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Daily Bible Notes/Highlights Genesis through Revelation 2014

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Philippians

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C1-4

C1 Vss 1-30 Some of the great words of therapy. This is the book of Joy. It is the pillar of Joy therapy. Paul provides a word to anyone who is threatened concerning the future. Be confident whatever the Lord has begun in us He will complete it.

This gave this writer relief in a dark time in my life. When I saw it. I believed. Because of The Lord says it through his prophets or apostles I believe it. It should be the same for everyone.

Anyone who has help to nurture and develop a believer or church wants to see them grow. There's a natural love. Paul, though I jail wanted this for them (1-11).

He's able to exalt above those who ridicule him while he is in jail. How is this possible? As long as his antagonist are preaching the gospel he's alright. The word is going forth.

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There is one other thing Paul reveals. Even if their motives are not pure, if they preach the gospel, the gospel will have a desired effect. He's not condoning impure motives, but rather showing the power of a pure Gospel through an impure vessel. It yet has power (12-19).

As a prisoner he has a different perspective. The objective is for his life to bring honor to Christ wherever he is. What people say, where he is, the objective is the same for him. A life that shuns disgrace and honors The Lord.

Another revelation never revealed with such clarity, Paul declares his desire to go into eternity with The Lord and the only thing holding him is the need of the believers. He has a task and he continues to see the need. This is not a suggestion in an attempt to be spiritual. Paul can taste glory. He is so close he can feel it with his spirit and he's ready to go, but he displays remarkable sacrifice and unselfishness. Many of the churches need his leadership (20-26).

Paul calls on them to be heavenly citizens and to fight together. That is, stand as believers. We are to be willing to suffer for him.

C2 Vss 1-30 As with all the churches the message and needs are highly similar. Be unified. Think of each other. Provide for each other. Paul being so pragmatic gives them the ultimate example of the right thinking. See it in Jesus.

Though He was equal with God almighty he lowered himself to become a man. Not any man, but a servant not a king. And even allowed himself to be humiliated and desecrated for us. As a result, His name is above all others. Ever notice people of great service are remembered. The school teacher, school janitor, and many others are well remembered when they have a sense of service. Every knee shall now and confess Jesus is Lord as a result (1-11).

Paul encourages to live in reverence and fear of The Lord. God is empowering them. And he warns them about the sin of grumbling and complaining. Paul looks to the day when he'll give an account for them with joy as he urges them hold on (12-18).

Paul wants to be there but is hopeful to send Timothy if not. Paul apparently has some who have lost his confidence but Timothy, Epaphroditus have not. He became very ill but The Lord spared him. Paul admits it would have been sorrow multiplied had Epaphroditus died. This shows Paul's sorrow in prison. Yet he's able to express joy because joy has nothing to do with external circumstances. This writer says often. Joy is our internal assurance and God's guarantee of our eternal destination (19-30).

C3 Vss 1-21 Paul launches again reminding them of joy. Then warns them about the mutilators. No doubt he's talking about those who teach circumcision. He calls them dogs. Obviously there is always a figurative meaning to mutilation. It always addresses those who rip up the gospel with any kind of distortion. They are dogs. Anyone who thinks it is not right to judge does not understand Jesus or the apostles at all.

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Paul defeating the Jewish 'dogs' extols his pedigree as a Jew. They couldn't get or be any more Jew than Paul. His point was that what he said had more truth than them attempting to get people to follow Jewish traditions. The bottom line with Paul is that all the traditions and Jewish ceremony was pure hog-wash and even less. He didn't want any person burdened with any of it . He counted it as excrement compared to what Jesus Christ offered and his life was in the line because his acts matched his instruction. How often does he have to work with every church through those who continue to teach traditions and ceremonies and works.

Paul reveals the depth of his conviction. He wants to know the sufferings of Christ. He's so assured of what awaits eternally, he wants to know the suffering. This is not to earn salvation, but because of his love for The Lord and knowing how Jesus has saved him. There is nothing Paul would not do (1-11).

Paul desires it all. He's a student where nothing less than an A++ will do. He's a "presser" he wants more than what's available in Christ. Then he provides great practical advice.

Forget what's behind that hinders and slows and look forward. No great racer spends any discern able time looking back. Paul's peddle give is what's back there when it is the old man or old nature. This does not mean that he does not remember what God had done. He uses what God had done in his life so miraculously to fulfill his tasks with completed determination and resolve (11-15).

Paul has no problem saying follow me. He didn't want them to do as he said only. But to live as he lived. He provides words to them about the ultimate anode of the body (see 1 Thess.).

C4 Vss 1-23 Paul asks a few leaders to settle themselves. He wants them to be filled with joy.

Then some of the most practical power words for those facing persecution and injustice. Note a Paul does not only tell them what not to do, but also what to do in the place of the old acts they are no longer to do. He does not want them worrying because worry is faith in a dark direction. The worrier lives in the present as if a dark future event has already occurred. Instead Paul wants persistent prayer about the future event or future possibility. He calls for a mind that embraces the truth that God will intervene in some way. This gives clarity to the mind and tranquility to the heart.

Then he gives a litany of virtues to occupy the mind. This all takes focus and genuine effort on the believer. This why it is so important to develop these disciplines before a crisis (1-9).

Paul recognizes their concern for him in prison. But he reveals a place of contentment. Whether up or down , he's learned how to be content. He's learned this, but at the basis of his learning is a truth that was once mysterious. It is now revealed.

We can do all things through Christ. Wow! We can do all we need to do through our

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relationship with Jesus.

Paul has personal words to the Philippians then again he has some timeless words we all can hold and embrace. The Lord will provide all my/ our needs from His riches. Endless need and desire provisions for his work.

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