

THE BOOK OF PHILIPPIANS

JOY FOR EVERY SITUATION

PHILIPPIANS CHAPTER 1:8-11

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

“THE RELEVANT CHRISTIAN” – PART 1

DISCOVERING THE PRESENCE OF GOD AND HIS JOY IN EVERY SITUATION

RELEVANT:

- a: having a significant and demonstrable bearing on the matter at hand.
- b: affording evidence tending to prove or disprove the matter at issue or under discussion
- c: having a social impact

THE RELEVANT CHRISTIAN

Is almost a ridiculous title let alone description.

Philippians 1:8-11

For God is my witness, how greatly I long for you all with the affection of Jesus Christ. :9 And this I pray, (1) that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, 10 that you (2) may approve the things that are excellent, (3) that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, 11 (4) being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

THE RELEVANT CHRISTIAN

1.) **Recognizing** what's under your skin vs. 8-11

1a.) Finding His love within us vs. 9

For God is my witness, how greatly I
long for you all with the **affection** of Jesus Christ.

I can't wait to meet Paul in heaven.

Other than Jesus Christ, there is no person in human history that has affected culture and civilization more than the Apostle Paul.

Not only was he obviously a profound theologian,

But he also had a remarkable heart for people.

Galatians 4:19

My little children, for whom I labor in birth again until Christ is formed in you,

1 Corinthians 4:15-16

For though you might have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet you do not have many fathers; for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. **16** Therefore I urge you, imitate me.

Verse 9

:9 And this I pray, (1) that your **love** may **abound** still more and more in **knowledge** and all **discernment**,

And this I pray,

(I've been talking to the Lord about you guys in Philippi)

proseu/comai proseuchomai, *pros-yoo'-khom-ahee*;

to supplicate, to speak of, to worship

An Abounding Love (what is it?)

It's a love **imparted** to us. // It is a love that is **not of this world**. //

It is a love that is **increasing**

It's a knowledgeable Love (what does that look like?)

ejpi+gnwsis epignosis, *ep-ig'-no-sis*; to be active at recognition, to be at its post.

It's a discerning Love (what does that mean?)

ai†sqhsi† aisthesis, *ah'-ee-sthay-sis*; active perception, critical, as an inspector. An act of judgment and making a determination.

1 Corinthians 2:15-16

But he who is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is rightly judged by no one. **16** For "who has known the mind of the LORD that he may instruct Him?" But we have the mind of Christ.

Hebrews 5:14

But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

THE RELEVANT CHRISTIAN

This is who and what you are now Christian.
This is what's in us and this is what we are to bring out of us.
It's Jesus in us that we're to unwrap.

Love is a verb, an action, not a feeling.
*There are feelings attached to love, but love is decisive,
deliberate and practical.*

Romans 5:5

Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been **poured out** (*gushing over and splashing out from*) in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was **given** to us.

John 7:37-39

On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. 38 He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." 39 But this He spoke concerning the Holy Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive;

It's Just So Obvious

1 Thessalonians 4:9

But concerning brotherly love - you have no need that I should write to you, for you yourselves are taught by God (from within) to love one another;

THE RELEVANT CHRISTIAN RECOGNIZING WHAT'S UNDER YOUR SKIN

1b.) Being on guard in life

vs. 10a

that you **(2)** may **approve** the things that are **excellent**

the Christian is to be **constantly** judging and **evaluating**
the **environment** and **surroundings** that we're in.

approve dokima_{zw} dokimazo, *dok-im-ad'-zo*; a medical term. to judge, to test, to examine. to scrutinize something. to recognize it for what it is.

"The believer is to always be looking inside of
himself

to reassess his own opinions and lifestyle”

2 Corinthians 13:5

Examine (acid wash) **yourselves** as to whether you are in the faith. **Test** (prove it) yourselves. Do you not know **yourselves**, that Jesus Christ is in you? - - unless indeed you are **disqualified**. (reprobate - having fooled yourself)

Here's a Selfie for You

Ask your **Selfie** - Will that thing be spiritually healthy for me?

Ask your **Selfie** - Is that a God honoring thing to go do or see?

Ask your **Selfie** - Would Jesus approve of this book or website, place or event?

