

Sermon Outlines

Christian Character

“Stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.”
Colossians 4:12

It is suggestive and may be significant that there is a seeming lack of emphasis in Paul's Epistles on an appeal to win or evangelize others - contra, 2 Timothy 4:5. But in writing to churches there is a constant emphasis on Christian life, character, and holiness, with the necessity of realizing full privileges. May there not be a connection between absence of one emphasis and reiteration of the other? If the inner life is right, soul-winning will be the natural and necessary outcome. As water finds its level, so our service, in quality, vitality and blessing, is never higher than the reality of our fellowship with God.

With this in mind, let us consider a prayer of one of Paul's companions, Epaphras, for his converts and friends, as recorded by the Apostle.

I. *The Elements of Christian Character*

1. ***Steadfastness - “stand”***

- (a) Resistance against temptation and error.
- (b) Persistence - painstaking work - e.g., Sunday School, Young People, visiting, witnessing.

2. ***Ripeness - “perfect”***

Maturity realizes the end of our faith.

- (a) Contrast “babe” of 1 Corinthians 3:1, 2 - unripeness
- (b) Contrast “babe” of Hebrews 5:12, 13 - overripeness
- (c) There should be the “happy medium” - with a clearness of spiritual perception, a charm of spiritual attractiveness, and a fruitfulness of spiritual influence.

3. ***Assurance - “complete”***

- (a) A.V. “fulfilled” - R.V. “fully assured”
- (b) Full assurance - faith, understanding, hope
- (c) Assurance of: acceptance - possession
fellowship - communion
resources - provision

II. *The Secret of Christian Character - “in all the will of God”*

- 1. The will of God as the sphere of steadfastness, ripeness and assurance.
- 2. The will of God as revealed in His Word
 - (a) By daily meditation
 - (b) By hourly appeal
 - (c) By constant obedience.

Therefore: Learn, Love, and Live the Word, and find the secret of true Christian life and character.

. . . . *W.H. Griffith Thomas, D.D.*