

Words to Live by (Prov + John 12)

by Phil Beach Jr.

Phil Beach Jr. emphasizes the importance of dying to self, humility, and love in relationships to truly reflect Christ's life and bear lasting fruit.

Duration: 22:16

Scripture: Proverbs 16:32, Proverbs 17:9-10, Proverbs 17:14, Proverbs 18:12-13, Matthew 16:24, John 12:20-36, Galatians 2:20, James 1:19

Topics: "Christian Life", "Humility", "Transformation"

Description

Phil Beach Jr. emphasizes the importance of allowing God to work in each individual's heart, recognizing that people may respond differently to His presence--some rejoicing while others weep. He encourages believers to avoid judging others based on outward appearances and to promote love by covering offenses rather than repeating them. The sermon highlights the necessity of humility and vulnerability in relationships, urging listeners to embrace correction and seek transformation through Christ. Beach also draws from Proverbs to illustrate the power of words and the importance of self-control, ultimately leading to the message that true life and fruitfulness come from dying to self and allowing Christ to live through us.

Transcript

...what God was doing in their soul at the time. There can be one, as the Spirit moves upon them, rejoicing in exceedingly great glory, and another one weeping bitterly, right next to him. And we need to just let the Lord do His work in each one of His children, for He alone knows the hearts of all men.

Isn't that true? And this is what will happen more and more as the glory of the Lord fills His temple. Each one will be moved by God, some will be filled, some will be quiet, some will rejoice, some will weep bitterly, some will sit with a smile, others will just sit very straight. And there'll be those who will go up to the one sitting straight and say, Oh, is there something wrong? But there's nothing wrong.

We're going to have to learn not to look on the outward appearance. So many times we'll run because of an outward observation, when, like Samuel, the Lord said, No, Samuel, no, no, no. You don't judge according to outward appearance.

You don't derive conclusions by just observing with your eyes. The Lord knows the heart. But these things we learn together.

And love covers a multitude of sins. How many have learned this? Love covers a multitude of sins. You know, I had about four scriptures in Proverbs that I was going to read before John 12.

I think I'm going to do it. Okay, now, if you have a pen or a pencil, write these down and read over these scriptures. Proverbs chapter 16.

I'm sure that these scriptures are going to relate to many of us as the Lord very clearly put them upon my heart while in prayer. Beginning in Proverbs chapter 16. Verse number 32.

Better is a patient man than a ruler. A man who controls his temper than one who takes a city. In God's eyes, you are stronger than a man who takes a city.

If you find self-control in Christ. Proverbs chapter 17, verse 9. He who covers over an offense promotes love. But whoever repeats the matter separates close friends.

Beloved, learn the joy of not reminding a person of their fault or sin or their shortcoming when you get into a squibble or squabble, whatever the word is, when you get into a quibble with them. He who covers an offense seeks love. Do you promote love in your relationships? Or do you repeat a matter that doesn't need to be repeated because you know it's going to be like a knife? Shame on you.

17.10. A rebuke impresses a man of discernment more than a hundred lashes a fool. Now listen, beloved. When you have people that really love you and they point out a fault in love in your life, you're a fool if you fight and deny it and get defensive.

But if you're a wise man, you appreciate what they say. You give them a big kiss and you get on your knees and say, Lord, thank you for being kind enough to show me this. Help me deal with it.

Are you defensive? Do you get on the defense when the spotlight shines on you? Ask God to help you. Cast yourself on Him. Especially, beloved, if it's your own husband or wife.

Why do you think God brings us into close relationships with each other? It's so that we can be honest. Open love is better than secret rebuke. No.

Open rebuke is better than secret love. Don't get defensive. Learn to be vulnerable.

Learn to be vulnerable. Don't be so proud, so tight. Just... Do you really think it's that bad, hon? How do you think I can... Would you help me work on it? What are you talking about? Come on, get off my back.

Come on now. Now, see, it's these little things that are going to be affected when Jesus comes. Because what does Jesus deal with? Great theological mysteries? No, beloved.

He comes down to your house. He walks into your house. He goes into your bedroom.

