

The Epistle of Saint Paul the Apostle to the Philippians

Chapter 1

He exhorts them to increase in love, in knowledge, and in experience of godly things, discusses his imprisonment at Rome, is glad to hear Christ preached, and is content either to die or to live. He prays them to lead a godly life, to be of one mind, and to fear no persecution.

Paul and Timothy, the servants of Jesus Christ. To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are at Philippi, with the heads and deacons.* ²Grace be with you, and peace from God our father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

Of Paul's greeting see note (b) to Ro c1.

[**Philippi:** a Roman colony]
[**Deacons:** servants or assistants whose work included gathering for the poor]

³I thank my God with every remembrance of you ⁴always in all my prayers for you, and pray with gladness, ⁵because of the fellowship which you have had in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶And I am convinced of this: that he who began a good work in you will go forth with it until the day of Jesus Christ – ⁷as it befits me so to judge of you all, because I have you in my heart, and have you also every one as companions of grace with me, even in my bonds, as I defend and establish the gospel.

⁸For God is my witness how greatly I long after you all from the very heart root in Jesus Christ. ⁹And I pray that your love may increase more and more in knowledge and in all feeling, ¹⁰that you might accept things most excellent, and that you might be pure, and such persons as would hurt no one's conscience* until the day of Christ – ¹¹filled with the fruits of righteousness, which fruits come by Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

[Tyndale>to hurt someone's conscience is to cause them (by force, example, or other means) to say or do against conscience]

¹²I would you understood, brethren, that my trouble has served the greater furthering of the gospel. ¹³My bonds in Christ are manifest throughout the entire judgment hall and in all other places, ¹⁴and many of the brethren in the Lord are emboldened through my bonds, and dare more freely speak the word without fear. ¹⁵Some there are who preach Christ out of envy and strife, and some of goodwill. ¹⁶The one part preach Christ out of contention and not purely, supposing to add more adversity to my bonds, ¹⁷but the other part out of love because they see that I am set to defend the gospel. ¹⁸What then? That Christ is preached in any way, whether in pretence or from true motives, I am happy.

¹⁹Yea, and I will rejoice because I know that these circumstances will bear toward my salvation (through your prayer and the ministering of the spirit of Jesus Christ, ²⁰as I heartily look for), and hope that I will not be ashamed in anything, but that with all confidence, as always in times past, so now Christ may be magnified in my body, whether it be through life or else death.

²¹For Christ is to me life, and death is to me advantage. ²²If it happens that I live in the flesh, it means fruitful work for me, and what to choose I

do not know. ²³I am constrained by two things. I desire to be released and to be with Christ, which thing is best of all. ²⁴Nevertheless, to continue in the flesh is more needful for you. ²⁵And this I am sure of: that I will abide and continue with you all for the furtherance and joy of your faith, ²⁶and that you may more greatly rejoice in Jesus Christ through me by my coming to you again.

* Tribulation is a sign of salvation to the true believers.

²⁷Only let your living be as it becomes the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent, I may yet hear of you that you continue in one spirit and in one soul, labouring as we do to maintain the faith of the gospel – ²⁸and in nothing fearing your adversaries, which is to them a sign of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that from God. ²⁹For to you it is given not only to believe on Christ, but also to suffer* for his sake, ³⁰and to have even the same fight which you saw me have, and now hear of me.

Chapter 2

He exhorts them to unite in brotherly love, and to beware of ambition and vainglory. For a trustworthy example, he sets Christ before them.

If there is among you any consolation in Christ, if there is any comforting love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if there is any compassion or mercy, ²fulfil my joy and draw all one way, having one love and being of one accord and of one mind. ³Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory, but in meekness of mind let everyone esteem the other better than himself. ⁴And look not every person on his own things, but every person on the things of others.^a

*To follow Christ is our profession, and to likewise humble ourselves so that we may be likewise exalted.

⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God ⁷and yet to make himself of no reputation, and take on him the form of a servant, and become like humankind, ⁸and be found in his apparel as a man. He humbled himself and became obedient to the death, even the death of the cross. ⁹For this God has exalted him and given him a name above all names, ¹⁰so that in the name of Jesus every knee should bow – of things in heaven and things in earth and things under the earth – ¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is the Lord, to the praise of God the Father.

