

***PRECEPTS FOR LIFE***  
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The following is an actual transcript of the PRECEPTS FOR LIFE Broadcast. For the purpose of filling transcript requests quickly, they have received only light editing. If you have questions concerning the material covered in this broadcast, Kay has published a number of books explaining the Scripture in depth. These books may be ordered by contacting the telephone number or address printed above.

**SERIES: Philippians (Count It All Joy)**

**TITLE: Program 13 – Be Like Christ [Kay’s Guest is Vasile]**

**WEDNESDAY**

**OPEN**

What’s your driving passion? I mean, what grabs you? What holds you? What is your interest? Is your interest you? Is it you achieving, you attaining, you being known? Or could your interest be God and getting the message of God out, being a man of God, being a woman of God? God’s looking for people who will prove their worth to the kingdom. Do you suppose He might find it in you?

**PART ONE**

**Kay:** I am so excited, beloved, about today’s program. And the reason that I’m so excited about it is because I have one of my favorite people in all the world sitting with me in this studio to talk to you and to share with you. His name is Vasile and Vasile is from Moldova. And I want you to get to know him because this is a man whose interests is really others. This is a man whose passion is the furtherance of the gospel of Jesus Christ. This is a man

that I immediately thought of when I read Philippians chapter 2. Before we talk to Vasile, I want us to go to Philippians, chapter 2, verse 19. And Paul says, **“...I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you shortly, so that I also may be encouraged when I learn of your condition. For I have...,”** now listen carefully, **“...no one else of kindred spirit who will genuinely be concerned for your welfare.” (Philippians 2:19-20)** In other words he says, “I have a man who is a total soul mate. Of all the people that I know, there’s no man with me that would be more interested in your welfare than Timothy.” Now Timothy was his son in the gospel. Paul picked up Timothy when he was on his missionary journey. Let’s go and let’s look at it and just put ourselves into context. So next to, as you take your notes, and I hope that you have downloaded your study guide. If you haven’t you need to go to [preceptsforlife.com](http://preceptsforlife.com) and there you can download your study guide and you can learn how to study the Bible for yourself. Well in the observation worksheet section of that study guide, which is simply the text of Philippians, next to chapter 2, verse 19 where it says, “I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you shortly” write Acts chapter 16. And let’s go back for just a minute to Acts chapter 16. Now Acts chapter 16 gives us the overview of what happened after Jesus Christ ascended to heaven and the Holy Spirit came and began to indwell men. It shows us how the power of God came upon them and how they became witnesses, and how God sent them throughout the world or the portion of the world that He wanted them to go to. They were to take the gospel to Jerusalem, to Samaria, and then to the uttermost parts of the earth. So on one of these journeys, on Paul’s second missionary journey, in Acts chapter 16 we read that **“when Paul came to Derby and Lystra there was a disciple there, named Timothy, the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, but his father was a Greek. And he was well spoken of by the brethren who were in Lystra and Iconium. And Paul wanted this man to go with him. And he took him and he circumcised him because of the Jews who were in those**

parts, for they all knew that his father was a Greek.” (Acts 16:1-3) And Paul knew that if he was going to take this young man and he was going to have him minister with him to the Jews, that they would think of him as unclean and not part of the covenant if he was not circumcised. So here was a young man; now listen very carefully, here was a young man that is in his early age of maybe teen, maybe in his 20’s who is willing to undergo this rite of circumcision because he wants to be used of the gospel. He doesn’t say, “Hey, you’ve got to take me the way you get me or you can’t have me at all.” This is a young man whose heart is set on God. This is a young man who has known the Scriptures from a child that have been able to make him wise unto salvation. (2 Timothy 3:15) And so Paul takes him through, on this second missionary journey and Paul sees his proven worth as he watches him among the people. Well let’s go back before we get to our Timothy here, which is Vasile. And let me just show you a couple of other things about Timothy. First of all he says that, **“I want to send Timothy to you so that I may be encouraged when I learn of your condition.” (Philippians 2:19)** He’s sending Timothy because he’s concerned about the church at Philippi. Notice Paul’s heart. Paul’s heart is not himself; he’s in prison and he’s not concerned about whether they’re concerned about him in prison. He’s concerned about them and how they’re doing. This is so typical of Philippians chapter 2. Now remember the theme of Philippians chapter 2 is to have the mind of Christ. **“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 2:5, KJV)** And so he urges them at the beginning of this chapter not to look out for their own personal interests. Let’s look at that phrase, cause we’re going to see it in description of Timothy. But go to verse 4. He says, **“Do not merely look out for your own personal interests....”** Now he, he’s not saying don’t take care of yourself. But he says don’t make yourself number one. **“...But also for the interests of others.” (Philippians 2:4)** In other words, others are to be more important than you. Remember joy, Jesus first, others second and then you

