

Scripture: Exodus 20:1-17 & 1 Peter 3:8-22
Singing: 14:1, 3, 4 – 254:3, 4 – 133:1, 3 – 392:1, 4, 6

Paul's Growing Points for Saints (3)

1. Increased faith
2. Increased joy
3. Increased holiness
4. Increased steadfastness
5. Increased unity
6. Increased courage

I & II & III Review

A. Faith and Holiness have something in common: *both are key to increase joy*

1. The Biblical emphasis on 'joy' is often in context of suffering

a. James 1:2 – 1 Peter 1:5ff – 1 Peter 4:12

2. How could they speak so positively about *joy in suffering*?

a. they believed in God's sovereign control (Rom 8:28; Phil. 1:29)

b. they knew suffering advanced their greatest desire (2 Cor. 12:7-9)

IV. Increased steadfastness

A. Congregation of Philippi was under attack: vs. 28

1. Though 'attack' is not specified, the word choice points to something big

a. adversaries

b. terrified

c. suffer for his sake

2. Though we face stress and strain, we are not (yet) under direct attack

3. What is the temptation when attacked?

a. to flee (stampede)

b. to accommodate

B. We need to pray for *standing fast – solid – unmoved*

1. Picture a battalion of soldiers facing *advancing enemy*: best strategy?

2. Our solid ground is ***Thus saith the LORD = faith of the Gospel***
 - a. one great pillar of the Reformation is *Scripture alone*
 - b. take Christ for example in John 18:37
3. In order to 'stand firm on that ground' you will need to *know your ground*

V. Increased Unity

- A. Steadfastness isn't only ***where you stand*** but also ***how you stand together***
 1. Unity within ranks is triple: *in one spirit, with one mind, striving together!*
 - a. in unity we stand in *unanimity – oneness in*
 - b. a church in unity is believers who strive with one mind together
 2. It is our *combined duty* to strive to for the 'faith of the Gospel'
 - a. the ***Family Worship*** is key to health of the Church

VI. Increased courage

- A. Paul concluded his exhortation with vs. 28a: *be courageous*
 1. Standing together strengthens courage even against fearsome opponents
 - a. courage defined
 2. A courageous Christian standing together has two results
 - a. it infuriates the opposition for it the omen of their destruction (28b)
 - b. it is a convicting testimony of our salvation worked by God (28c)

Courage

Courage is fear that after saying its prayers, move forward.

True bravery is not the absence of fear. It is overcoming fear.
As Christian we do so by looking unto the Lord our Shield and Sword.