Heb 2:9
Isa 45:23
Dan 7:14
Ro 14:11

¹²Therefore my dearly beloveds, just as you have always obeyed, not when I was present only but now much more in my absence, so also work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.^b ¹³For it is God who works in you both the will and the deed, of goodwill.

¹⁴Do all things without murmuring and disputing, ¹⁵so that you may be faultless and pure, and the sons of God without rebuke in the midst of a crooked and a perverse nation – among whom see that you shine as lights in the world, ¹⁶holding fast the word of life so that I may rejoice in the day

of Christ that I have not run in vain, neither have laboured in vain. ¹⁷Yea and if I am offered up upon the offering and sacrifice of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all.^c ¹⁸And you too, be glad for the same reason, and rejoice with me. Ro 15:16

¹⁹I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you shortly, so that I also may be of good comfort when I know your state. ²⁰For I have no man who is minded so like me, who with such pure affection cares for your matters. ²¹For all others seek their own, and not that which is Jesus Christ's. ²²You know the proof of him, how like a son with a father he bestowed with me his labour upon the gospel. ²³Him I hope to send as soon as I know how it will go with me. ²⁴I trust in the Lord that I myself may also come shortly.

²⁵I supposed it necessary to send to you brother Epaphroditus, my companion in labour and fellow-soldier, and your apostle, who ministers to my needs. ²⁶For he longed after you, and was full of heaviness because you had heard that he was sick. ²⁷And without question he was sick, and that near to death. But God had mercy on him – not on him only, but on me also, lest I should have had sorrow upon sorrow. ²⁸I am therefore sending him with more haste so that, when you see him, you can be happy again and I may be less sorrowful. ²⁹Receive him therefore in the Lord with all gladness. And make much of such a one, ³⁰because for the work of Christ he went so far that he was near death, and regarded not his life, to provide that service which was missing on your part toward me.

The Notes

- Look not on your own (2:4) a) Look not on your own gifts or profit, but on love and unity.
- Work out your salvation (2:12) b) As you are saved from sin through faith, so work according to the covenant until you come to the salvation of glory. For if you cease working, the spirit is quenched and you cease to partake of the promise.
- If I am offered, etc. (2:17) c) Paul counts here two offerings, or sacrifices. One is the faith of those he offered to Christ. The other is himself, if, while he is working to offer the offering aright to God, he should be put to death and himself become an offering – which thing he does not refuse.

Chapter 3

He warns them to beware of false teachers, whom he calls dogs and enemies of Christ. He reproves man's own righteousness.

Moreover, my brethren, put your trust in the Lord. It grieves me not to write the same thing often to you. For to you it is a safeguard. ²Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers. Beware of discord. ³For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the spirit and put our confidence in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.^a ⁴Though I have whereof I might be confident in the flesh. If any other man thinks that he

has reason to trust in the flesh, I have much more: ⁵circumcised the eighth day, of the kindred of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of the Hebrews, concerning the law a Pharisee, ⁶and concerning ferventness, I persecuted the congregation. And as regards the righteousness which is in the law, I was unrebukable. ⁷But the things that were advantages to me, I counted detriments for Christ's sake. ⁸Yea, I think all things but detriments for the sake of the excellent knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord.

For him I have counted all things detrimental, and do judge them but dung, so that I may win Christ ⁹and may be found in him – not having my own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is of the faith which is in Christ; I mean the righteousness which comes from God through faith, ¹⁰in knowing him and the power of the resurrection and the fellowship of his passions so that I may be conformable to his death,* ¹¹if by any means I may attain to the resurrection from death.

***Death:** we must die with Christ if we would live with him.

¹²It is not as if I have already attained to it or were already perfect. But I press on, if so be that I may embrace that in which I am embraced by Christ Jesus. ¹³Brethren, I do not count myself as having got there. But one thing I say: I forget that which is behind,* and reach for that which is ahead, ¹⁴and press on to that mark appointed, to obtain the reward of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵Let us therefore, as many as are strong in the faith, be so minded; and if you are otherwise minded, I pray God would open this to you.

