

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes

Sermon Notes for March 23-24, 2002

Dale Whitehead

"Sacrificial Joy"

Philippians 2:17-18

Paul's first concern was that they work out their salvation (Philippians 2:12-13).

Paul's second concern was that they do all things without grumbling and disputing (Philippians 2:14-16).

The first reason for the church to do all things without grumbling and disputing is that it might function as a beacon of light to a faithless world (Philippians 2:15-16a).

The second reason for the church to do all things without grumbling and disputing is that those who have spiritually labored in our lives might have cause to glory in the day of Christ (Philippians 2:16).

Paul's third concern was that the church would rejoice when their sacrificial service to others in the name of Christ was made complete by the sacrificial actions of those they had served (Philippians 2:17-18).

The Philippian church was struggling to rejoice in Paul's sufferings.

Paul wants the Philippians to know that even if his running and toiling results in his death, he will continue to rejoice (Philippians 2:17).

Since Paul had already introduced the possibility of his death in Philippians 1:20, most commentators believe that the drink offering refers to his present imprisonment and possible execution.

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In the Old Testament, the drink offerings were poured over or beside the burnt offering. It completed the primary sacrifice (Numbers 15:3-10).

The primary sacrifice was the sacrifice being offered by the Philippians on behalf of Paul during his Roman imprisonment (Philippians 4:10-20).

Paul saw himself as an extension of the Philippians work on behalf of the gospel of Christ. He therefore viewed his sufferings and possible death as completing their primary sacrifice.

The NIV translation "rejoice with you all" in verse 17 suggests that the sacrificial service of the Philippians was joyfully embraced not only by them but by Paul.

Paul was glad about their joyful sacrificial service to him. Let the Philippians rejoice with Paul as he joyfully pours himself out upon the sacrifice and service of their faith.