He sits at your table. And when you look at your mate or your child or you're in the car and someone gets close to you and you beep your horn and... Now, if you really are in touch with the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit's going to say, What did you just do? That's not Christ-like. He's going to chase you for it.

You see? This is why I love what the Lord's doing. It's not just some emotion. It's going into the heart.

How many are experiencing a heartfelt change? We all are. And it's good. This is Jesus.

I don't want this other Jesus that religion's preaching. You know? I don't want it. He's not the real Jesus.

I want the real one. Amen? I want the real gospel. I don't want that other one.

It's so foreign. Okay, now, remember that. Don't be defensive.

Listen, if you're defensive with a man when someone tries to correct you, you know what you're going to do when God puts his finger on it? You're going to do the same thing. You're going to argue with God. You're going to rationalize with God.

And you're going to stay the same. You're going to stay the same. See, the Lord resists the proud.

You don't love God any more than you love your brother. And the way you treat people is the way your heart would treat the Lord. So let God, let God, through Christ.

Now, remember, beloved, if this brings a crisis in your life, and you say, oh my goodness, I fall so short. Good. You need to see your utter depravity.

But then once you see your utter depravity, don't stop there and say, well, I'll forever be just worthless, and I can never change. No, beloved, because once you see your utter hopelessness, you must glance upon Christ and see his ability to change. Because we are no longer slaves to our fallen nature.

We've been redeemed. So when you see an inability in yourself, you're seeing what you need to see before you see the victory. So if you see, man, I've got a defensiveness about my personality.

All right, then. Tell the Lord. But then look for humility.

Jesus doesn't defend himself. Jesus just takes things as they come. See? 1714.

Starting a quarrel is like breaching a dam. So drop the matter before a dispute breaks out. Now, there's volumes in that.

Don't start a quarrel. Because it's like breaching a dam, and if you don't watch it, all of a sudden, gallons of trouble is going to come spilling out. How many have experienced it? Listen, if you see a wound, try and heal it.

Don't take your fingernail and rip it open. You know, get mechirochrome. I even know what that word means.

Isn't that that red stuff you put on? Listen, ask the Lord to make your words like mechirochrome, and not like saw on a cut. Did you ever put saw on a cut? Oh! Well, you know, many times in our dealings with people, we're doing the same thing to people. Don't start a quarrel.

If you learn what bothers someone, stay away from it. Be considerate to one another. Husbands, learn what your wife wants, and help her.

Learn what she needs, and try and give her those needs. Don't be distant from her. Learn about her.

Understand her affections. And help her. Isn't that what Christ does to the church? Well, isn't that what husbands are supposed to do? Yes, it is.

Okay, 1727. A man of knowledge uses words with restraint, and a man of understanding is even tempered. Be careful with your words, beloved.

The Bible says a wise man studies before he answers. In other words, he thinks before he talks. Especially, listen, especially when pressure.

You feel pressure. How many find it most tempting to blow it in pressure? All these smiles. Listen, learn, learn your weaknesses.

Say, now, I know I have a weakness if this and this and this begin to happen. That's my breaking point. All right, learn your weakness, and during that time, be careful.

Be careful. Don't be quick to speak, because chances are, what you're going to say is going to hurt somebody. 28.

Even a fool is thought wise if he keeps silent, and discerning if he holds his tongue. James says be slow to speak, and swift to hear. Listen before you talk.

Chapter 18, verse 6. A fool's lips bring him strife, and his mouth invites a beating. Don't let the things you say to people be sources of creating strife. Learn to have your speech seasoned with salt, that it might minister grace to the hearer.

18.12. Before his downfall, a man's heart is proud, but humility comes before honor. Watch a hearty spirit, because it precedes a fall. But blessed are the humble, because they'll be raised up in the Lord.

18.13. He who answers before listening, that is his folly and his shame. Hear someone out completely before you respond. Hear someone out completely.

Don't jump. Just patiently wait. Listen to the entirety, and then think.

Words to live by. The book of Proverbs. Now you know I'm in conflict.

I don't know what to do. I don't know whether to go into John and read the scriptures, or whether to just say, it's enough. Praise the Lord.

I'll tell you what I'm going to do. I'm going to hold out. No, I'm going to hold out.

I'm going to hold out. We can minister on another time. Praise the Lord.

