

- “Today we cultivate personality far more than we do character”
- Paul calls us to honour and imitate men who imitate Christ

1. Admirable qualities come from admiring your Saviour

- 3 men – similar qualities: selfless, sacrificial, servants
- v5-8 is the heart of the letter & the gospel, and captures and transforms the heart of the Christian
- The words/ideas Paul uses (v19-30) are the same words/ideas he used for Christ (v5-8) - eg. ‘servant’ (1:1, 2:7, 22) ‘until death’ (v8, 30)
- They are the way they are because they keep their eyes on Christ
- But you need to know him as *your* Saviour before he transforms you
- Delight in Christ and you will become like him

2. Three Christ-like qualities to imitate

- a) **Loving concern for Christ’s people** (v19-30 - all 3 men)
- v19-30 radiate warmth and love between all parties
 - Transparent concern (20), tender care (22), deep love (26-27)
 - Christ died for them because he loved them, will we live lovingly towards them?
- b) **Selfless service of Christ’s people** (v19-24 - Timothy)
- A great servant-hearted man, 2 qualities
 - Selfless: “Genuine interest in your welfare... interests of Christ”
 - Build Christ’s kingdom not your own
 - Easy to let our interests get in the way, to fail to take interest in others
 - Servant heart: “as a son with his father he has served with me”
 - In what ways are you serving God’s people?
- c) **Costly sacrifice for Christ’s people** (v25-30 - Epaphroditus)
- 650 mile journey, 6 weeks, pushed himself to the limit, nearly died
 - No ‘play it safe’ Christianity for him – a ‘fellow soldier’ prepared to risk
 - Does our Christianity take us out of our comfort zone – either personally or financially or whatever?
- ### 3. Servants receive a heroes’ welcome
- v25-30 – Warm heartfelt praise
 - Paul is copying the pattern of God the Father (v9-11)
 - We can afford to be servants because our status is secure – honour is ours already
 - All your unseen service will be brought out into the open and you will receive praise and reward (Matthew 25:23)



Notices

Sun	Evening service at Mark & Judiths	8pm
Tues	Prayer time at Seamus & May’s	8pm
Wed 11th	Presbytery meets at Faughan	7.30pm
Sat 14th	Christian Books, and Tear Craft Evening at Milford Church Hall (Tear Fund is a Christian organisation supporting local crafts in developing countries) from 7.30 – 9.30pm. Everyone welcome.	

Mission Team to Nantes (France)

The Nantes 2010 Go Team will take place from 27th March to 5th April. Anyone wishing to be part of the team should contact Rev Andrew Kerr - 048 9070 1721 or andrew@andrewkerr5.wanadoo.co.uk

getting to know the WIDER CHURCH

Congregation: Bready
Presbytery: Western
Location: Between Strabane & Derry
Pastor: Blair McFarland, married to Clare,
three grown children.



Prayer points:

- Give thanks for the good number attending our small group Bible Studies (we have 4 groups with over 30 attending in total). Pray that each person will be helped to grow in the Christian faith through them.
- Pray that people will come to Christ after attending the outreach meetings held last week. Prof. Ted Donnelly spoke on “Portraits of Jesus”. Pray also that Christians who attended will deepen in their love for Jesus.

Sunday 15th - Philippians 3:1-9

Opening Psalm: 106:32-36

Pastor: Mark Loughridge Tel: 074 9123961 email: mark@newlifefellowship.ie
Oversight elders: William Lynch 048 7139 8002 Robert Tait 9101668 Colin Tait 9147352