

Wednesday, February 13, 2013
Seventeenth Church of Christ, Scientist, Chicago

TOPIC: What is the basis of true affection?

HYMNS: 91 140 227

THE BIBLE (from *The Message* translation)

Phillippians 1

1 Paul and Timothy, both of us committed servants of Christ Jesus, write this letter to all the Christians in Philippi, pastors and ministers included.

2 We greet you with the grace and peace that comes from God our Father and our Master, Jesus Christ.

3 Every time you cross my mind, I break out in exclamations of thanks to God.

4 Each exclamation is a trigger to prayer. I find myself praying for you with a glad heart.

5 I am so pleased that you have continued on in this with us, believing and proclaiming God's Message, from the day you heard it right up to the present.

6 There has never been the slightest doubt in my mind that the God who started this great work in you would keep at it...

this is my prayer: that your love will flourish and that you will not only love much but well. Learn to love appropriately. You need to use your head and test your feelings

10 so that your love is sincere and intelligent, not sentimental gush. Live a lover's life, circumspect and exemplary, a life Jesus will be proud of:

11 bountiful in fruits from the soul, making Jesus Christ attractive to all, getting everyone involved in the glory and praise of God.

12 I want to report to you, friends, that my imprisonment here has had the opposite of its intended effect. Instead of being squelched, the Message has actually prospered.

13 All the soldiers here, and everyone else too, found out that I'm in jail because of this Messiah. That piqued their curiosity, and now they've learned all about him.

14 Not only that, but most of the Christians here have become far more sure of themselves in the faith than ever, speaking out fearlessly about God, about the Messiah.

15 It's true that some here preach Christ because with me out of the way, they think they'll step right into the spotlight. But the others do it with the best heart in the world.

16 One group is motivated by pure love, knowing that I am here defending the Message, wanting to help.

17 The others, now that I'm out of the picture, are merely greedy, hoping to get something out of it for themselves. Their motives are bad. They see me as their competition, and so the worse it goes for me, the better - they think - for them.

18 So how am I to respond? I've decided that I really don't care about their motives, whether mixed, bad, or indifferent. Every time one of them opens his mouth, Christ is proclaimed, so I just cheer them on!

19 because I know how it's going to turn out. Through your faithful prayers and the generous response of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, everything he wants to do in and through me will be done.

Philemon 1

1 I, Paul, am a prisoner for the sake of Christ, here with my brother Timothy. I write this letter to you, Philemon, my good friend and companion in this work -

2 also to our sister Apphia, to Archippus, a real trooper, and to the church that meets in your house.

3 God's best to you! Christ's blessings on you!

4 Every time your name comes up in my prayers, I say, "Oh, thank you, God!"

5I keep hearing of the love and faith you have for the Master Jesus, which brims over to other Christians.

6And I keep praying that this faith we hold in common keeps showing up in the good things we do, and that people recognize Christ in all of it.

7Friend, you have no idea how good your love makes me feel, doubly so when I see your hospitality to fellow believers.

8In line with all this I have a favor to ask of you. As Christ's ambassador and now a prisoner for him, I wouldn't hesitate to command this if I thought it necessary,

9but I'd rather make it a personal request.

10While here in jail, I've fathered a child, so to speak. And here he is, hand-carrying this letter - Onesimus!

11He was useless to you before; now he's useful to both of us.

12I'm sending him back to you, but it feels like I'm cutting off my right arm in doing so.

13I wanted in the worst way to keep him here as your stand-in to help out while I'm in jail for the Message.

14But I didn't want to do anything behind your back, make you do a good deed that you hadn't willingly agreed to.

15Maybe it's all for the best that you lost him for a while. You're getting him back now for good -

16and no mere slave this time, but a true Christian brother! That's what he was to me - he'll be even more than that to you.

17So if you still consider me a comrade-in-arms, welcome him back as you would me.

18If he damaged anything or owes you anything, chalk it up to my account.

19This is my personal signature - Paul - and I stand behind it. (I don't need to remind you, do I, that you owe your very life to me?)

20Do me this big favor, friend. You'll be doing it for Christ, but it will also do my heart good.

21I know you well enough to know you will. You'll probably go far beyond what I've written.

22And by the way, get a room ready for me. Because of your prayers, I fully expect to be your guest again.

I John 3:14 (to 1st .)

