

PRAYER MEETING
"LOWLINESS OF MIND"

Introduction

1. This letter is marked by JOY
2. Reff: 1: 4, 18, 25, 26; 2:2, 17-18; 3:1 etc
3. The Christian faith makes us joyful
TEXT: Paul exhorts us to "lowliness of mind"

1. WHAT IS MEANT BY "LOWLINESS OF MIND"?

- 1) Something of the "mind" = How we think. There is a worldly way/Christian way of thinking:
 - (i) "things above": the opposite of worldly men
 - (ii) "let this mind...Christ": a self- abasing Saviour
 - (iii)"not I but the grace of God": glory given to God
DOCTRINE: The Christian way to think is opposite to others.
- 2) This is not artificial but genuine humility:
 - (i) it is the fruit which flows from knowing ELECTION
 - (ii) it is the way of love to God and one another
 - (iii)conversion involves dethroning SELF
ILLUSTRATION: Luther's ref. to "Pope Self"
APPLICATION: If you want to be a better Christian attend to this Duty of Self-Mortification.

2. THE TROUBLES WHICH ARISE WHERE IT IS ABSENT

- 1) Why do troubles break out in Church/State/Family?
ILLUSTRATION: Bad feelings one towards another.
Everywhere! Some are not on speaking terms with others!
- 2) It is because of unmortified PRIDE:

- (i) Even Miriam + Aaron against Moses!
- (ii) Even the 12 Disciples of Christ: "Who is the greatest?"
 Remember Diotrephes (3 John)

- 3) A proud Christian is Satan's best friend:
 - (i) They are so touchy, self-important...
 - (ii) They are easily offended
ILLUSTRATION: The blind in John 9 – he offended the Pharisees with his sweet honesty
- 4) This is how the Papacy arose about AD 600 – "Universal Bishop"! **NB**: "Bishops" in NT.
 It forgets: "One is your Master...ye are brethren!"
- 5) So if we are to have happy churches:
 - (i) the humble mind is essential
 - (ii) so that every one puts himself down
APPLICATION: Do we love one another and respect one another's gifts + graces as we should?
 "Let each esteem other BETTER...!"

3. THE BLESSINGS WHICH ABOUND WHERE IT IS PRESENT

- 1) The humble, lowly mind is what Paul here exhorts us all to have.
- 2) The Christian spirit of meekness is precious:
 - (i) it is the spirit of Christ Himself:
ILLUSTRATION: foot-washing: when stuck
 - (ii) it is the spirit of saint-hood:
 "He that would be great among you..."
 "The first shall be last..."
 - (iii)it is the spirit of heaven:
ILLUSTRATION: The way the Persons of the Godhead refer to one another.

3) This one verse would, if obeyed by men, turn earth into a paradise!

CONCLUSION

1. Is this your mind + mine?
2. Let us pray for grace to have more of it!

<p>PSALM</p> <p>147: 1 – 5</p> <p>146: 5 – 9</p> <p>131: 1 – 3</p>
