

Lifeline Bible Church Bible Study Outline



SILENT SAINTS – STUDY ONE:

PREAMBLE: The Bible revolves around personalities. It is the biography of humanity. It deals with the stories of men and women of like passions as ourselves. In this study we shall be looking at uncommon or unpopular characters with the aim of learning salient lessons from them. This is the reason why it is tagged SILENT SAINTS.

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LESSON 1: THE ELECT LADY: II JOHN 1:1 - 13 Nameless

PECULIARITIES

1. **HER FAITH, FOUNDATION & FOLLOW UP:** Elect of God. V 1,1Cor. 3:11-14.
2. **DESCRIPTION:** LADY-Typifies a higher grade of woman. Poise, dignity in speech , conduct, achievements and exploits.
The word lady used for a)Princess, suitor of a princess, b) woman of social distinction or position, c) wife of a man who has received a title or honor. THIS LADY in question earned the title.
3. **STRENGTH:** No mention of her husband. Perhaps a widow or a single mother. Though without a husband or father figure for her children, she did not focus on the rough side of life she had experienced. She ensured that what others would use as excuse for non-performance, failure or complain became a tool of work to excel. She turned her SCARS into STARS.
4. **DEEDS:** Hospitality, labor amidst believers V 10,12
5. **INFLUENCE:** As a mother over her children V1,& 4
6. **FELLOWSHIP:** with the believers V1
7. **ASSOCIATION/ACQUINTANCE:** V1,2 &13
8. **CHARACTER:** Truth, integrity, honesty, purity V1 &12
9. **KNOWLEDGE:** Truth V1 Col.3:16
10. **TEACHER/ INSTRUCTOR:** V 5
11. **CONSEL:** V7,10-11 Ps1:1-3
12. **HER JOY:** Wholesome scriptural discussions. , Col.3:16

SALIENT POINTS:

ELECT: Chosen out of many by GOD. Based on: BY GRACE THROUGH FAITH NOT OF WORKS LEST ANY MAN SHOULD BOAST. The same grace this lady enjoined is what brought us to Christ.

THE DIFFERENCE:

After salvation experience what did this LADY do to earn her such description by the Apostle John?

BUILDING UPON THE FOUNDATION: 1Cor. 3:11-14

HOW? IIPet.1:5 – 10

ADD VIRTUES: Good moral quality. Goodness of character. Character is a set of traits or quality that distinguishes one person from the other.

KNOWLEDGE: Col.3:16, Rom.16:19.

TEMPERANCE: Self control (Visitors in the home)

PATIENCE: Suffer delay, pain, irritation etc quietly without complaining

GODLINESS:” IWA BI OLORUN”

BROTHERLY KINDNESS: Readiness to do good to others especially the brethren.

CHARITY: Kindness shown to the poor or less privileged in terms of money, material or service.

FRUITFULNESS: Producing after your kind i.e. offspring

COLLOSSIANS 3:12-25:

AFFECTIONS: On things above. Constant thought about the hereafter.

MORTIFY: earthly members. Kill fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection (“IFEKUFÉ ARA”), evil concupiscence, and covetousness.

PUT OFF: Anger- bitter feeling against someone/ something

MALICE: Wish to harm other people

WRATH: Violent anger uncontrolled and destructive anger.

BLASPHEMY:

FILTHY COMMUNICATION: Dirty slangs

LIES: Things that are not true.

PUT ON:

Bowels of mercy, Kindness, Humbleness of mind, Meekness, Longsuffering, Forbearance, Forgiveness.

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SILENT SAINTS – STUDY TWO:

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LESSON 2: JONADAB SON OF RECHAB. JER.35:1-19, DEUT.6:6-9

INSTRUCTIONS HE GAVE TO HIS DESCENDANTS:

1. Drink no wine.
2. Build no houses.
3. Sow neither seeds nor plant vineyards.
4. Dwell in tents.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION:

A man who:

1. Learnt Instruction
2. Abode by instruction
3. Taught instruction
4. Sustained instruction with blessings.

LESSONS HE PASSED ACROSS

1. Do not live in pleasure (fleshly passions).
2. Do not amass wealth (No materialism).
3. Live as strangers & pilgrims.
4. Be content.
5. The secret of excellence/ outstanding performance to be singled out for Heaven's attention.
6. Blessings of obedience are eternal. An everlasting covenant with God usually ensues.

