

# LOVE, JOY AND A FAITHFUL CHURCH

Readings: Phil 1:1-11 and Acts 16:6-40

24/8/14

# An awful witness- *Mars Hill Church in the news*

## Protesters Call For Pastor Mark Driscoll's Resignation After Multiple Scandals At Mars Hill Church (PHOTOS)

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# Romans 2:11

*11 For there is no partiality with God.*

# Philippians 1:8

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

The Greek word translated *affection* is σπλάγχνον (*splagchnon*) which literally means *the bowels*. It was regarded by the Hebrews as the seat of the tender affections: esp. kindness, benevolence and compassion

# Questions to be answered this AM

1. Why was Paul so joyful?
2. What was outstanding about the Philippian church?

1. Why was Paul so joyful?

# Philippians 1:3-6

*3 I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, 4 always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, 5 for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now, 6 being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;*

# κοινωνία (*koinōnia*)

This Greek word is used for *fellowship* and can also be translated *intimacy* or *participation*.



# Romans 8:38-39

“I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

# Acts 20:28-29

“... take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock.”

# Philippians 1:3-7

*3 I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, 4 always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, 5 for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now, 6 being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ; 7 just as it is right for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart, inasmuch as both in my chains and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers with me of grace.*

# 1 Corinthians 1:4-8

*4 I thank my God always concerning you for the grace of God which was given to you by Christ Jesus, 5 that you were enriched in everything by Him in all utterance and all knowledge, 6 even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you, 7 so that you come short in no gift, eagerly waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ, 8 who will also confirm you to the end, that you may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

# Ephesians 5:24-26

*25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, 26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, 27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.*

# WSC #35

Q: What is sanctification?

A: Sanctification is the work of God's free grace, whereby we are renewed in the whole man after the image of God, and are enabled more and more to die unto sin, and live unto righteousness.

# Ephesians 4:16

*<sup>16</sup> from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.*

2. What was outstanding about the Philippian church?



# Philippians 1:8-11

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

# John 13:34-35

*34 A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. 35 By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”*

# Philippians 4:15-16

*15 Now you Philippians know also that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church shared with me concerning giving and receiving but you only. 16 For even in Thessalonica you sent aid once and again for my necessities.*

# Luke 12:48

*48 ...For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more.*

# Julius and Maximus

*When Julius confessed that he was a Christian, Maximus tried to point out an easy way of escape: 'There is nothing very serious in offering some incense, and then going on your way'. 'Do you think', retorted Julius, 'that I, who for twenty-six years was never charged with a military crime, who was faithful in that which was the lesser, am likely to be unfaithful in that which is better?'*

# Philippians 1:9-11

*9 And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, 10 that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, 11 being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.*

# Conclusion

*What was outstanding about the Philippian church was their love for each other, their joy in the gospel and their faithfulness to Christ...*