in proper perspective. So then he tells them about having the mind of Christ. He shows them the mind of Christ. He shows them that it's possible for them to have the mind of Christ because Christ is in them and Christ is working in them energizing them **"...both to will and to do of His good pleasure..."** And how they're to, **"...do all things without murmuring or disputing,"** that they are to **"hold fast the word of life...in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation."** (Philippians 2:13b-16) Then you see Paul's example. You see that Paul is living with the mind of Christ because Paul says to them in verse 17, **"But even if I'm being poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I rejoice and I share my love with you all."** (Philippians 2:17) Now in many sacrifices what they would do is they would take up a cup and they would pour out that drink offering as a symbol of a sacrifice. And Paul says, "I'm like the one that's in the cup, and I'm being poured out on this altar as a sacrifice for your faith. Why? Because I have the mind of Christ and because I'm not interested in me. I'm interested in you." Now what kind of a man would you expect Paul to find as a man of proven worth? Well it would be a man like Paul, a man who has the same attitude, a man who has the mind of Christ, a man who reflects who Paul is and imitates Paul as 1 Corinthians 11:1 says, ["because Paul is an imitator of Jesus Christ."] And so he says, **"I have no one else... who will genuinely be concerned for your welfare."** (Philippians 2:20) He says, **"I have no one else of kindred spirit..."** In other words, he's a soul mate. He's a soul mate. His heart and my heart are beating in unison and this man will be genuinely interested and caring about you above every other man that I know. And he says, **"For they..."** these other men, **"...are all seeking after their own interests, and not those of Christ Jesus."** (Philippians 2:21) In other words, it's all about them instead of all about Jesus. And if it's all about Jesus then it's all about others. So he says, **"For you know of his proven worth, that he served with me in the furtherance of the gospel like a child serving his father."** (Philippians

**2:22)** Well I want you to meet a man of proven worth, a man that has served under Costel and Mia Oglice, who are the directors of our Eurasian work, which are just the most awesome couple. Tell them what you think about Mia and Costel.

**Vasile:** I'm so glad that I have this privilege to be their disciple. They are my models and I have seen them in many, many situations. I've seen them when they, when we have to be in a car in a wilderness for 40 hours to drive and there was ...

**Kay:** 40 hours, 4 0 hours

**Vasile:** 4 0 hours, and we had to drive all this way to teach to the brothers in, ah, one country, because they were asking us to come to introduce them to the Bible study and I've seen them when there was cold. I've seen them prison when they were just arrested and all the time I learned in all the situations and I learned not only from their words but from their, their ...

**Kay:** Actions ...

**Vasile:** Their life, their actions. I am so glad that I have these models, because in our time it is not so easy to find a model which is according to what is written in the Bible. It is much easier to follow what is written in the Bible, to apply when you see and model a live model.