WHY THESE LESSONS?

PLEASURE: (FLESHLY PASSIONS) Gal. 5:16 & 1Jn2:16

1. People given to pleasure never excel at good and godliness
2. Pleasure is a close associate of sins and vices.
3. Pleasure destroys insight and foresight.
4. Pleasure grieves the Holy Spirit.
5. Pleasure will ultimately quench the fire of the Holy Spirit.
6. Pleasure makes you a friend of the world and an enemy of God.

**LOVE OF MONEY & MATERIALISM: 1Tim.6:1-10 EMPHACY ON VERSE 10
BEFORE MONEY & MATERIALISM COMES**

1. Diverse temptations
2. Snares
3. Foolish lusts.
4. Hurtful lusts.
5. Spiritual drowning.

AFTER MONEY & MATERIALISM COMES

1. Intoxicates like power.
2. Gives false confidence.
3. Gives false security.
4. Makes man forget God.
5. Is deceitful: chokes the WORD in our hearts.
6. Brings spiritual unfruitfulness.
7. Erring from the faith.
8. Sorrows. The rich also cry!
9. Destruction.
10. Perdition.

PILGRIMS & STRANGERS: Heb. 11:13 & 1Pet.2:9-11

1. Makes you conscious of your identity. (RANTI OMO ENI TI IWO ISE).
2. Helps you to abstain from fleshly lusts.
3. Makes you home conscious.

CONTENTMENT.1TIM.6:5-7

1. Gain is not godliness
2. Godliness and contentment go together. They are like identical and inseparable twins.

AN EVERLASTING COVENANT WITH GOD. Jer.35:19 & 1Sam.2:31-36

A LESSON FOR FATHERS. JONADAB SUCCEEDED WHERE ELI THE PRIEST FAILED.

****** ATTITUDE OF MUSLIM PARENTS TO ISLAMIC SCHOOL VS CHRISTIAN PARENTS AND BIBLE STUDY: LESSONS TO LEARN. DON'T OVER-PAMPER YOUR CHILDREN!**

ARE WE RAISING SONS OF ELI OR SONS OF RECHAB?

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LESSON 3: TRYPHENA AND TRYPHOSA: Rom.16:12

BRIEF DESCRIPTION:

They were Greek by birth, probably, twins. If not were just sisters (siblings) from the same parents. Some scholars prefer to see them as close family relations. The meaning of their names “Delicate” is the strong reason for those who take them to be twins.

They were conspicuous in the Church at Rome to have caught the notice of Paul; otherwise he would not have singled them out for commendation.

They showed their devotion to God and the body of believers by their LABOR. Please note that labor means HARD AND CONSISTENT EFFORT (WORK).

They were said to have been of noble birth.i.e born with silver or gold spoon. They did not allow their wealthy background to make them proud and so uncommitted to the brethren and to God as we see in the Church today.

For those who prefer to see their name as an emblem of their physical weakness (like Leah),: these women did not allow their form to dictate the extent of their service to the Lord and the brethren.

They stood and still stand as examples of arduous labors in the service of the church. Some scholars see their names as an emblem of gentility and refined manners or both. These sisters carved a niche for themselves in Paul’s portrait gallery of saints.

Early Christian inscriptions in cemeteries used chiefly for servants of the emperor contain the names of these women and so they can be identified as being among “the saints of Caesar’s house hold. In contemporary terms they were CIVIL OR PUBLIC SERVANTS. In this capacity these women still lived out their faith.

They were not so and too preoccupied with their jobs and means of livelihood to forget to LAY UP TREASURES in their eternal account. They banked on earth and in Heaven.

COMMON TRAITS IN TWINS (MALE OR FEMALE) OR CLOSE FAMILY ASSOCIATES.

1. Mischief. The simplest of which are lies.
2. Fashion consciousness.
3. Party spirit.
4. Silent or obvious competitions.
5. Materialism.
6. Unequal yoke.
7. Seriousness/ Unseriousness.
8. Complaints against each other especially from the partner that seems not to be well off.
9. Strife.
10. Jealousy and envy.

None of these were mentioned about the lives of TRYPHENA and TRYPHOSA. They were simply PARTNERS IN FAITH, SERVICE AND DEVOTION.

ONE OTHER BIBLICAL SIBLING: HOPHNI AND PHINEHAS 1Sam.2:12-36

1. Though sons of Prophet Eli, they actually were sons of Belial.
2. They knew not the Lord despite the godly upbringing they had/ better still despite the fact that they were raised in the temple courts.
3. They despised God’s sacrifice.
4. They were greedy and gluttons.
5. They abhorred the offering of the Lord.
6. They were guilty of adultery; perpetrated their immoral acts right in the temple.(Worse than those selling buying and selling in the temple).
7. They made God’s people to transgress.
8. They disregarded and despised warnings.
9. They brought the wrath of God upon themselves, their father and their lineage.
10. They were the originator of “HIRELINGS” in God’s service.
11. They died prematurely.
12. They laid the foundation of premature death in their lineage.

***The lives of these two men is a direct opposite of the lives of Tryphena and Tryphosa who though started off in life as heathens ended up as HEROINES of the Christian faith.

LET US TAKE HEED UNTO OURSELVES!

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LESSON 4: PHARAOH’S DAUGHTER - Exod.2:5-15, Acts 7:21-30, Heb.11:24

BRIEF DESCRIPTION:

A NAMELESS PRINCESS: The Kings of Egypt are generally called Pharaoh. The Pharaoh in question is the one that ruled around the time Moses was born. History scholars are still trying to ascertain who amidst three Egyptian Kings her father was namely: Aahames I, Rameses II or Seti I. Whoever amidst these three, the Bible does not specify. The name of this Princess was also not given, but her deeds have not and cannot be erased from the sands of time.

LESSONS:

- 1. AN ONLY DAUGHTER:** The expression “Pharaoh’s daughter” and not “One of Pharaoh’s daughters” connotes she was an only female child with or without brothers as siblings.
- 2. A PROMINENT EGYPTIAN LADY:** As an ONLY princess, she was prominent in Egypt at that time. The only other prominent Egyptian lady spoken of in the Old Testament is Portiphar’s wife who is no match for her. What image does your personality portray as a Nigerian and a Christian?
- 3. A WOMAN OF GOOD CHARACTER:** Portiphar’s wife stands out as an “Undisciplined, cruel (brutal) , violent and lying woman” this princess proved to be Kind, Tender, and Compassionate and Truthful. She made no attempt to hide the identity of the baby she found by the River bank whom she named Moses (Miracle Baby Practice in Nigeria today).

4. "A TYPE OF MARY SLESSOR". (Trace the genesis of the King's decree Ex.1). Although she did not stop the killing of Hebrew boys generally, she was instrumental to saving the life of Moses. **She was the female SAVIOR OF ISRAEL.**

5. AN IDOLATER: Being an Egyptian, she certainly had a background of idolatry. She was a worshiper of the SUN. She may be classified in the same group as Rahab the harlot and Ruth. Here's is another case in point to prove there is nobody great or small from whatever type of background that God cannot use to achieve his purpose.

6. A SINGLE WOMAN: No record in the Bible and History that this Princess ever married or raised any other child of her own. Perhaps the essence of her creation was just to save the life of Moses which SHE FULFILLED. She was not a desperate woman. She did not waste her life lamenting over what she did not have. She used what she had: Her "singleness and princessness" to achieve greatness. She will forever be remembered in her singleness where most married women (mothers) and their deeds go unnoticed and perhaps forgotten. God can use us INSPITE OF OUR LOT IN LIFE.

7. THE FIRST TO ADOPT A BABY: She stands out in Biblical history as the first woman and person to adopt a baby that is not even of her own nationality.

8. A SELFLESS WOMAN: In adopting Moses as her son, she did not think of what she stood to gain. People who put personal gain as the basis of their actions often lose out at the end. Remember getting married to the rescued boy was out of the issue. The wide age gap and nativity of the baby were obvious restraint (Gal.6:10, Lk.6:38).

9. "A SOUGHT" WOMAN (Ezek.22:30): This perhaps may describe this princess. May be there was a conference in heaven on who could actually have been used to save the life of Moses. Any other person would not have been able to withstand the order of the King. God is always searching for vessels to use for specific purposes even now. Will He find YOU and I?