***Behind:** I look not on the works that I have done, but what I lack of the perfectness of Christ.

¹⁶Nevertheless, in that to which we have come, let us proceed by one rule so that we may be of one accord. ¹⁷Brethren, be followers of me, and observe those who walk in the same way, since you have us for an example. ¹⁸For many walk (of whom I have told you often, and now tell you weeping) as enemies of the cross of Christ – ¹⁹whose end is damnation, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is to their shame; who are worldly-minded. ²⁰But our citizenship is in heaven. From there we look for a saviour to come, even the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹who will change our lowly bodies so they may be fashioned like his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able to subdue all things to himself.

Ro 8:15;
16:18.
2Co 11:15
Ho 4:7

1Co c15

The Notes

Worship in the spirit; no confidence in the flesh (3:3)

a) We worship God in the spirit through faith and love. Our trust is in that Christ has redeemed us. We do not trust in our works. Christ alone is our righteousness, and for his sake our sins are forgiven us. And for his sake our good works are accepted, which works would otherwise be damnable for the sin that is in them.

Chapter 4

He greets certain of them, exhorts them to live well, and thanks them for providing for him in prison.

Therefore my brethren dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and crown, continue in such a way in the Lord, beloveds. ²I pray Euodias and beseech Syntyche to be of one accord in the Lord. ³Yea and I beseech you, faithful yokefellow, help the women who laboured with me in the gospel, and with Clement also, and with my other labour-fellows whose names are in the book of life.^a

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; and again I say, rejoice! ⁵Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand: ⁶be anxious for nothing, but in all things make your petition to God in prayer and supplication, with giving of thanks. ⁷And may the peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Mt 6:25-34

⁸Furthermore, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are honourable, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things pertain to love, whatever things are of good report, if there be any virtuous thing, if there be any praiseworthy thing: these same have in your minds. ⁹The things you have learned and received and heard, and also seen in me, do these and the God of peace will be with you.

Ro 12:1,2

¹⁰I rejoice in the Lord greatly, that now at the last you have come around again to care for me – where you had been concerned, but you lacked opportunity. ¹¹I am not speaking because of necessity. For I have learned, in whatever estate I am, to be content. ¹²I can both cast myself down and can also prosper. Everywhere and in all things I am taught both to be full and to be hungry, to have plenty and to suffer need. ¹³I can do all things with the help of Christ who strengthens me. ¹⁴Notwithstanding, you have done well to have borne part with me in my tribulation.

¹⁵You of Philippi know that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no congregation bore part with me (as regards giving and receiving) except for you. ¹⁶For when I was in Thessalonica, you sent once, and afterwards again, to supply my needs. ¹⁷Not that I desire gifts; but I desire abundant fruit on your part. ¹⁸I received all, and have plenty. I was filled after I received from Epaphroditus what you sent: an odour that smells sweet, a sacrifice accepted and pleasant to God.

¹⁹May my God fulfil all your needs through his glorious riches in Jesus Christ. ²⁰To our God and father be praise forevermore. Amen.

²¹Greet all the saints in Christ Jesus. The brethren who are with me greet you. ²²All the saints greet you, and most of all, those from the Emperor's household.* ²³The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

Sent from Rome by
Epaphroditus.

The Notes

a) The book of life is spoken of at Psalm 69:12. [See also the book of Revelation at 3:5, 13:8, 17:8, 20:12, 20:15, 21:27, 22:19.]

[**Emperor's household:** the Roman court of Nero, including courtiers, soldiers, princes, servants, cooks, etc. Nero was emperor from 54-68 AD. (Others have 'Caesar's household' at v.22. *Caesar* became a title for Roman emperors after Julius Caesar, 101- 44 BC.) Paul requested trial before Nero, and so went to Rome a prisoner (Acts 25:11,12). He was probably acquitted, but later re-arrested and martyred during Roman persecutions under Nero]