

Philippians 1

V 1-2 : Prison epistle. Typical greeting. Paul also honors Timothy. Bondservants; *doulos*. Not masters of the Church; not supreme authorities; but bondservants to Christ. Addressed to the saints, members of the Church and set apart. **All** the saints. Then to their leaders. Then apostolic benediction.

V 3-6: Paul gives thanks for them all. Even though he was not there, he always remembered them in prayer. Remembers them with joy. Even though he had suffered in Philippi. Jailed and beaten. But the Gospel was spread. He thanks the Lord for all that. They all had fellowship in the Gospel. They had worked with Paul.

Jesus had begun a good work in all of them and would finish it. The Power of the Gospel. It will never be defeated. The good work is not just for the world but for each of us. **He** begins the work. We cannot do it ourselves. We are dead in our sins.

V 7-8: he has them in his heart. They are partakers of grace.

V 9-11: Paul praying for the church. Prays for love and discernment. Love for God and for others. Discern what is good and what is God's will. Be kept from sin. Points out again that their righteousness is from Christ.

V 12-14: explains that his sufferings have spread the Gospel. He didn't want people to be discouraged by his sufferings. Tells them that others have been encouraged by his persecutions. Everyone there knew that Paul was not an evildoer. They knew he was suffering for his faith, suffers for Christ. What the enemy means for evil, God uses for good.

V 15-18: some were preaching with self-ambition. Some opposed Paul. These grieve him more than he already was. Some preach from love. Even more forcibly knowing that Paul was in prison. They knew he was appointed to spread the Gospel. But his joy is that Christ is being preached and he will continue to rejoice.

V 19-20: Paul is never ashamed. No matter what happens to him, Christ will be advanced. Whether Paul lives or dies, the Gospel will be spread. He will magnify Christ no matter what happens to him. His body and our bodies are living sacrifices. Romans 12:1. This is what matters to him and to us.

V 21-26: the center of Paul's life: 21For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain. This is a summary of Paul. His life was Christ and death was gain. Life is directed to Him.

Living he can produce more fruit. Extend the Kingdom. He can labor more for Christ. He is not sure which he prefers. Dying and being with Christ is better. Greek means exceedingly preferable. But he also wants to produce more fruit for the Gospel.

Living also is better for the church at Philippi; he can minister to them and they can progress. They can also have more joy if he goes there again.

V 27-30: Paul wants to hear good reports about them. Their conduct should be worthy of Christ. They should be models. They should have faith and holiness. Conversations and actions should be about the Gospel. There should also be unity. Don't be afraid of your enemies. You may have to suffer for the Gospel. This also comes with belief. They could see what happened to Paul.