

January 27, 2012

Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God. (Philippians 1.27-28)

The seriousness with which they should treat this matter is shown by the phrase with Fear and trembling. Certainly the attitude here recommended has nothing to do with slavish terror: as Paul assures the Christians in Rome, "You did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear" (Rom8:15). It is rather an attitude of due reverence and awe in the presence of God, a sensitivity to his will, an awareness of responsibility in view of the account to be rendered before the tribunal of Christ. In their community life they must recognize that God is present. (F.F. Bruce, *Philippians*, p. 82.)

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. (Ephesians 2.8-10)

The thought that came to me was the power that comes when our vision is centered on the glory and praise of God. Practically I believe that this glory comes into its own when we self-consciously make it our anchor for what we are doing. ... What we need is a greater vision of Christ increasing until He has changed [us, Grace Hill, NC, and the world]. ... Hindrances there are. One of these happens to be reservation in our hearts about the nature and character of His will for our lives. We secretly suspect that His will might be more demanding, more crucifying of our desires, than we can handle. But daily surrender to His will as you pray, and it will bring a freedom from anxiety that you cannot believe. ... Praise and glorying are mysterious visitations of the King and the moving of His kingdom. (Miller, *The Heart of a Servant Leader*, p. 25.)

Expressing Our Love and Praise: Worship in Song

Declaring What We Believe: Apostle's Creed

Welcoming Each Other (Kids may go to Sunday School)

Giving Worship to God: Offering

(Gifts to Grace Hill support the life and work of our church community. Twenty percent of gifts also go to local and global mission, including Samaritan Health Clinic, Justice Matters, Young Life, and church planting in N. American and Asia.)

Hearing God's Word: Scripture Reading *Philippians 2.12-18*

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, 13 for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

14 Do all things without grumbling or disputing, 15 that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, 16 holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. 17 Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. 18 Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.

Understanding God's Word and Our Lives: Sermon

Resources to Do Important Commands

1. Two Universally Important Commands, v.14, v.17-18
2. One Command that Explains Two Things, v.12-13
 - a. The Core Nature of Following Jesus
 - b. How We Can Respond to All Commands

Recognizing our Brokenness: Confession of Sin

Public Reading

Father, forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. (Matthew 6.12,13)

Father, we forget Your Work and Your Working--that yours is the essential, initiating, continuing, action in our lives. We forget either by thinking that everything depends upon us, our strength and best ideas, or by thinking we don't need to do any "working out" at all. But your decisive work gives us the responsibility and the capacity to work out the implications, details, contexts of Your great salvation in Jesus Christ. Help us to do that in the power of your Spirit and for your glory.

Private Reflection

The Grace and Forgiveness of Christ

But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself. (Phil 3.20, 21)

Remembering Jesus with Bread and Cup: Lord's Supper

Jesus called those who find their life in His death and resurrection to receive the bread and cup as a tangible sign to remember and be strengthened by His Gospel. It is a spiritual meal for all who believe in Him. While Jesus spent time with everyone, he also shared the bread and cup only with those who followed him. Children who have not yet become *communing members* should not take the bread and cup but talk with our pastor or an elder about their personal faith.

On the first and third Sundays of the month, we come forward as families, groups and individuals to receive the bread and cup and for a prayer of blessing. The second, fourth and fifth Sundays, we remain seated, with time to personally remember Jesus' death and resurrection for us with the bread and cup. Whether you take the elements or not, we encourage you to either come forward for prayer or use the time for personal reflection about your relationship with Jesus.

**Juice is in the outer ring; wine is in inner rings.*

Taking hold of the Good Word: Benediction ("the good word")

"May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word." 2 Thess. 2:16, 17

Prayers for Those Not Taking the Bread and Cup

Prayer for Those Searching for Truth

Lord Jesus, you claim to be the way, the truth, and the life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reason for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me and open me to the reality of your identity. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent, convincing, and that leads to the life you promise. Amen.

Prayer of Belief

Lord Jesus Christ, I admit that I am more wicked and sinful than I ever dared allow, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt on the cross, to give me complete forgiveness and rightness with God. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, in joy I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and Lord. Amen.

Grace Hill Financial Information (some numbers are preliminary before accounting reports are done):

- Average Monthly expenses: \$14,400
- December 2012 giving: 25,504
- 2012 monthly external giving (ends 12/12): 1,667
- December 2012 balance \$12,771
- Average Monthly 2011 giving: 11,621
- Average Monthly 2012 giving: 13,664
- 2012 basic operating budget balance: \$8056

Notes: