

September 17, 2020

Because God loves you, He Provides- Part 101

Did you know that God loves you more than anyone else could ever love you?

God proves His love to you by His affection. Phil. 1:8 “God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.”

The Greek word for affection is *splanchnois* which means the deepest part of my soul or with deep emotion. Paul is using this illustration to tell the church at Philippi that he longed for them from the deepest part of his being. He uses this word because it mirrors the kind of affection that God has for His own children. You understand the difference if you have children. You might really like kids, but when they are your own, there is no one that can take their place. In the same manner, Paul was a spiritual father to the people of the church in Philippi and even though he was in prison in Rome, he longed to be with the church and the people there. He had wonderful memories of how God had moved in that church and that so many people had chosen to follow Christ.

Paul even starts this verse by saying that God could testify how much he longed to be with them. Have you ever been “homesick?” I remember when I had gone off to college as a young man, just turning 18. I was so excited to get to the university, meet new people, play football, and, oh yes, study..... But it didn’t take too long until I realized that I was hundreds of miles away from my family and I couldn’t just go home and see them. By the time Thanksgiving break came around, I was so excited to be able to “go home” for a couple of days. As Dorothy says in “The Wizard of Oz,” “there’s no place like home.”

One of these days soon, Jesus is coming to take us to the place that He has prepared for us. It will truly be home. My heart longs for that day.

Dear Father, You have called us as Your children. You have given us of Your Holy Spirit. You have gifted us with spiritual gifts. But I look forward to the day that I get to see You face to face. Until then, help us to work as if the night is coming. In Jesus Name, Amen