10. SIMPLE AND MERCIFUL (NOT POWER DRUNK): Again comparing this Princess who certainly wielded more power than Portiphar's wife one can see simplicity. She could have ordered the killing of the baby in the basket in compliance with her father's decree. Instead she showed mercy (Exod.2:6).

11. A RISK TAKER: Guilty of TREASONABLE FELONY, if charged but she did not consider the risk she was taking by pitching her tent against her father (the king)'s decree. Love, compassion, tenderness, prevailed over her young mind. What risks have you taken on account of your convictions, passion, faith and commitment to the Lord? What sacrifices have you made? Behold He stands at the door of your heart knocking and making a request from you. Would you oblige Him?

12. A BOLD AND CORAGEOUS WOMAN: It takes boldness and courage to do what this princess did. Compare with Gideon. How many times have we chickened out of God's plan and purposes for fear of what men might say or do to harm or hurt us? Remember NO PAIN, NO GAIN.

13. A GUIDED WOMAN: Have you ever asked why this princess went to the river bank at the time she did? While we would not attribute this to her as a sign of godliness, it is sufficient to see the unseen guiding hands of God at work. God in our situations! So it was for Jochebed and her son. May the Lord bring the people of power and influence destined to usher us into his plan and to preserve us for his divine purpose our way! * **If God guided the heathen and gave them revelations how much more you His child? The question to ask is are we available or quiet enough in our spirit to sense His promptings?**

14. A GENEROUS WOMAN (Exod.2:9 & Acts 7:22): This she displayed as follows:

i. She paid for Jochebed's services as a nanny

ii. She bestowed all the privileges of son ship upon Moses.

She paid for Moses education, giving him the best of that time. In her custody, Moses got part of the training he needed for his life, ministry and calling (Arithmetic, Geometry, Mathematics, Sciences, Arts and Egyptian Laws). High morals were not left out. Through her Moses was given "BROAD SPECTRUM Training .Remember Moses was in the palace for 40years!!

15. A WOMAN OF INTEGRITY: Let us not imagine this Princess had it smooth throughout the time she raised Moses in the palace as her son. She certainly must have faced all manners of opposition and difficulty in spite of the fact that God was working through her. She could have caved in or bowed out of all the trouble. Perhaps councils of elders met severally to deliberate on the possible repercussion of her actions. May be she was called to defend her convictions. She stood true to her commitment even when it hurt (**Ps.15:4b**). **How frequently do you renege on promises, commitments, and worse still vows made to men and God?**

16. AN INFLUENTIAL WOMAN: Some areas of her influence include.

i. Her cruel father: Perhaps using the power of entreaty and persuasion.

ii. Her maids- a role model

iii. Officials in the royal court- strict and disciplinarian

iv. Moses-defense against ceaseless, implacable envy and hostility of officers in the royal court.

Influence is the power to affect people or events. It could be good or bad. Pharaoh's daughter in the account of the history of Moses exercised positive or good influence.

She excelled above many princesses and queens. (Compare with Portiphar's wife, Jezebel, Herodias, e.tc).

She was outstanding, unusually good, extraordinary, rare, and uncommon.

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LESSON 5: ANDRONICUS & JUNIAS: Rom16:7, 1Cor.4:1-2,9-14.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION:

Andronicus –Conqueror. Junias- Youth. (Probably a variant of Jun meaning Truth/Obedient)

1. Relatives (Kinsmen) of Paul.
2. Fellow Prisoners.
3. Fellow apostle.
4. Noted/outstanding amongst the apostles.
5. In Christ before Paul. Probably part of the 70 sent out/ had encounter with Christ in his life time/First fruit of Pentecost after the Upper room experience.

WHO IS AN APOSTLE?

Someone sent forth, messenger.

An ambassador of the Gospel. He is appointed to act for his government in another country in governing or administrative capacity.

A commissioner of Christ with miraculous power . A representative of the government in a district /department.

Leaders in the church given by God to stand as Father figure(treating men as beloved sons of self and God.

They: 1. Caution 2. Reprove 3. Admonish 4. Exhort 5.Rebuke 6. Correct 7. Counsel 8. Consult 9 .Discipline 10. Influence the brethren on God’s behalf.

