

My Friend Jesus Christ

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Jesus said these words to his apostles: *“Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.”* (John 15:14-15).

According to the words of Jesus, we can infer that one qualifies himself as a friend of Jesus if he is obedient to what Jesus says. Therefore, the expression of Jesus’ love was extended toward those who obey his commandments. (John 14:15, 21; Acts 10:42; 1 John 3:23-24). Our lord Jesus had been together with the apostles but he had never called them “my friends” he always called them “my disciples.” Why did he now call them “my friends”? He had taught them all things that he had heard from his Father; had they obeyed? Yes, they had, and this qualified them to be called friends. He trusted them beyond any doubt that whatever they heard from him, they will teach others also. He had finished his work; what he needed was to have men whom he trusted to do the work when he went back to his Father. Here are the men whom Jesus trusted he called them “friends.” Are we also “friends” of Jesus? Or you are only his disciples but not a friend. Even Judas Iscariot was his disciple but he betrayed him. (Mark 14:43-52; Luke 22:47-53; John 18:2-12). We have brethren, but all of them are not His friend. Take care!

The apostle Paul wrote the Philippian letter during his imprisonment in Rome between AD 61-63: chapter 3, verse:1, Paul wrote *“...finally, my brethren, rejoice in the lord ...”* in chapter 4, verse 4, Paul repeated again *“rejoice in he lord always. And again I say, rejoice!”*

Paul, though in prison, was a happy and courageous person. He was able to express his happiness in one word *“rejoice”* he wrote to the men he trusted with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Paul’s emphasis here is to define the nature of Christian’s life. One rejoices over specific incidents.

Lastly, but very importantly, is, we read from 2 Timothy 2:2, *“And the things that you have heard from me among witnesses, the same commit to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.”*

It was the duty of Timothy to look for faithful men and give them instructions in order to carry on this spiritual lineage. A faithful man is the person who sees to it that the work that has been given to him is completed. You can not be faithful unto God without being faithful unto his work. You can not be faithful unto his work when you can’t finish his work, so that you might speak like Paul *“I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.”* (2 Tim. 4:7).

May God give strength, open the doors, and give wisdom to his servant in Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, and all parts of the world- “All churches of Christ Salute you.” (Rom. 16:16).

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