**Kay:** Yes, yes. You know Paul writes about that and I'm going to jump just a little bit, but Paul writes about that in chapter 3 in verse 17 when he says, **“Brethren, join in following my example, and observe those who walk according to the pattern that you have in us. For many walk, of whom I have often told you, and now tell you even weeping, that they are enemies of the cross of Christ.” (Philippians 3:17-18)** And if you're enemies of the cross of Christ it means that it's, that, that you want your life instead of Christ's life. And I too have traveled with these people, not 40 hours in a car, but I have traveled with them and I have watched them serve

Christ and, and, and literally lay down their lives for the people. Well we've looked at Paul's Timothy. Now I want us to look at Vasile. And I don't want to embarrass you, Vasile, but this is a young man that reminds me of Timothy, because Vasile has worked with this ministry for 13 years and his worth has been proven. But what I want you to understand is a little about what he does. Vasile is an Olympic champion. He's a master of TaeKwon-Do and he uses it for the furtherance of the gospel of Jesus Christ. This is a man that looks after the interests of others above his own. And this is what we want to see a living epistle, known and read of all men, so that you know, hey, it's not just back in the days of Paul, but it's in my day. It's in my time. We're going to come right back after this break and you're going to hear Vasile's story. This is something that you don't want to miss.

## **PART TWO**

**Kay:** Welcome back, beloved. I don't want to waste any time in introducing Vasile to you. You know we studied and we looked at how Paul hooked up with Timothy and how Timothy, from a child knew the Scriptures, which were able to make him wise unto salvation. He had a Jewish mother and he had a Greek father. Tell us how you came to know the Lord, Vasile.

**Vasile:** I was 20 years old when I came to know Christ and I wish to know this Scripture in my childhood, but I didn't. I remember when I was maybe 5 or 4 years old for first time they gave me a cross, a little cross, which I was to wear. And when I asked who is on this cross, none in the house was able to explain to me except that it is Jesus Christ. I asked but why He is on the cross? What does this mean?

**Kay:** So you had an actual crucifix, not just a cross, a crucifix with Jesus on that, on that cross.

**Vasile:** Yes, a crucifix, yeah, Jesus on that cross and no one was able to explain me this. And after my mother died when I was 9 years old my father

was very abusive one, and the next day he put us out of house just in the state of my sister. My oldest sister was 17 years old and another sister was 15, and I was 9. I was very angry with him, and my biggest dream was to kill him one day. And I was thinking all the time about this. I was just obsessed by this thing. And in the school it was under the Communist, they were teaching us atheism; everyday they were teaching atheism. So I...

**Kay:** Atheism.

**Vasile:** Atheism, and I became and convinced atheist. I was the secretary for the leader for the Young Communist Party for all the school in my town. And so I was convinced at all. And one day when I came to the University to study history then one of the teachers he asked us to read the Bible because he says this is the main document for the history of the ancient world.

**Kay:** Wow, was he a believer?

**Vasile:** No, he was a Communist. And then I started to read the Bible. So in the beginning I was just thinking that this has only stories. But keeping reading the Bible I started to realize that this, it is different. At the same time I started to take my TaeKwon-Do lessons with a John Who and he is the one who came first to know Christ. And it was during four years. He was reading the Bible. I was reading the Bible. At that time we were in the mafia group. But the same time were reading the, were reading the Bible, which is interesting.

**Kay:** In the Mafia.

**Vasile:** Yeah, we,

**Kay:** Mafia, crime and corruption in one hand and the Bible in the other.

**Vasile:** Yeah, sometimes we get all together, all together we'll come. After we do some bad things we'll come all together and we'll do something like Bible study or read the Bible aloud and ask questions. The Spirit of the Lord was working in our hearts and the John was the one who came to know

Christ. And then he invited me to Moscow, wanted to come there. I came and he shared the gospel with me. And I knew, I read all the Bible already. I knew the Bible well, but I didn't...

**Kay:** From Genesis to Revelation?

**Vasile:** Yes.

**Kay:** The whole Bible?

**Vasile:** The whole Bible, but I didn't understand the concept of being born again, of new birth, which is, I even tried to live righteously, but it didn't work in my life, and I was so upset of this because I, I said I am not able to, to be a Christian. And really I was not able.

**Kay:** Yeah, cause you couldn't with good works.

**Vasile:** But when I realize this that I need to be born again, because John was born again and he was changed at all. He was new person even his appearance was changed when I saw him. So after three days, after he spoke with me, during three days I was thinking about this and then one night I asked Jesus to come to my life and I was born again then. That night I was born again. The next day I was just a new person. I felt like everything is new in my life. I have new thought. I am totally a new, new one. And I had big big desire to study the Bible. I just took my Bible, I already the Bible with me. I kept the Bible. I took the Bible and for the next two weeks I read all the Bible from the first to the last page, I read all the Bible.