APOSTLES IN SCRIPTURE & OTHER CHRISTIANS.

1. Likened to condemned men/appointed to death.
2. A spectacle, being watched by men(the world), angels in the discharge of their administrative duties in God's vineyard. A city set on a hill that cannot be hidden.
3. Fools for Christ sake.
4. Weak.
5. Despised (looked upon with scorn and contempt on account of their experiences and things they suffer because of their faith).
6. Hunger and thirst
7. Naked/in rags.
8. Buffeted (beaten/brutal treatment).
9. No certain dwelling place(Non-stationary, ready to move)
10. Laboring with their own hands. Distinguished in their field. Not indolent, not hirelings, not sons of Eli in pursuit of daily bread/fame/power/position. (Peter, Paul, James, John etc).
11. Reviled/cursed/Assaulted.
12. Suffered and endured persecution.
13. Defamed/slandered
14. Scum(filth/refuse) of the world
15. Entrusted with secret things of God.
16. Servants of Christ. A person employed to help to run a house/in the administration of a country.
17. Stewards of Christ. A Person who helps to arrange, manage an estate or farm for a superior person. He may supervise the supply of food and stores.
18. A trustee.

ANDRONICUS & JUNIAS Vs PAUL.

1. **RELATIVES**: They accorded Paul the expected honor and respect. Did not treat him with contempt neither did they despise God's authority in Paul's life. ("Aifagba f'enikan ni o jaiye o gun").Compare with Aaron and Miriam & Korah's rebellion in the wilderness.
2. **FELLOW PRISONERS**: Certainly these men were not apologetics, non-conformists, bold and daring like Paul. They contended for their faith.
3. **FELLOW APOSTLES**: They were like Paul in all respects as apostles as treated above, yet they recognized at it were that Paul was a chosen "CAPTAIN" in the apostolic class. They contended for their faith but not with Paul in leadership. They worked but did not strive nor compete. They co-operated and there was no rivalry. As a "Captain, Paul perhaps was more widely travelled, learned being a lawyer, eloquent in speech(an orator), a choleric Work oriented),strong-willed, a prolific writer(13 Out of the 27 books of the NT were written by him). They were not given to eye service, disputing, murmurings. They esteemed Paul better than themselves. This is the reason for their co-operation and not competition with Paul.
4. **OUTSTANDING AMONGST THE APOSTLES**: These men proved to be extra ordinary. Though leaders in a sense were also servants. Though superior were also subordinates.

They had pre-eminence but were also abased. What a good balance of roles and responsibilities!!

5. **IN CHRIST BEFORE PAUL**: Spiritually older, but not puffed up. They were no intimidators using neither age, privileges, nor experience against Paul. They stand out as MODELS OF CONTENTMENT, HUMILITY, CHRISTLIKENESS and GODLINESS.
6. **TRUE TO THEIR NAMES!** Andronicus conquered the flesh! Junias was truthful and obedient to the heavenly calling.

CONCLUSION: Phil.2:1-15

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LESSON 6: PHEOBE Rom.16:1-2

BRIEF DESCRIPTION.

PHEOBE means Pure and radiant as the moon. The woman in our study today is one of the numerous ladies who helped in the early church. Not a popular person, in fact her name is not amongst the names people love to bear, but church history presents her as a godly model worthy of emulation. Paul described her as:

1. Our sister.
2. A servant of the Church.
3. A saint.
4. A succourer of many Paul inclusive.

A SISTER: A sister is -

1. A female child amongst siblings of the same parents.
2. Female relative with the same parents.
3. Female member of the same group –religious or otherwise.
4. A female nurse.

PECULIAR TRAITS OF SISTERS (SIBLINGS).

1. Same parent
2. Same nationality.
3. Work to build a home.
4. Same/similar/complementary focus, agenda or program.
5. Mind the same things to achieve a specific goal either positive or negative.

6. Assist their father/parents in his/their business.
7. Live in the same house.
8. Friends—play, laugh, quarrel, but reunite.
9. Stand together in adversity. Love and care.
10. Each person contributes her own quota.
11. Highly sacrificial.
12. Enduring.

A SISTER AS A NURSE cares for the sick, doing jobs that her brothers may not and cannot do by default. A nurse does not take care of his/her family members alone.