14The way we know we've been transferred from death to life is that we love our brothers and sisters.

I Pet. 3:8,9

8Summing up: Be agreeable, be sympathetic, be loving, be compassionate, be humble.

9That goes for all of you, no exceptions. No retaliation. No sharp-tongued sarcasm. Instead, bless - that's your job, to bless. You'll be a blessing and also get a blessing.

SCIENCE AND HEALTH WITH KEY TO THE SCRIPTURES

By Mary Baker Eddy

SH 15:26-27

Self-forgetfulness, purity, and affection are constant prayers.

SH 147:29-31

A pure affection takes form in goodness, but Science alone reveals the divine Principle of goodness and demonstrates its rules.

SH 21:1-4,

If Truth is overcoming error in your daily walk and conversation, you can finally say, "I have fought a good fight . . . I have kept the faith," because you are a better man.

SH 36:24-29

It is useless to suppose that the wicked can gloat over their offences to the last moment and then be suddenly pardoned and pushed into heaven, or that the hand of Love is satisfied with

giving us only toil, sacrifice, cross-bearing, multiplied trials, and mockery of our motives in return for our efforts at well doing.

SH 36:1-4

They, who know not purity and affection by experience, can never find bliss in the blessed company of Truth and Love simply through translation into another sphere.

SH 21: 9— 10, 15-24

If the disciple is advancing spiritually, he is striving to enter in. If my friends are going to Europe, while I am *en route* for California, we are not journeying together. We have separate time-tables to consult, different routes to pursue. Our paths have diverged at the very outset, and we have little opportunity to help each other. On the contrary, if my friends pursue my course, we have the same railroad guides, and our mutual interests are identical; or, if I take up their line of travel, they help me on, and our companionship may continue.

SH 538:3-10

Truth should, and does, drive error out of all selfhood. Truth is a two-edged sword, guarding and guiding. Truth places the cherub wisdom at the gate of understanding to note the proper guests.

Radiant with mercy and justice, the sword of Truth gleams afar and indicates the infinite distance between Truth and error, between the material and spiritual, —the unreal and the real.

SH 51:28-8

Jesus was unselfish. His spirituality separated him from sensuousness, and caused the selfish materialist to hate him; but it was this spirituality which enabled Jesus to heal the sick, cast out evil, and raise the dead.

From early boyhood he was about his "Father's business." His pursuits lay far apart from theirs.

His master was Spirit; their master was matter. He served God; they served mammon. His affections were pure; theirs were carnal. His senses drank in the spiritual evidence of health, holiness, and life; their senses testified oppositely, and absorbed the material evidence of sin, sickness, and death.

SH 53:32-54:7

Had he shared the sinful beliefs of others, he would have been less sensitive to those beliefs. Through the magnitude of his human life, he demonstrated the divine Life. Out of the amplitude of his pure affection, he defined Love. With the affluence of Truth, he vanquished error. The world acknowledged not his righteousness, seeing it not; but earth received the harmony his glorified

example introduced.

SH 57:24-30

The wintry blasts of earth may uproot the flowers of affection, and scatter them to the winds; but this severance of fleshly ties serves to unite thought more closely to God, for Love supports the struggling heart until it ceases to sigh over the world and begins to unfold its wings for heaven.

SH 57:15-18, 22-24

Beauty, wealth, or fame is incompetent to meet the demands of the affections, and should never weigh against the better claims of intellect, goodness, and virtue. Human affection is not poured forth vainly, even though it meet no return. Love enriches the nature, enlarging, purifying, and elevating it.

SH 61:4-11

The good in human affections must have ascendancy over the evil and the spiritual over the animal, or happiness will never be won. The attainment of this celestial condition would improve our progeny, diminish crime, and give higher aims to ambition. Every valley of sin must be exalted, and every mountain of selfishness be brought low, that the highway of our God may be prepared in Science.

SH 248:29-32

Let unselfishness, goodness, mercy, justice, health, holiness, love — the kingdom of heaven — reign within us, and sin, disease, and death will diminish until they finally disappear.

SH 451:16-18

If our hopes and affections are spiritual, they come from above, not from beneath, and they bear as of old the fruits of the Spirit.

SH 13:2-3

Love is impartial and universal in its adaptation and bestowals.

SH 5:16-18 God

...God pours the riches of His love into the understanding and affections, giving us strength according to our day.