



'Back to Basics for Believers Series' Sermons in the Epistle to the Philippians

Message 20 – 'Standing Fast in the Lord' Philippians 4:1

In this chapter Paul comes to the specific application part of his letter to the Philippians. The words we have here in v1 are words of a glorious nature that bridged the transition between the passage that has just ended with all its great doctrinal content and the one that is about to focus on a certain practical issue. This verse stated the glorious fact that because of what Jesus Christ has done for us as believers, because of His perfect life, His atoning death, His conquering resurrection, and the resulting victory over sin, death, and the enemy, because of that we are now to stand! We are now to stand fast in Him, united as God's soldiers against a spiritually hostile world. In the verses that follow Paul emphasises in a very practical way, a number of steps to peace, the peace of God, and also the presence of the God of peace. Yet in this verse we can see:

Peace Comes Through Standing Fast - The first step to peace that Paul mentions is to stand fast in the Lord. Notice he says, 'therefore...stand'. see how he addresses the believers at Philippi. They are words spoken by a warm Pastor, who loves and cares for his fellow-believers standing fast. See the things that Paul feels about his flock, about his brothers and sisters in the Lord, how deeply he feels for them. The thing that we need to see is this, that believers have a great need for personal encouragement. If believers are to stand fast, they must be loved and cared for, by the Pastor certainly, but also other believers. Nothing encourages us more than knowing that we are loved and cared for by others. The love of others stirs us to live like we should and to stand fast against temptation and trial. On what basis do we stand? The complete work of the Saviour Jesus Christ:

1. Christ is Victorious - Christ has won the battle over sin, death and hell. When we look at the New Testament, it is clear that Christ's death accomplished the removal of sins for those who trust in Him. Christ bore the punishment, and because of this the believer is safe in Him. The Cross is also the means by which God imputes Christ's righteousness to our account so that our own inadequate righteousness, our filthy rags are removed. That is remarkable! If you are a believer tonight then you can rejoice in the marvellous reality that through the grace of God, and the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ who is victorious, you have been forgiven once for all. Amen and Amen!

2. Christ is Risen - The Lord Jesus Christ is risen and is vindicated, as well as being victorious. Christ conquered death, and because He is a living Saviour, He can be known.

3. Christ is Real - Also Paul has spoken of the other things that a believer experiences through Christ's applied work in his life. God has marked out a path for our lives and promises to warn us if we stray from His path. Paul has also spoken of how we have been given a real guide in the form of the Scriptures, and in it are the principles we are to live by. Yet, the Lord Jesus Christ has also done something more for the believer. In Philippians 3:12 Paul speaks about being taken hold of by Christ. We have not just been given the Scriptures and been told to do our best, the Lord Jesus is not just some sort of example that we try to follow, I know that I need more than that! Praise God, Christ is immeasurably more, He is real, and for the believer when He called us to Himself, He also came to dwell within us through his Holy Spirit. It is in Him that we can stand, it is in Him that we can press on, for without Him we can do nothing! He is real.

So, Paul lays out an incredibly firm basis on which the believer is to stand fast that will lead him into the peace that only the Lord can give.



Penzance Baptist Church

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