PHEOBE: Was a single sister. She used her singles for effective, productive and commendable service in God's vineyard.

If singleness in her time was a scar, she turned her scar into a STAR. What are the scars in your life? Please yield them to God. He alone gives grace and enablement to help you turn them into STARS. Phoebe .While you may consider it a DEPRIVATION, it is also an asset, privilege, grace, rare opportunity for uncommon and selfless service to God and humanity.

Not only ladies are called into singleness. The problem in many marriages is also due to the fact that many men who were not meant to marry have done so.

- Married (Many troubles) 1 Cor.7:25-39

As a single sister PHEOBE possessed her vessel in purity. She was and is an example of what Christ can do in a life through CONSECRATED SINGLE HOOD/SPINSTERHOOD. How pure are you as a single brother /sister?

A SERVANT:

- A person hired and paid to do personal service for someone.(No one like you, none can take your place though you can be replaced if not functional. Your talents gifts and grace are unique and peculiar. Are you effective or is God declaring a vacancy on your sit, position and role?)

-A person who serves someone rather than controlling their activities.

-A person hired to work for another especially to help run a home.

-A person employed to administer (manage) the affairs of a business or organization.

There are cadres/hierarchy in servant hood. All Christians and workers in a business concern should appreciate this, but also realize the difference in spheres / jurisdiction /levels and areas of service.

A manager is certainly not in the same category of servant hood as a messenger or gateman. In the same vein a Pastor/leaders and church members.

All are working for the same King and master but our authorities and responsibilities are different. Phoebe recognized this and stood at her duty post.

- Servants are paid for their service. God owes no one. While an earthly employer can only pay in this world, God pays both now and in the hereafter. Rev.21:12, 11Cor.5:10, Col.3:23, Gal.6:9.
- All servants can be likened to vessels in a house. Various types, shapes, shades, color, capacity and functions but all are valuable and necessary in the smooth running of a house.
- All servants can also be likened to the various parts of the body. Each part is located in the best possible place, to service a peculiar purpose and still work for the general well being of the body. Are you rightly placed? Are you a round peg in a round hole or a square peg in a round hole physically and spiritually?
- A servant is also someone who yields his will and resources (Talents, strengths etc) for the service and interest of another person. If you want to be great in God's kingdom, you must learn to be a servant of all.

ATTITUDES IN SERVICE: 1 Pet.2:18 -19, Eph.6:5-6, Col.3:22, Tit.2:9, & 1Tim.6:1

PHEOBE WAS A SERVANT IN ALL THESE REGARDS. HER SERVICE GAVE HER GOODWILL.SOMEIMES THIS IS ALL WE NEED TO HAVE OUR NEEDS MET NOT MONEY. MAY GOD INCREASE US IN SERVANT HOOD.

A SAINT:

A very good, kind and unselfish person.

Officially recognized after death by a church as being specially holy and worthy of honor. The bible does not give any ritual or ceremonial procedure for becoming a saint as the Roman Catholic Church would have us believe (beatification).

All that is required to be a saint is pure, holy and godly living. Phoebe had all this.

* Not necessarily dead as seen here by Paul's description of Phoebe and other Christians. Eph.1:1, 6:18, Col.1:1, Phil.1:1, 4:21.

- In the light of the scriptures, a saint is
- a) God's elect (b) Stranger in this world, a citizen of heaven eagerly waiting for the return of the Lord (c) Someone who through the righteousness of God and Jesus Christ have received a lifestyle different from the values of this world. (d) A member of the church in God the father (e) Someone called to be holy in Christ (f) the faithful in Christ. Compare with Phil.3:18-19

A SUCCOURER: Matthew 25:35-45

- Someone who offers ready help in difficulty or adversity.Phil2:4
- Dependable, a friend that that sticks closer than a brother
- Liberal, unselfish, charitable and full of hospitalityEph.4:28.

Phoebe was a succourer to MANY APART FROM PAUL. She was God's agent to offer ready help to people in their moments of trouble or challenges. WE need to create more time to attend to one another.

CONCLUSION: Phil.3:12-14

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SILENT SAINTS – STUDY SEVEN:

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LESSON 7: EPAENETUS, AMPLIATUS, STACHYS AND PERSIS. Rom.16: 5, 8, 9.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION:

All were Greek Christians. Epaenetus means Praise worthy. Ampliatus means Enlarged. Stachys probably means diligent. Persis means 'an ear of grain'.