We're Careful About What Goes Inside of Us – Right?
(Wahoo's **Fish Tacos – Pastor Jack Special**)

excellent diafe+rw di'aph'er'o, *dee-af-er'-o*; to labor and toil to keep that which is best (not better but best). To fight, defend, protect that which is of the highest priority. to suffer through hardship because of the value (priority) of a person, place or thing.

Think of it this morning, that while we sit here,
there are people dying and going to hell and yet God loves them.

Ezekiel 33:11

Say to them: “As I live,” says the Lord GOD, “I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways!”

The Bible says, “**God is love**” and the same Bible says
“**Hell is hot**” - - and there is no contradiction in that.

THE RELEVANT CHRISTIAN RECOGNIZING WHAT'S UNDER YOUR SKIN

1c.) Ready yourself for that day vs. 10b

(3) that you may be **sincere** and **without offense till the day of Christ**,

sincere *eijlikrinh/ß eilikrines*, *i-lik-ree-nace'*; from *ei'lh heile* Sunlight-tested, Tested by the sun. without impurities, without wax.

We Christians, are to be Living our Christianity,
>> Out loud and Outside >>

Philippians 2:15

that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,

without offense ajpro/skopos̃ aproskopos, *ap-ros'-kop-os*; to not be led away by sin. To be proven faultless, without scandal. Providing no opportunity for offense. – to not be offensive. (not man-based)

Personally:

The only way I can offend you is if I am being self-centered.
If I am others-centered then I will not be offending you.

Publicly:

you and I live in the days of what Isaiah spoke of;

Isaiah 5:20

Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!

It's amazing today that only the wicked can know

anything for sure. Have you noticed that? You and I are bigots and losers because we know what we know but the wicked are the only ones allowed to know what they know and you better agree with them or they will beat you to death with the tolerance.

But we have a target, a goal in sight

It's something that we as humans must have.

It's been well said that;

“If you aim at nothing, you'll hit it every time.”

Verse 10b

Notice Here Until “The Day of Christ”

There is only one understanding that can be taken away from the verse when it says “**The Day of Christ**” and that is, Paul is **speaking of Jesus' Appearing, The Rapture** of the Church.

The Christian is to be Ready for both potential Realities;

(1) Death and or (2) The Appearing of Jesus Christ.

Robert Gromacki

*“If a Christian lives in the light of the imminent return of Jesus Christ,
He will live a godly life.”*

The Christian who believes that Jesus is near is a Christian who is ready and waiting and serving and _____.

1 John 3:2-3

Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. **3 And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.**

Jude 1:24

Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, And to present you faultless
Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy,

**THE RELEVANT CHRISTIAN
RECOGNIZING WHAT’S UNDER YOUR SKIN**

1d.) Doing that which is impossible vs. 11

(4) being **filled** with the **fruits of righteousness**
which are **by** Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

Consider the verse this way;

by Jesus Christ you **are being filled** with the **fruits of righteousness**

(this is the daily working of the Holy Spirit in
your life)

So what are the fruits of righteousness?

#1 The Fruit(s) of the Holy Spirit.

Galatians 5:22-23

But **the fruit of the Spirit is love**, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

#2 The Fruit of Worship

Hebrews 13:15

Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, **the fruit of our lips**, giving thanks to His name.

#3 The Fruit of Godly Living

Romans 6:22

But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your **fruit to holiness**, and the end, everlasting life.

#4 The Fruit of Good Works

Colossians 1:10

that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being **fruitful in every good work** and increasing in the knowledge of God;

The Word “Righteousness” means

right standing before God and consequent right behavior before others,

The Fruit of Righteousness – Right Doing, Doing the Right Thing.

John 15:1-2,5,16

“I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. **2** Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit... :**5** “I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing... **16** You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.

Recently I had a man say to me, *I’m not a Christian but I am ok with God.*” I asked him, by what standard are you ok with God? He said; *“I don’t cheat on my wife. I’ve never abused my kids and haven’t committed any felonies.”*

This may come as a shock to some of you but;

You’re not to be applauded for - - not cheating on your wife.

You’re not to be honored for - - not abusing your kids.

You’re not to be praised for - - not committing a felony.

End of Study

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