

# PHILIPPIANS Lesson 9

## Chapter 1, verses 1-11: The Example of a Leader

20 June 2022

### A LEADER'S VIEW (MENTALITY)

**His view of himself:** The Apostle Paul's view of himself was that of a **humble servant** of Jesus Christ (vs 1).

- Paul could have boasted of being a great prophet, apostle, missionary, epistle writer, etc.

**His view of the brethren:** "*Saints in Christ Jesus.*"

- Paul elevates the brethren in his estimation as those who belong to the Lord and are living virtuous lives.

**The bible principle:** a true leader will look for ways to serve and be a blessing to others.

- Jesus established this principle in **Matthew 23:10-11**.
  - He followed this principle (John 13:3-5) washing the disciple's feet.
  - He chastised the scribes and Pharisees for abusing their place of leadership (Mat 23:2-7).
  - The world teaches the principle that those at the top are to be served and pampered.

### A LEADER'S ATTITUDE

- Seeking grace and peace toward those that he ministers to (vs 2).
- Remembering the brethren and praying for them always (vs 3).
- Thankful to God for the brethren (vs 3) as he prays for them (vs 4).
  - For their fellowship in the gospel and their consistency in the Lord's work (vs 5-6).
- Keeping the brethren in his heart (vs 7).
- Longing after those that he is ministering to (vs 8). This is a strong desire to be with them.
  - Notice that bitterness has no place in leadership. It will make you an ineffective leader.
    - The people you try to help will not always treat you right. Expect that, and maintain a proper leader's attitude of grace, peace, prayer, humility, desiring to be a help.
  - **John 13:35** — Jesus' desire is that we love one another as He loved us (1 Jn 4:10-11). That is how people will know we are the Lord's disciples.

**Thankful:** (vs 3) Find things to be thankful for rather than looking for faults and things to complain about. Invest in the lives of your companions in Christ and you will begin to recognize what a blessing it is to have friends and co-laborers who are like-minded.

**Fellowship:** Our fellowship is in the gospel (vs 5). Jesus Christ's death, burial, and resurrection is the common factor that brings all believers together in the Body of Christ, worldwide.

**Confidence:** (vs 6-7). A leader's confidence is in God (vs 6). But a leader's hope is that God's people will be willing and submissive, allowing God to do a work in them (vs 7).

**Defending the gospel** (vs 7): Protecting and upholding the truths of scripture, not backing down.

**Confirming the gospel** (vs 7): Preach the resurrection of Christ. This is an infallible proof (**Acts 1:3**).

### A LEADER'S PRAYER

- I thank God for you (vs 3) with joy (vs 4).
- Praying that your love may continually increase (vs 9).
- Praying that your knowledge may increase (vs 9).

- Praying that your judgment may increase (vs 9).
- Praying that you will approve of excellent things (vs 10).
- Praying that you will be sincere and free of offense (vs 10).
- Praying that you will be filled with the fruits of righteousness (vs 11).

**Notice every prayer topic is spiritual. None are physical.**

- God does care about our physical needs as well as our spiritual (1 Peter 5:7, Luke 12:30, Php 4:6, Mk 4:38).
  - But God would like us to condition our hearts to be more spiritually inclined (1 Thes 3:12-13; 2 Thes 1:3, Philemon 4-7).

**He prayed for others, not himself.**

- **Vs 19**, he anticipates that these saints will also be praying for him.
- It is more blessed to put others first (Php 2:4, Acts 20:34). After that we can cast our cares upon the Lord.

**The order of the prayer requests is significant.**

- **Love** is first on the list (vs 9).
  - Knowledge without love results in an ineffective ministry.
  - Judgment without love results in an ineffective ministry.
  - Continue to grow in your love for the Lord, for your husband, wife, brethren.
    - Don't stagnate, don't grow cold, don't lose your first love (Rev 2:4).
- **Knowledge and in all judgment** (vs 9).
  - Contrary to the world's philosophy, according to the bible, it is important that we exercise judgment (1 Cor 5:12, 6:2-4; Zech 3:7, Rev 20:4).
    - The only "*judge not*" verse (Mt 7:1), cherished by unbelievers, is instructing us not to be hypocrites in our judgment. Don't judge somebody for the same sin you're actively committing.
    - Our judgments should be mixed with love, with an aim to help someone, not condemn them.
- **Approve things that are excellent** (vs 10).
  - The scriptures, fellowship, witnessing/outreach, discipleship, etc.
- **Sincere** (vs 10).
  - Don't pretend. Don't be superficial. Worship God in spirit and in truth (**John 4:24**). Don't just go along with the program, find true joy in the things of the Lord. This is a condition of the heart. What is in your heart will be evident in your speech and your countenance.
- **Without offence** (vs 10).
  - Don't aim to offend people with your witness of the Gospel (Acts 24:16, 1 Cor 10:32, 2 Cor 6:3). Jesus Christ is a "rock of offence" (Rom 9:33). The gospel is offensive by itself.
    - We are telling people they are sinners in need of a Savior. That is offensive.
      - Don't add insult to injury. Check your attitude. Don't be rude.
- **Filled with the fruits of righteousness** (vs 11).
  - Our lives should provide something that is beneficial and enjoyable to others.