They all at one point gave their lives to Christ, had contact with Paul, chose to stay with him. Identified with the cause Paul lived for. Paul described them all as

FRIENDS (NIV), KING JAMES BELOVED:

For the purpose of this study we shall stick to the description of friend mostly. Additional descriptive words

1. First convert in the Province of Asia
2. Helper
3. Laborer

FRIEND:

A friend is an acquaintance, an associate, a companion, confidant, comrade, partner, supporter, playfellow and playmate.

PECULIAR THINGS ABOUT FRIENDSHIP:

1. Every body has friends. God and the devil inclusive.
2. Friends may be good or bad.

3. Friendship is essential for life and living.
4. Friends are personally chosen or selected.
5. They often or are expected to have like minds. Birds of the same feather flock together. Show me your friend and I will show you who you are.
6. They eat, play together. Communion in table here and in heaven.
7. They visit each other and sometimes, often or always live together. (Courtship leading to marriage and eventual promise of Heaven to believers in Christ by God for eternity. Note the same reason for those who would end up in Hell.
8. They confer and reason together, counsel /advice or admonish each other.
9. They correct, rebuke, reproof, and sometimes discipline each other.
10. They may conspire/Aspire to do things together.
11. They may cover/make up for each other.
12. Defend and protect each other.
13. Give/ share .
14. Work for and with each other.
15. Commune (Talk/discuss frankly and bluntly) with each other.
16. Confide in each other. Share secrets.
17. Support each other in every necessary and possible way.
18. Not expected to betray each other's confidence or trust.

FRIENDSHIP IN LIFE AND SCRIPTURES:

1. Age mates, class mates, school mates.
2. Siblings.
3. Husband and wife.
4. Mother and Child.
5. Parents and children.
6. Neighbors.
7. David and Jonathan.
8. Dinah and other women of Schechem. Gen.34
9. Samson and the strange women – judg.14-16
10. Amnon and Jonadab 11Sam.13
11. Rehoboam and his friends. 1Kgs12
12. Ahab and Jehoshaphat – 1Kg.22: 1-28
13. Micaiah and Ahab/Jehoshaphat.
14. Jesus and the early disciples (the 3 (Peter, James and John, the 12,120 and others).
15. Jesus and Judas
16. Jesus and Christians generally – Jn.15: 15-16
17. The Holy Spirit and Christians.
18. God and man.

While we may choose not to make certain people our friends, the truth is we have no choice but to make God our friend. He has already given us an invitation. He demonstrated his love to us while we were yet in sin and unborn by the gift of the Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit

after conversion. If we reject Him now we will still meet Him in judgment. Then He will be free and justified to do with us what He deems fit. All messages and teachings we receive are meant to make us better friends with Him. May we make the best use of them all.

OTHER DESCRIPTIONS:

FIRST CONVERT IN ASIA PROVINCE:

Epaenetus was the first convert to the Christian faith in the entire province of Asia. He must have been consistent in fellowship with God and the brethren to the intent that he became a partner, associate, acquaintance, supporter, helper of Paul in ministry. In doing this I believe he fulfilled his calling. Just like a faithful wife in marriage. Rom.12:1, 11Tim.2:15, 3:16, Col.3:16.

He used this singular privilege for the benefit of the brethren, Church, God and his workmen in Spirit and in truth. What are you first in? Education, marriage, business/ employment, child birth, property acquisition. etc. How are you using these privileges? Remember all are for a specific and definite purpose. May the Lord open our eyes to see possible areas of neglect or blindfoldedness.

HELPER:

To help is to aid, assist, support, back up.

For help to be effective, the helper must know

1. Who to help.
2. What type of help to render
3. When to give the help.
4. How to give the help.
5. When to stop momentarily or permanently to offer help.
6. Appreciate rules guiding the help being rendered.

While we do not have the details of the way these three saints in our study helped Paul, my prayer and trust is that God will help us to work according to His set rules and standards lest our works be burnt and we work in vain.

