

Whose Interests Are You Seeking?

Ponder: Whose interest SHOULD I seek?

Scripture: “For all seek their own, not the things which are of Christ Jesus (Phil. 1:21, NKJV). You have to take care of yourself. You can’t help anyone else materially if you have no strength or resources. Unfortunately, this truth can be twisted so that we become focused entirely on ourselves.

During his first Roman imprisonment Paul wrote these words: “But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you shortly, that I may be encouraged when I know your state. For I have no one like-minded who will sincerely care for your state. For all seek their own, not the things which are of Christ Jesus” (Philippians 2:19-21).

When Paul said “all seek their own,” he wasn’t talking about pagans, but Christians! Timothy was an obvious exception, as Paul pointed out. Timothy genuinely cared about others; specifically, he cared about how the Christians at Philippi were doing. Seeking the things of Christ certainly includes looking out for the interests of fellow-Christians! In fact, only a few verses earlier, Paul specifically said, “Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others” (2:4).

God has always required people to look out for each other and treat each other the right way. Cain famously asked, “Am I my brother’s keeper?” Well, the answer is, “Yes, you are, and you did the worst possible job of it!”

Timothy shared Paul’s concern about how the Philippians were doing. So he would visit the Philippians not only to satisfy himself that they were ok, but to ease Paul’s mind.

Paul wrote in 1 Cor. 13:5 that “love does not seek its own.” That is to say, a person who loves is not selfish, not self-centered, not self-absorbed. A loving person also looks out for the interests of others.

Jesus taught us to “Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness” (Matt. 6:33). As we’ve seen, that includes looking out for one another. That’s been difficult during this pandemic with personal contact being so limited. But we have other means of communication. Let’s use them to make certain that our brothers and sisters are ok.

Song: “I Love You With The Love Of The Lord”

Prayer: Father, please forgive us for our self-centeredness. Help us to seek the things of Christ. In His name, Amen.