

Evidence of a Healthy Church: Brings Joy to Its Leaders

1. The Joy the Church Brought to Paul (3:6-10)

- A. Good news of their _____ in Christ – true faith (vs.6-8)
 - 1. they stood firm in the Lord – parable of 4 soils; good soil hearers; Mk4
 - 2. **Eph6:10-12** – by faith stood firm in the Lord against the evil one
 - * “stand firm” in Gk. a military term, means to stand firm in midst of attack
- B. Good news of their _____ for the Lord (vs.6-8)
 - *they stood firm in the Lord – they loved the Lord above their own lives; **Lk14:25-27**
***John8:42; John14:21; 1John2:5 and 1Thess1:8; 1Thess4:1**
- C. Good news of their _____ for Paul – they thought kindly of him and longed to see him (vs.6-8)
 - 1. Paul was greatly encouraged that they had not believed all the lies and slander about him, but trusted him. (**2Tim1:15; Phil1:12-17, esp vs.17**)
 - 2. The opposite can be true: affliction and bad report on the church caused Paul to be depressed and even lose interest in proclaiming the gospel and ministry – **2Cor7:6**
*But reports from the Corinthian church of their love for Paul greatly encouraged him! **2Cor7:7**
- D. The _____ they brought to Paul (vs.7,9-10)
 - 1. Paul’s overwhelming gratitude to God and joy in Him because of the report of their faith and love: this brought Paul great comfort and filled him with rejoicing. (**vs. 7,9**)
 - 2. “render ... in return” is one word in Gk.; expresses impossibility of repayment

2. The Joy Paul Brought to the Church – Paul’s Prayer (3:11-13)

- A. _____: Prayer to God the Father and Jesus our Lord (**vs.11**)
 - 1. Prays to Triune God: in Gk. reads Himself direct (both sing.) *the 2 are One! **Jn14:8,9**
 - 2. Prays their faith will grow and continue to maturity, **vs.10**, by God bringing him back to them
*notice: overcoming Satan’s hinderance (**2:18**); see **Phil1:22-25**
 - 3. Faith in God is trust in Him and thus, His Word. *Maturity in truth = maturity in trust in God!*
***John14:21; Matt7:24; Coll:28-29**
 - 4. How can you trust who you don’t know??? *God’s Word is Vital! *****Ezra7:10**
- B. _____: Prayer for abounding _____ (vs.12)
 - 1. “increase/abound” – increasing overflowing agape love for one another and all – the lost
 - 2. Notice the flow or outworking of this in our lives: as my faith/trust in God grows, by growing in knowing and trusting His Word, my love for God grows, and thus my love for all people grows! ***John14:21; 2Cor5:14-15; 1Jn4:20; 2 great commandments!**
- C. _____: Prayer for their _____ – the Blessed Hope of the coming of the Lord Jesus (vs.13)
 - 1. “so that” – purpose or culmination of Paul’s prayer for them
 - 2. “establish your heart” – resolute, unmovable in trials and temptations
*this produces holiness, w/out blame; and readiness for Jesus’ return! ***1Jn3:1-3**
***Romans5:1-5**