LABOURER:

To labour is to work hard diligently and persistently. If Paul used this word, remember he was a lettered man, a lawyer in particular who understood the use and meaning of words. These silent saints really laboured! The same set of factors considered under helper should be considered here too for God will/may not reward what He has not asked or inspired us to do especially if we neglect what we are meant and created to do. May He find us at our duty post when He comes searching like He did in the Garden of Eden.

Lifeline Bible Church Bible Study Outline



SILENT SAINTS – STUDY EIGHT:

PREAMBLE: The Bible revolves around personalities. It is the biography of humanity. It deals with the stories of men and women of like passions as ourselves. In this study we shall be looking at uncommon or unpopular characters with the aim of learning salient lessons from them. This is the reason why it is tagged SILENT SAINTS.

All characters of scripture are GOLD MINE of lessons and experiences if we remember the fact that they lived similar lives like us. They had troubles, challenges, pains, deprivations. They however triumphed by their FAITH and CONVICTIONS.

The Characters studied so far in this series of studies are:

1. The Elect Lady
2. Jonadab the Son of Rechab
3. Tryphena and Tryphosa
4. Pharaoh's Daughter
5. Andronicus and Junias
6. Pheobe
7. Epeanetus, Ampliatus, Stachys and Persis.

LESSON 8: APELLES. Rom16:10.

The meaning of this man's name is not certain but his deeds did not go unnoticed. He was a silent worker, perhaps an introvert. While lots of extroverts may be loud or lousy about their duties many introverts may also be silently working and serving. They may eventually prove to be more effective and efficient. Their efforts may not be noticed or commended as was done for lots of the characters under this study. The truth is nothing goes without God and heaven's notice. Paul described Apelles (NIV Bible) as

1. Tested
2. Approved.

TEST means

1. A set of questions/exercises intended to find out a person's ability/knowledge.
2. Something done to find out whether a thing is good, strong and efficient.

3. An event/ situation showing how good or bad something is. e.g. a test of his courage cf (trials & temptations).
 4. A way to find out if something exists or is present.cf fruit of the Spirit.
 5. Something done to see if two/more things match or not.
 6. To have one's knowledge or ability tested formally.
- * Tests constitute part of an examination procedure. They are often done continuously over a period of time with or without the knowledge of the person being tested.

EXAMINE:

1. To look at something closely. (Appreciate possibly for good attributes).
2. To inspect closely. (Check for defaults, weak points/areas of improvement).
3. To consider carefully. (With the intention of making a choice/deciding what to use /do with something).

NOTE: Examiner or Person administering a test is usually greater/stronger person/, body /institution/organization.

EXAMINATION: Series of tests that must be passed to be admitted or permitted to another level or class.

- Tests and examinations are common to life in all spheres and stages.
- They do not take the same form, though the principles of assessment are the same.
- Tests and examinations for the Christians are like Trials and Temptations.

APPROVED means to be pleased with or think well of a person.

It also means to be satisfied with someone's performance after being tested. (Apply definitions of test and examinations above).

TEST INSTRUMENTS.

1. Privileges, positions and spheres of influence.
2. Opportunities/Chances.
3. Possessions. (Money/material).
4. People.
5. Pressures/Challenges.
6. Situations and circumstances.
7. Denials.
8. Answered Prayers/Graces, Gifts and Talents.
9. Service/Duties, Ministry/Calling.
10. Faith.

ESSENCE OF TESTS.

1. Increase us in the exercise and use of the fruit of the Spirit.James1:3-4,Gal.5:22.
2. Praise and honor to God in this life and the next.Mthw5:16

3. Praise and honor to the believer in this life and the next.1Pet.1:7
4. Spiritual maturity. Increase perfection in us.
5. To purge and purify our lives. Job23:10,Jn15:2
6. Display God's transforming power in our mortality and depravity.2Cor.12:8-10.
7. Disgrace or shame the Devil; the arch enemy of our souls. Job in his trials.
8. To increase our dependence on God.Jn.15:1-5
9. To perfect God's strength in our weaknesses.2Cor.12:8-10
10. Ultimate salvation of our souls.1Pet.1:7
11. The outcomes are part of the basis of our reward in Heaven.Rev.22:12, 3:5, 12, and 22. 2:7,10,17,26.
12. To strengthen the bond of unity amongst believers starting from friends, family units and entire congregations.