

## DISAPPOINTED-NOT

(Philippians 1:19-20)

Series: "Philippians: The Joyful Letter" (Part 7)

...There is a great deal of disappointment in this life, and everyone has experienced it. People know disappointment as children when parents can't keep their word, young people endure it when left out by friends, older adults suffer disappointed with relationships and health. Some of us are disappointed in love, and we all face disappointments with other people. It seems, due to the fall, everything human is stained by disappointment. ...Yet, the Bible tells us that there are not disappointments with God, and today's text in Philippians is a great expression of this wonderful truth. Paul had carried the Gospel through much of the Roman Empire and now sat imprisoned in Rome. He had hoped to preach the Gospel in Spain, but instead may soon be executed for his faith. ...In such a dire circumstance, Paul expressed his confidence that God's purpose for His life remained unshaken. Paul's confidence in God's plan can and should be ours as we walk through life serving Jesus in this broken world.

**THREE VERSES THAT TELL OF THE GREAT WAYS IN WHICH GOD DOES NOT DISAPPOINT US.** All contain the word "Ashamed" and tell we are not...

### I. The Power Of God Displayed In The Gospel Never Disappoints. (Romans 1:16)

...Paul tells wherever it is proclaimed, God's power always produces supernatural results.

- A. Paul, "I am not ashamed of the Gospel, because it is the power of God unto salvation..."
- B. "Ashamed" does not mean in the original Greek what our word means today.
  - 1. Our English word means "A painful emotion caused by the consciousness of guilt."
  - 2. In Paul's day the word has to do with disappointment. According to the Bible, the person who is not ashamed is the person whose TRUST IS NOT MISPLACED.
- C. What is this "Gospel" that does not disappoint us? It is the message of God's grace revealed in Jesus Christ, centered upon His death, burial, and resurrection. (1 Corinthians 15:1-3)
- D. In speaking to the Romans, Paul spoke of God's power displayed in the Gospel.
  - ...To the Jew, he spoke of Christ as the foundation, as Jesus was a stumbling block to them.
  - ...To the Greeks, he spoke of Christ and His cross as the very wisdom of God,
  - ...To the Romans, who were enamored with power, Christ's Gospel was power of God.
- E. Still true today, God through the power of His Gospel takes the native from the jungle, frees Him from superstitions and fear, and makes him a missionary to other tribes. God through His Gospel reaches the immoral hedonist and gives him a purpose in life. It can change you too!

### II. God Will Keep Safe That Which We Have Committed To Him. (2 Timothy 1:12)

...We like Paul will not be disappointed in God's safe guarding of the deposit we have placed with Him.

- A. The metaphor used here is that of banking. Only God is able to guarantee our deposits.
  - 1. Too often in life, people lose their investments through dishonest people.
  - 2. It is not this way with God. Have you trusted in God through faith in Jesus? If so, think of the capital investments that you have placed on deposit with Him.
    - ...You have placed your faith for salvation in the life to come. Can God keep that?
    - ...Of course He can. Re-read John 10:27-28 "...I give to them eternal life and they..."
    - ...Romans 8:38-39 "Nothing...will be able to separate you from the love of God..."
- B. Some of the ways that we are trusting God in Christ: Salvation, life purpose and temptation

### III. No Matter What Befalls Us In The Future, Christ Will Be Magnified. (Philippians 1:20)

...Paul is on trial for his life, but only on a human level is he uncertain, on the spiritual he is confident.

- A. In a world where the pagan gods were glorified, Paul knew in the end Christ would conquer all.
- B. Paul was confident that no matter if he lived or died, Christ would be magnified in him. God's will was the best of all possible things for him, and he would accept even death if God's will.
- C. It is easy to say "All things work together for the good," when times are good. But this is not so easy at the grave. It is not so easy when in the face of bitter disappointments and pain.

(To have confidence in God in such moments, you must learn to trust Him in the small disappointments of life.)

(You may not see it now; you may resist God's will and drown yourself in pity, even in legitimate sorrows. But the day is coming when you will see it when you stand before your loving Heavenly Father. You will look back from a vantage point in eternity millions of years from now and will confess that God knew what He was doing in your life. You will see that Christ was certainly exalted, and you will not be disappointed.

#### SO WHAT? WHAT DIFFERENCE SHOULD THIS MAKE IN MY LIFE?

1. If you have placed your trust in the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord, rest assured, you will never be disappointed. He who made the glory of the heavens and the earth has prepared a place for you in His home forever. No wonder we sing, "O that will be glory for me, glory for me..."
2. All may fail, but Jesus never. Daily give all your disappointments to Him. Give Him all your hurts and He will carry them. "Casting all your cares upon Him, for He cares for you." (1 Peter 5:7) Let the disappointments in life drive you to Him and cause you to yearn, really yearn for Heaven. (The day when all wrongs will be made right...)
3. Make it your purpose to intentionally magnify Jesus in all of your life. Make Him appear large and near to all those who know you.
4. This morning Jesus is calling you to bow before Him and receive Him as your Savior and Lord. Today call upon His name, tomorrow may be too late for you. Finally, know that if you resist Him as Savior, your final end will amount to the greatest disappointment ever imagined: "Depart from me into everlasting destruction." (Hell)

#### Life Group Discussion Questions:

1. Humanly, Paul was facing an uncertain future while awaiting the outcome of his trial. He had hope to travel to other places to preach the Gospel, certainly he must have felt bewildered, maybe disappointed not knowing what the Lord was up to in his life. When have you had such times? Can you recount and rely a time when the Lord surprisingly stopped you in your tracks. What happened? How did you respond? Can you now see the good that He was doing through it all?
2. Disappointment is so much a part of life here and now, does it make heaven hard to imagine? It is the place where disappointment will never be found. Have you thought about heaven in such thoughts? No sin, no griping, no good-byes, no death, no tears...no disappointment. How does one express in words such a place? Utterly sublime and more!!!! What are your joyful expectations of being with Christ in heaven?
3. How is it possible for Jesus to be magnified during the bad times in our life? Do you think God can more easily use our broken times more than our successful days? If so, why?
4. It is often heard that we are "to cast our every care upon Him, for He cares for us," but what does this casting really look like? In the rugged reality of life, what does this consist of?