

Preface To The Epistle Of Saint Paul To The Philipplians (1546 and 1522)

In this Epistle St. Paul praises the Philippians and exhorts them to abide and go forward in true faith and to increase in love. But since injury is always done to faith by false apostles and teachers of works, he warns them against these men, and points them to many. preachers, — some good, some bad, — including even himself and his disciples, Timothy and Epaphroditus. This he does in chapters 1 and 2.

In chapter 3, he rejects the faithless and human righteousness that is taught and held by the false apostles, and holds himself up as an example of one who had lived a glorious life in this righteousness, and yet thought nothing of it, because of the righteousness of Christ. For that other righteousness makes the belly its god, and makes enemies of the cross of Christ.

In chapter 4, he exhorts them to peace and to good outward conduct toward one another; and he thanks them for the present they have sent him.