

A pair of weathered, brown hands are held up in a gesture of prayer or offering, palms facing forward. The hands are positioned in the center of the frame. The background consists of rough, reddish-brown stone walls. A warm, golden light source, possibly a candle or a small fire, is visible behind the hands, creating a soft glow and casting long, vertical shadows. The overall mood is one of solemnity and faith.

Proclaiming Christ with Joy &
Peace in all Circumstances

PHILIPPIANS

By the Power of the Resurrection

**Laboring Without
Dispute, Considering
the Work for Christ
More Important than
Our Lives**

What do folks argue about concerning the church?

Not enough programs/ ministries

Too many programs/ ministries

Not enough focus on the culture's politics

Too much focus on the culture's politics

Not singing enough hymns

Singing too many hymns

What should we really be concerned about?

Following Jesus, & knowing God's will through Bible study & prayer

Growing fellow believers through discipling & mentoring

Focusing on growing closer as a family in God's kingdom

Seeking the lost and presenting the gospel of the kingdom of God

Philippians 2:14-16 (LSB) ¹⁴ Do all things without grumbling or disputing, ¹⁵ so that you will be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, ¹⁶ holding fast the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I will have reason to boast because I did not run in vain nor labor in vain.

Our culture feeds on arguing & grumbling. We are called to be blameless and unified in the body of Christ.

Paul wanted to be sure his laboring for them was not in vain. Do we consider that some of our pursuits are exercises in futility?

When we are pure and unified, we stand out as the shining light of Jesus in a world of darkness.

When evaluating your life, what areas need to be cut out?
What areas need to be focused on to shine the light of Jesus?

Philippians 2:17-19 (NIV) ¹⁷ But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you. ¹⁸ So you too should be glad and rejoice with me. ¹⁹ I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, that I also may be cheered when I receive news about you.

Paul's efforts on behalf of the faith of the church in Philippi were significant, and he labored and rejoiced on their behalf. He was eager to know how their faith was progressing and wanted them to rejoice with him even though he was still in chains.

Timothy's ministry was such an important part of Paul's efforts, noted in his letters as well as the time recorded in the book of Acts. Who do you labor in ministry with? Who do you know you can count on? Whenever possible, serving Jesus should be done alongside others.

Are you a person others can count on in God's kingdom?

Philippians 2:18-24 (ESV) ²⁰ For I have no one like him, who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare. ²¹ For they all seek their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. ²² But you know Timothy's proven worth, how as a son with a father he has served with me in the gospel. ²³ I hope therefore to send him just as soon as I see how it will go with me, ²⁴ and I trust in the Lord that shortly I myself will come also.

Someone who is genuinely concerned for others stands out as a beacon of light in this world. How can we be more like Timothy?

Paul didn't live with modern tech. The only way he'd know how the church was progressing was through the communication of those who visited in person. He longed to labor with them in person.

Do you have those who will team with you in presenting the gospel to the lost? Is presenting the gospel a priority in your life?

How can we integrate sharing the gospel into our daily lives?

Philippians 2:25-30 (NKJV) ²⁵ Yet I considered it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother, fellow worker, and fellow soldier, but your messenger and the one who ministered to my need; ²⁶ since he was longing for you all, and was distressed because you had heard that he was sick. ²⁷ For indeed he was sick almost unto death; but God had mercy on him, and not only on him but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow. ²⁸ Therefore I sent him the more eagerly, that when you see him again you may rejoice, and I may be less sorrowful. ²⁹ Receive him therefore in the Lord with all gladness, and hold such men in esteem; ³⁰ because for the work of Christ he came close to death, not regarding his life, to supply what was lacking in your service toward me

Are you a worker, soldier, and family member in God's kingdom?
Do you consider God's call more important than your very life?