That's all it is. John chapter 12. Verses 20.

16 verses. 20 through 36. John chapter 12, 20 through 36.

Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the feast. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida, in Galilee, with a request. Sir, they said, we would like to see Jesus.

Comment. People were looking for Jesus. What did Jesus do? Very important for us to understand.

What would you do if someone was looking for you? Oh sure, tell them to come right in. Here I am. Jesus didn't do it.

And there's a profound lesson in this verse. Philip went to tell Andrew. Andrew and Philip, in turn, told Jesus.

Now Jesus replied, The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. What a response if someone's looking for you, to sit there and talk about your death. I tell you the truth.

Unless a kernel of being falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. The man who loves his life will lose it.

While the man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me. And where I am, my servant also will be.

My Father will honor the one who serves me. Now my heart is troubled, and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour. No.

It was for this very reason I came to this hour. Father, glorify thy name. Then a voice came from heaven.

I have glorified it, and will glorify it again. The crowd that was there and heard it said it had thundered. Others said an angel had spoken to him.

Jesus said, This voice was for your benefit, not mine. Now is the time for judgment on this world. Now the prince of this world will be driven out.

But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself. He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die. The crowd spoke up.

We have heard from the law that the Christ will remain forever. So how can you say the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is the Son of Man? Then Jesus told them, You are going to have the light just a little while longer. Walk while you have the light before darkness overtakes you.

The man who walks in the dark does not know where he is going. Put your trust in the light while you have it, so that you may become sons of light. Now listen to this.

When he had finished speaking, Jesus left and hid himself from them. Go back to the beginning. People were looking for Jesus.

The end of the story, he hid himself from them. Why? Because Jesus in this particular portion of scripture taught the profound divine plan that God has ordained in order for people to see Jesus. The way to see Jesus is for a grain of life, a seed, to die.

Because if it doesn't die, it remains alone. But if it dies, it brings forth much food. Jesus here was explaining that if men were to see him, they would have to experience death first.

Not physical death, but death to self. And in death to self, his life would come forth. Verse 25.

The man who loves his life will lose it, while the man who hates his life in this world will keep it. In another place, Jesus said, If any man desire to be my disciple, he must take up his cross, deny himself, and follow me. He that seeketh to save his life shall lose it.

What do you mean, save his life? He that does not let his life die will lose. Listen. He'll lose the opportunity to express the living Christ to the world.

But he that loses his life for my sake, he who offers up his life regularly on the altar of God's sacrifice, on the altar of Calvary, and more and more and more exchanges his self for the life of Christ, that man shall gain it. Listen. The only way to bear fruit that lasts is to offer yourself in death, to offer yourself to the Savior, to offer everything that you are to him.

And in return, you reap life, you reap the fruit of righteousness, and men will see Christ. Jesus didn't avoid the cross, knowing that through the cross many sons would be brought. And in many sons, God would be glorified in a great way.

And we can't avoid the cross either. If you want lasting fruit in your life, if you want men to see Jesus, you must hide yourself like Jesus. He hid himself from the natural.

It's not your natural life that will reveal the glory of God. It's not your natural disposition. But it's the life of Christ flowing through you as you offer yourself up in death and let the power of God's Spirit produce the life of Christ in you.

So may I encourage you, hide yourself from the inquiries of people wanting to see you. And do like Jesus. Offer your life upon the cross of Calvary.

Every bit of your life, offer it to God. And if it dies, you will indeed reap His life. And it is through His life flowing through you that the Father will be glorified in the Son.

Do you want fruit? Do you want lasting fruit? Go the way of the cross. In death, you find the Holy Spirit's power. And the Holy Spirit's power produces Christ.

Christ. Christ. Read through the story.

Jesus hid. I love it. You know, when Jesus did a miracle, you know what He said to people? Don't tell anybody.

Just give God glory. He was so dead to pride. He was so dead to wanting to bring attention to Himself that we have every right to do so because He was God.

Oh, wow. That we could be so dead. So that only God receives the glory.

Hide. Hide at the cross. Find the life of Christ coming forth in you as you offer yourself in death.

And then watch God be glorified in everything that you say and do. Amen? I'm glad I...

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