenly Measure of Maturity

III. Heavenly _____ to Maturity v. 17-18

“but even if I am being poured out as a drink offering” (Lev. 23:37; Num. 29:36ff; Ps. 16:4; Is. 53:12; Num. 15:1-10; 2 Tim. 4:6)

“upon the sacrifice & service of your faith”

- View 1 = Paul is adding to THEIR sacrifice & service of faith
- View 2 = Paul is adding to the sacrifice & service (same word as worship) he laid out before leading to their faith

“I rejoice & share my joy with you all.” (Acts 20:24; Acts 21:13; 2 Cor. 12:15; 2 Tim. 4:6; 1 Jn. 3:16)

“and you too, I urge you, rejoice in the same way and share your joy with me”

IV. Heavenly _____ of Maturity v. 19-30

A. Timothy v. 19-24

“But I hope in the Lord Jesus”

“to send Timothy to you shortly” (cf. 1 Cor. 4:17; Rom. 16:21; 1 Thess. 3:2; Acts 16:11-40; 19:21f; 20:3-6; 2 Cor. 1:1; 1 Thess. 2:2)

“so that I also may be encouraged when I learn of your condition”

1. _____ (_____)

“kindred spirit” = likeminded; “no one of equal soul”

“genuinely be concerned for your welfare”

2. _____

FOOTNOTE: Paul wasn't referring to Luke or Aristarchus because although they had been with Paul in Rome they were now no longer with him (Col. 4:10, 14; Philem. 24 - written prior to Philippians).

- Cf. Phil. 1:15-17
- Contrast **DEMAS** (Col. 4:14; Philemon 23-24; 2 Tim. 4:9-10)
- 2 Tim. 4:16

WHAT WENT WRONG WITH THESE MEN WHO WERE SUPPOSEDLY COMMITTED TO THE GOSPEL?

- 1 Jn. 2:15-17 - do not love the world nor the things in the world
 - 1) P _____
 - 2) P _____
 - 3) P _____

PRINCIPLE: Being a SELFLESS SERVANT can be EXTREMELY _____!!!

3. _____ (_____)

“proven worth” = approved; tested & passed the test (cf. 1 Tim. 4:12)

- a. _____ = served with me in the furtherance of the gospel
- b. _____ = like a child serving his father

Note: compare Timothy's description here with qualifications of a church leader in 1 Tim. 3 (v. 6 - not a novice; v. 7 - good reputation; v. 10 - first be tested; v. 1f - desire)

“Therefore I hope to send him immediately, as soon as I see how things go with me;”

“and I trust in the Lord that I myself also shall be coming shortly.”

Discussion Questions:

1. Why is our “mindset” so important in the process of becoming mature in Christ? (Prov. 4:23; 23:7; Rom. 12:2; Eph. 4:23; Phil. 4:8) How will a heavenly mindset help us mature individually and corporately?
2. What is a drink offering? Why did Paul use that analogy? How did Paul develop such a sacrificial mindset? (Rom. 6:8-14; 1 Cor. 6:19-20; 2 Cor. 5:14-15; Phil. 1:19-23)
3. Why did Paul want to send Timothy to the Philippian church? In what way(s) was Timothy qualified to help the Philippians with their unity problems? How was Timothy an example of Phil. 2:3-4? Was Timothy always an example like this? (read 2 Timothy to see how Paul needed to challenge him to get back to these things)
4. What is the value of a “mentor”? How many godly mentors have you had in your life? Read Luke 6:40. According to that passage if you disciple people they will become like you. If you mentored someone to become just like you, what would their strengths and weaknesses be?
5. What are you currently doing to demonstrate the heart of a servant? How would we recognize you as a person we could send out to represent the Lord and this church to others? What are you doing to raise up the next generation of spiritual Timothy's?