

"The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple" (Ps 119:130).

# Lighthouse

A Weekly Publication of the

LIGHTHOUSE BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH

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June 21, 2015

2015:

The Year of **Fruitbearing** 

John 15:16 "...I have chosen

you, and ordained

you...go and bring

forth fruit..."

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#### Reuben M. Abante, DD - Senior Pastor

## HAPPY FATHER'S DAY TO A FATHERS AT LIGHTHOUS

"And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him" (Luke 15:20)



t is time once more to recogonize and honor the fathers in

our midst as the whole world celebrates Father's Day. And in Lighthouse BBC, this is more than just an occasion that is observed because the rest of the world do so. Rather,

as a church, we recognize and honor fathers because the Bible, the Word of God, is filled with teachings which instruct us to do so. In fact, there are at least 10 to 12 passages which bear the term, "Honour thy father" in the whole Bible.

Every person counts it a privilege to have an earthly father who he or she can go to and feel loved, secure, sustained, supported, etc. And, indeed, fathers are always pictured as providing such things to their children. The Apostle is very explicit in telling Timothy in 1 Tim 5:8, "...if any (fathers) provide not for his own,



and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel."

Our text above is drawn from the story of the prodigal son, who, after being emptied of all his substance which he riotously wasted, came to realize that only his father could come to his help. He then committed to go back, ask forgiveness from his father and to say that since he had done so evil, he also had become unworthy as a son and thus would be willing to be just a servant.

But what loving and merciful father ran, met him and kissed him when he returned!

As we make our earthly fathers happy today, let us make our Heavenly Father even happier by coming to Him and experiencing His love and mercy!



The Lighthouse District 3 as they illustrate the evergreen, fruitful tree described in Psalm 1, taken from Pastor Reuben's preaching two weeks ago.

#### **Second Quarter Focus:** Bearing the Fruit of the Knowledge of God

"...neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ...." (2 Pet 1:8).

#### SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

Lesson No. Phil052415-002

TITLE : PAUL'S THANKSGIVING AND CONFIDENCE TO GOD FOR THE

**PHILIPPIAN CHURCH** 

TEXT : PHIL 1:1-11

The Epistle of Paul to the Philippian church actually serves as his thanksgiving letter to them for their faithfulness to God and generosity to the work of God. In his opening statement, Paul expresses his thanksgiving to and confidence to God for them.

#### A) His greeting to the church at Philippi (v 1).

1) To the saints.

These would be all who are part of the work at Philippi; people who have known the Christ as Savior and who were baptized. The church at Philippi were obviously composed of saved and baptized people.

- a) About Lydia
- Acts 16:14-15, "...a certain woman named Lydia...whose heart the Lord opened...and when she was baptized, and her household..."
- b) About the jailor and his family
  Acts 16:30-33, "...Sirs, what must I do to
  be saved? And they said, Believe on the
  Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be
  saved, and thy house. And they spake
  unto him the word of the Lord, and to all
  that were in his house...and was
  baptized, he and all his, straightway."

2) To the bishops and deacons.

The mention of "bishops and deacons indicates the mature state of the church at Philippi. Also read 1 Tim 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9.

The word bishop means "to look upon." It is used by Paul as another name for an elder.

The word deacon comes from a compound Greek word that means "to stir up the dust." It presents the picture of one who is moving so rapidly through the dusty lanes of the villages of Palestine to discharge his duty that his feet kick up dust as he goes. There was so much for the deacons to do that they could not loiter nor tarry. They were about their ministry with such diligence. (J Dwight Pentecost). Also read 1 Tim 3:8-13.

### B) His thanksgiving for the members at Philippi (vs 3-5).

Phil 1:3-5, "I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy, for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now."

About 10 years had passed since Paul started the work at Philippi. At the time of this writing, he was in Rome where he was on house arrest. He had such vivid memories of their beginning and of how they supported him through his travels.

Paul makes reference of their fellowship from the first day until now. The word fellowship here actually means "communication and contribution." This refers to how the Philippian church supported him when he left Macedonia and while he was in Thessalonica and in Corinth (Phil 4:15-16; 2 Cor 11:9). And now that he is in Rome under house arrest, they send once again through Epaphroditus. It was indeed a faithful and continued fellowship which they had.

#### C) His confidence in God for those at Philippi (v 16).

Phil 1:6, "Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ."

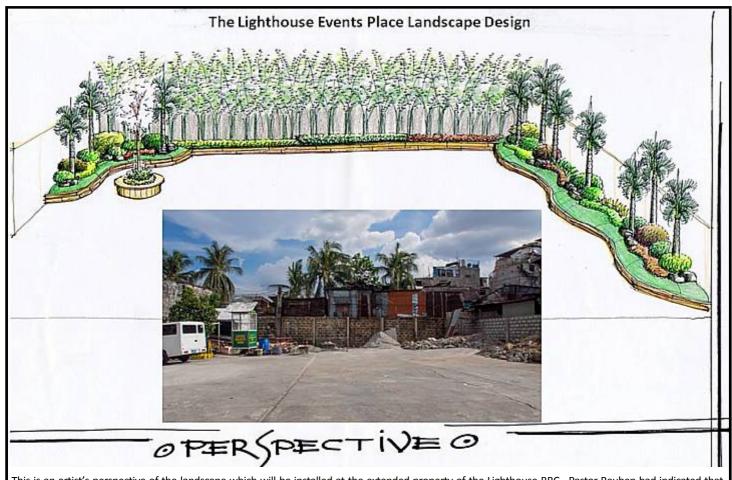
The work of sanctification is what Paul refers to as that which God had begun in them and will perform it until the day of Christ. God never starts something He does not finish.

Christ's death "perfected" or sanctified, once for all, "those whom He is making holy" (Heb 10:14). Sanctification is both an accomplished fact and an on-going process ---

- All who have been saved are sanctified in His sight (Heb 2:11; 10:11, John 17:17,19).
- But sanctification is also a growth process in which we are to take an active part (Heb 2:11; Rom 6:19; 1 Thes 4:1-7; 2 Tim 2:21; 1 Pet 1:15).

#### D) His prayer for the Philippian church (vs 9-10).

Phil 1:9-10, "that your love may abound yet more and more...that ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ."



This is an artist's perspective of the landscape which will be installed at the extended property of the Lighthouse BBC. Pastor Reuben had indicated that the area will serve both as parking spaces and an Events Place. The improvement is expected to be completed before July ends.