

Philippians 1

Read the chapter. Now we have bishops and deacons in Philippi. This is such a young church! As Jesus, in Heaven, is praying for each of the members of the His Church, so Paul too, is praying for the same ones theater in Philippi, because as Paul said, they are all partakers of Paul's grace; interesting! *But I would you should understand brethren, that things unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel; so that my bonds in Christ are manifest in all the palace and in all other places; and many of the brethren in the Lord, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.* Indeed it is Paul's grace! It is his suffering in Christ Jesus that makes him able to pray and preach the gospel and to reach the unreachable. Did you notice how many preachers there are in the world? It is the heart that you can discern that whether they preach because of envy and strife, and some of good will, the one preaches Christ of contention, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to his suffering.

But in this young church Paul knows who preaches in Love. It doesn't matter to him, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ Jesus is preached. For that reason Paul rejoices. Paul says that in his sufferings, it made him bold, not to be ashamed, and that Christ is magnified in his body whether it is in life or in death. *FOR TO ME TO LIVE IS CHRIST, AND TO DIE IS GAIN.* Nevertheless, he says to live in the flesh is better for the church, but for him to die is to be with Jesus! He admonishes the Philippians to have conversation as pure, and mind as pure, whether he comes to visit them or not, they are to live in One Spirit, striving together for the FAITH of the gospel, not to be terrified of your enemies, because you are saved and not having an end as your enemies. So not only do you believe in Christ Jesus but you also suffer for His sake just like Paul suffered.

Philippians 2

Read the chapter. As Christ-followers, or abiding in Jesus, we are to be loving one another as a family, One with God as Jesus is in the Father, so we are to be in Christ, in fellowship with the Holy Spirit together, Paul is saying that would make him happy. So like in a family, respecting one another so there should be no strife or vainglory: but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. *Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.* Jesus, Himself, *made Himself of no reputation and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: and being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the Cross. God, Himself, gave Jesus a NAME which is above every Name: that at the Name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in Heaven, of things in Earth and things Under the Earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

A FRESH NEW LOOK AT JESUS! HE GAVE US HIS NAME which is above every Name: in Heaven, in Earth, and under the Earth; a Name that every knee bows to, and

confesses, JESUS CHRIST! Paul is saying here to us that *my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. It is God that works in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure. Do all things without murmurings and disputings: that you be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom you shine as lights in the world; holding forth the Word of Life; that I (Paul) may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither labored in vain.*

Paul's sufferings in the faith were to give us Jesus and faith and joy so that when we all stand at judgment time, Paul will not see his sufferings as in vain. Paul sent Timothy to the Philippian church so that he could report on their state. Paul found out that most people were looking only after their own and not caring for other Christ-followers which is a very sad state even now. Epaphroditus was sick unto death and was missing the Philippian brothers and sisters and because of God's mercy, he was healed and went back from Paul to the Philippian church. He nearly died coming to serve Paul *not regarding his life, to supply your lack of service toward me"* The Philippian church forgot to help Paul it seems.

Philippians 3. Read the chapter. *Rejoice in the Lord, Paul says, but beware of dogs, evil workers, beware of mutilators; For we are the circumcision (of heart), which worship God in the Spirit and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh (although Paul has confidence in the flesh more than those that other men have).*

Paul gives his genealogy: *Circumcised on the eighth day (as by Law), of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin (Rachel's sweet child) a Hebrew of the Hebrews, and a Pharisee; zealously persecuting the church (followers of Jesus), blameless as far as his righteousness in the Law is concerned. But all these things don't amount to a hill of beans for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus, my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things and do count them but dung that I may win Christ, and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith, that Paul might know Him and the POWER of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being made conformable unto His death; if by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead. Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.*

When I (Ele) accepted Jesus as my Saviour I could not see how I, such a sinner, could be righteous. But when I heard Helen Beard preach on this subject *that I may win Christ, and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith,* that Ele

might know Him and the POWER of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being made conformable unto His death, as we started this chapter with REJOICE, such Joy hit me that I could not stop laughing, LOUDLY, until my sides hurt and with that she slipped down under the pew of Faith Temple in Winnipeg. I looked up and saw my husband and two friends who brought us there but they were not laughing, well, not until they saw her in a stupor of JOY; totally resurrected in the Spirit, and certainly not having any confidence in the flesh.

Like Paul, ...but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus...as many as be perfect, be thus minded:...Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as you have us for an example (there are those that are enemies of the cross of Christ whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame who mind earth things)...For our conversation is in heaven; from where also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto His glorious body, according to the working whereby He is able even to subdue all things unto Himself. Again, REJOICE!

Philippians 4. Read the chapter. How intimate Paul has become with the church of Jesus;... *my brethren dearly beloved and longed for my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, (again) my dearly beloved." ...help those women which labored with me in the gospel...whose names are in the book of life... Rejoice...pray...supplicaton...thanksgiving...whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.* Paul rejoices that the Philippian church had started again to support Paul, but the opportunity had been scarce so Paul said whether he had lack or not, he was content because *I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me.* He reiterated that the Philippian church was the only one concerned with Paul in receiving and giving. No other church had done it. Even when he was in Thessalonica, the Philippian church supplied Paul's need. Now Epaphroditus had brought to Paul *I have all and abound: I am full having received...the things which were sent from you.* But you will notice that while Phillipians gave, it was to bless them Paul said *But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.* To God be the Glory!