

A Reader's Guide to Discipleship©: Readings in the New Testament

2009

The sufficiency of the scriptures for all things pertaining to life and godliness
(II Tim 3:16)

Philippians: Inspiring confidence to “stay in the game” and strive for consistency in ministry no matter what.

I. Thankfulness for their partnership and prayer for their growth in love.

- A. Acknowledges their effective partnership for the gospel (for over 10 years) and confidence in the Lord continuing to work through them 1:3-8
- B. Paul prays for increasing love as the foundation for perseverance 1:9-11

II. Paul's life as an example of consistency 1:12-26

- A. Difficult circumstances were working for increased gospel activity 1:12-18
- B. Paul is confident that God will be magnified either by his life or his death 1:19-26 (note the “joy of faith” that comes with maturity)

III. Called to a life of striving for the gospel of Christ 1:27-4:1

- A. Overcoming fear and suffering with consistency and courage 1:27-30
- B. Overcoming self-centeredness with unity and humility 2:1-4
- C. Practicing the fundamentals of the faith
 - 1. Humble ourselves, exalt Jesus 2:5-11
 - 2. Be lights to the world by demonstrating pure behaviour 2:12-18
 - 3. Respect those who are striving for the faith 2:19-30
(Example of Timothy and Epaphroditus)
 - 4. Learn to treasure what you have in Christ above all else 3:1-16
 - rejoice in Christ 3:1
 - beware of falsehood 3:2-7
 - set your sights on the highest good to know Jesus 3:8-11
 - keep building on what you know 3:12-16
 - 5. Learn to follow the examples of fellow citizens of heaven 3:17-4:1

IV. Epilogue

- A. Solve relational problems by seeking help, choosing joy and forbearance in the Lord, by giving our needs to the Lord, and by seeking peace 4:1-7
- B. Meditate on the good; do what you know is right 4:8-9
- C. Our sufficiency (and therefore our strength) is in Christ 4:10-20