Christ Magnified in Me

Lesson 7: Philippians 1

February 16, 2020
2nd Missionary Journey

- Antioch
- Syria region
- Cilicia region
- Derbe
- Lystra
- Phrygian region
- Galatian region
- Mysia region
- Troas
- Neapolis
- Philippi
- Amphipolis
- Apollonia
- Thessalonica
- Berea
- Athens
- Corinth
- Cenchrea
- Ephesus
- Caesarea
- Antioch
History

• Philippi had a strong Roman influence
• A poor church
• Apostolic authority is not mentioned (like Thessalonians)
• Written from Rome (praetorian guard, Caesar’s household, etc.)
• The last church Paul personally visited before arrest in Jerusalem
• Last letter written to a church
• Overseers and deacons
Themes

• The Gospel – 1:5, 1:7, 1:12, 1:16, 1:27 (2x), 2:22, 4:3, 4:15
• (Re)joy(cing) – 1:4, 1:18 (2x), 1:25, 2:2, 2:17 (2x), 2:18 (2x), 2:28, 2:29, 3:1, 4:1, 4:4 (2x), 4:10
• Unity – 1:1, 1:7, 1:23 (2x), 1:27, 2:17, 2:18, 2:22, 2:25 (2x), 3:10, 3:17, 4:2, 4:3 (3x), 4:14, 4:21
Joy/Rejoice
Verbal Outline

• 1:1-11
• 1:12-26 Paul
• 1:27-2:4 Philippians
• 2:5-11 Christ
• 2:12-18 Philippians
• 2:19-30 Timothy and Epaphroditus
• 3:1-3 Philippians
• 3:4-14 Paul
• 3:15-4:1 Philippians
• 4:2-3 Paul
• 4:4-9 Philippians
• 4:10-18 Paul
• 4:19-23
Outline of the Letter

• 1:1-11  Introduction
• 1:12-3:1  Life in Christ
  • 1:12-26  The result of Paul’s suffering for the gospel
  • 1:27-2:11  Conduct worthy of the gospel
  • 2:12-30  Working out our salvation
  • 3:1  Rejoice
• 3:2-4:20  Pressing on in Christ
  • 3:2-14  The foundation of life in Christ
  • 3:15-4:9  The attitude of believers
  • 4:10-20  Contentment and provision
• 4:21-23  Closing
Lesson Outline

• 1:1-11 Introduction
  • 1:1 Author and recipients
  • 1:2 Blessing
  • 1:3-11 Prayer

• 1:12-3:1 Life in Christ
  • 1:12-26 The result of Paul’s suffering for the gospel
    • 1:12-18 The spread of the gospel
    • 1:19-26 Ministry perspective in suffering
  • 1:27-3:3 Conduct worthy of the gospel
    • 1:27-2:4 Characteristics
Introduction
Philippians 1:1-6

1 Paul and Timothy, bond-servants of Christ Jesus,

To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, including the overseers and deacons: 2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

3 I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, 4 always offering prayer with joy in my every prayer for you all, 5 in view of your participation in the gospel from the first day until now. 6 For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.

• Author: Paul
  • Extensive use of “I”
  • Timothy is referred to in the third person

• Recipients: the Saints
  • In Christ Jesus
  • In Philippi

• Thanksgiving leads into prayer
• The work that God has started He will complete
Introduction  
Philippians 1:7-11

7For it is only right for me to feel this way about you all, because I have you in my heart, since both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers of grace with me. 8For God is my witness, how I long for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. 9And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment, 10so that you may approve the things that are excellent, in order to be sincere and blameless until the day of Christ; 11having been filled with the fruit of righteousness which comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

• Prayer for
  • Love
  • Knowledge
  • Discernment
  • Purity
  • Blamelessness

• Purpose of the prayer
  • Approve what is excellent
  • Bring glory to God
The result of Paul’s suffering for the gospel
Philippians 1:12-16

12Now I want you to know, brethren, that my circumstances have turned out for the greater progress of the gospel,
13so that my imprisonment in the cause of Christ has become well known throughout the whole praetorian guard
and to everyone else, 14and that most of the brethren, trusting in the Lord because of my imprisonment, have far more courage to speak the word of God without fear. 15Some, to be sure, are preaching Christ even from envy and strife, but some also from good will;
16the latter do it out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel;

- The gospel always advances
- Praetorian guard probably refers to Rome, not Caesarea
- Faithful suffering encourages other believers
- Those preaching Christ
  - Envy, strife, selfish ambition
  - Good will, love, pure motives
The result of Paul’s suffering for the gospel
Philippians 1:17-20

17 the former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition rather than from pure motives, thinking to cause me distress in my imprisonment. 18 What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed; and in this I rejoice.

Yes, and I will rejoice, 19 for I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayers and the provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, 20 according to my earnest expectation and hope, that I will not be put to shame in anything, but that with all boldness, Christ will even now, as always, be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death.

- This was a motivation problem, not a doctrine problem
- We should rejoice whenever Christ is accurately proclaimed
- We should have a great desire for Christ to be exalted in our lives
The result of Paul’s suffering for the gospel
Philippians 1:21-26

21For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. 22But if I am to live on in the flesh, this will mean fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which to choose. 23But I am hard-pressed from both directions, having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for that is very much better; 24yet to remain on in the flesh is more necessary for your sake. 25Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy in the faith, 26so that your proud confidence in me may abound in Christ Jesus through my coming to you again.
Conduct worthy of the gospel
Philippians 1:27-30

27 Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I will hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel; 28 in no way alarmed by your opponents—which is a sign of destruction for them, but of salvation for you, and that too, from God. 29 For to you it has been granted for Christ’s sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake, 30 experiencing the same conflict which you saw in me, and now hear to be in me.

• Conduct worthy of the gospel
  • Standing firm in one spirit
  • With one mind striving together for the faith
  • Not being alarmed by our opponents

• God’s grace to us
  • Faith
  • Suffering
Summary

• We need to thank God for other believers
• God will finish the work He has started in His saints
• We need to exalt God in our bodies
• To live is Christ and to die is gain
• We have an obligation to the progress of other believers in the faith
• We need to conduct ourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel
• Faith and sufferings have graciously been given to us