**Kay:** Again.

**Vasile:** And after that there came a time of I was looking for, I knew in the Bible there is much wisdom for me, but I don't know how to go there, how to understand all this. I was trying to read books, but it didn't help. And the, I was looking for something, and one brother gave me a book, How to Study Your Bible, by Kay Arthur, and translated by Mia and Costel Oglice. I just took this book and I said, I saw this book in his hands, and I said, "Would



you give me this book? I am ready to pay you as much as you ask, just give me this book.” He said, “I will give you this book as a gift, and also I will give you another one.” And he gave me the book, *Lord, I Want to Know You*.

**Kay:** Oh, our study on the names of God.

**Vasile:** So I took that, that book and you know that book is designed for 42 days to study it. But it took 2 days and 2 nights for me to study that book. I just came home, opened the book and studied. Then I went to him and I said: do you have something more? He said yes, I have, and he gave me a Gospel of John for advanced students. So I started to study gospel of John. And he said I would like you to introduce to some people. And he brought me to Romania and there I met Mia and Costel Oglice. I came just for one conference, but as Paul did with Timothy, one day they saw me, they said, would you like to come with us to the other cities in Romania, just to be with us? So this way they started to disciple me. And from that time they were discipling me, they were teaching me. When I came from there I started to teach in my TaeKwon-Do group. That time I was teaching in the, in the Medical University. I had many students, and I was trying to...

**Kay:** Uh huh, you’re teaching TaeKwon-Do in the Medical University.

**Vasile:** Yes, I was trying after, after each training I was trying to deliver a sermon to them, and I was preparing so diligently my sermons, but only 2 or 3 girls were there, those because of pity for my efforts, but not because they really were interested. And then when I after this being trained, when I took the book, *Lord, I Want to Know You* and I brought this book, I gave to the same girls. And before they, difficulty will stay for 15 minutes, from 10 to 15 minutes. But then when I brought the book we started to work with the book, to study the Bible and we stayed for 2 hours. And then the girls said, “No, you should come to the dormitory. We’ll ask all the other students and please bring more books and come to our area and we’ll start to study the

Bible this way.” So they were so interested that all my students, TaeKwon-Do students, came and also many, many others students who are not believers, they came to study the Bible. And there was not room in that ...

**Kay:** In that room.

**Vasile:** In that room to, to sit. They were staying even in the corridor. The corridor was full. They were sitting there and working in the Bible. So such a change it brought in my life, then I really saw that the people before, they were afraid that I am teaching them my opinion. But then they were, they were very excited to see that they can read and understand the Bible and study the Bible. And after three lessons, the first five of them came to know Christ.

**Kay:** Ohhh.

**Vasile:** Yes, so I was so much excited about this.

**Kay:** I bet you were so excited.

**Vasile:** About this, yes.

**Kay:** So excited.

**Vasile:** Yeah. And then Mia and Costel encouraged me to go to the public schools to teach.

**Kay:** Uh huh.

**Vasile:** So in the beginning of the school year I went to the public schools and I had 17 classes in ten schools. I was just running from one school to another to teach and I was teaching also in my village. And it had a great impact. So many of those students from those, that school, the children they now are missionaries.

**Kay:** Doesn't it just absolutely thrill you to see a person's conversion, to see what happens in that person's heart when they genuinely believe in Jesus Christ, the newness, the new creation, the love for the Word of God and the

**PHILIPPIANS (COUNT IT ALL JOY)**

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understanding of the Word of God? As we bring today's program to a close, I want to ask you a question. How is your worth to God proven? Now I'm talking about worth in the sense of value to the kingdom of God? In other words, if God had a special task for someone to do, could He call on you? Could He trust you to do it? Even if possibly it was at the danger of your own life. That's what Vasile has been through. Vasile has faced imprisonment. Vasile has faced persecution. Vasile has faced death. And he's faced all of that simply because he's not looking out for his own interests, but he's looking out for the interests of others.