

The Epistle of Paul to the Philippians

The Argument

Paul being warned by the holie Ghost to go to Macedonia, planted first a Church at Philippi a city of the same country: but because his charge was to preach the Gospel universally to all the Gentiles, he traveled from place to place, till at the length he was taken prisoner at Rome, whereof the Philippians, being advertised, sent their minister Epaphroditus with relief unto him: who declaring him the state of the Church, caused him to write this Epistle, wherein he commendeth them that they stood manfully against the false apostles, putting them in mind of his good will toward them, and exhorteth them that his imprisonment make them not to shrink: for the Gospel thereby was confirmed and not diminished: especially he desireth them to flee ambition, and to embrace modesty, promising to send Timotheus unto them, who should instruct them in matters more amply: yea, and that he him self would also come unto them, adding likewise the cause of their minister's so long abode. And because there were not greater enemies to the cross then the false apostles, he confuteth their false doctrine, by proving only Christ to be the end of all true religion, with whom we have all thing, and without whom we have nothing, so that his death is our life, and his resurrection our justification. After this follow certain admonitions both particular and general, with testification of his affection toward them, and thankful accepting of their benevolence.

Chapter 1

1 S. Paul discovereth his heart toward them, 3 By his thanks giving, 4 Prayers, 8 And wishes for their faith and salvation. 7. 12. 20. He sheweth the fruit of his cross. 15. 27. And exhorteth them to unity, 28 And patience.

Paul and Timotheus the servants of JESUS CHRIST, to all the Saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the^aBishops, and Deacons:

2 Grace be with you, and peace from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

3 *I thank my God *having* you in perfect memory,

4 (Always in all my prayers for all you, praying with gladness)

5 Because of the^bfellowship which ye have in the Gospel, from^cfirst day unto now.

6 And I am persuaded of this same thing that he that hath begun *this* good work in you, will perform it until the^dday of Jesus Christ,

7 As it becometh me so to judge of you all because I have you in remembrance^e that both in my bands, and in *my* defense, and confirmation of the Gospel you all were partakers of my^fgrace.

8 For God is my record, how I long after you all from the very heart root in Jesus Christ.

9 And this I pray, that your love may abunde, yet more and more in knowledge, and in all judgement,

10 That ye may discern things that^gdiffer *one from another*, that ye may be pure, and^hwithout offence, until the day of Christ,

11 Filled with the fruits ofⁱrighteousness, which are by Jesus Christ unto the glory and praise of God.

12 ¶ I would ye understood, brethren, that the things which *have come* unto me, are turned rather to the furthering of the Gospel,

13 So that my bands in^jChrist are famous throughout all the^kjudgement hall, and in all other *places*,

14 In so much that many of the brethren in the Lord are boldned through my bands, and dare more frankly speak the^lword.

15 Some preach Christ even through envy and strife, and some also of good will.

16 The one part preacheth Christ of contention and not^mpurely, supposing to add more affliction to my bands.

17 But the others of love, knowing that Iⁿam set for the defense of the Gospel.

18 What then? yet Christ is preached all manner ways, whether *it*^obe under a pretense, or sincerely: and I therein joy: yea, and will joy.

19 For I know that this shall turn to my salvation, through your prayer, and by the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,

20 As I heartily look for, and hope, that in nothing I shalbe ashamed, but that with all confidence, as all ways, so now Christ shalbe magnified in my body, whether *it* be by life or by death.

21 For Christ *is* to me both in life, and in death advantage.

22 And whether to^plive in the flesh were profitable for me, and what to choose I know not.

23 For I am greatly in doubt on both sides, desiring to be loosed and to be with Christ, which is best of all.

24 Nevertheless, to abide in the^qflesh *is* more needful for you.

25 And this am I sure of, that I shall abide, and with you all continue, for your furtherance and joy of *your* faith,

26 That ye may more abundantly rejoice in Jesus Christ for me, by my coming to you again.

27 *Only let your conversation be, as it becometh the Gospel of Christ, that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your matters that ye^rcontinue in one Spirit, and in one mind fighting together through the faith of the Gospel.

28 And in nothing fear your adversaries, which is to them a^stoken of perdition, and to you of salvation, and^tthat of God.

29 For unto you it is given^ufor Christ, that not only ye should

1 a By bishops here he means them that had charge of the word and governing, as pastors, doctors, elders: by deacons, such as had charge of the distribution, and of the poor and sick.

3 *1 Thes. 1.2.

5 b With other Churches.

5 c That ye received the Gospel.

6 d When you shall receive the crown of glory.

7 e It was a sure token of their love, that they did help him by all means possible, when he was absent, and in prison, even as if they had been prisoners with him.

7 f Of this particular benefit to suffer for Christ's sake.

10 ^Or, are excellent.

10 g That you so increase in godliness that not only ye can put difference between good and evil: but also that ye profit more and more without slipping back, or standing in a stay.

11 h Righteousness is the tree, good works the fruit.

13 i Which I sustain for Christ's cause.

13 k That is, in the court or Palace of the Emperor Nero.

14 l Or, profess the Gospel, considering my constancy.

16 m But with a corrupt mind.

17 ^Or, lie in bands.

18 n Their pretense was to preach Christ, and therefore their doctrine was true: but they were full of ambition and envy thinking to deface Paul and prefer themselves.

22 o To live in the flesh is to live in this brittle body, till we be called to live everlastingly: but to live according to the flesh or to be in the flesh, signify, to be destitute of the Spirit and to be plunged in the filthy concupiscence of the flesh.

24 ^Or, body.

27 *Ephe. 4.1, Col. 1.10, 1 Thes. 2.12.

27 ^Or, stand.

28 p The more that tyrants rage against the Gospel, the more manifestly they declare that they run to their own destruction: and again constant perseverance for Christ's sake is an evident sign of salvation.

28 q God shows by this means of bearing the cross who are his, and who are not.

29 ^Or, Christ's cause.

believe in him, but also suffer for his sake,
30 Having the same fight, which ye saw in me, and now hear to be in me.

Chapter 2

3 *He exhorteth them above all things to humility, whereby pure doctrine is chiefly maintained, 19 Promising that he and Timotheus will speedily come unto them, 27 And excuseth the long tarrying of Epaphroditus.*

1 **I**f there be therefore any ^aconsolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any compassion and mercy,

2 Fulfill my joy, that ye be like minded, having the same love, being of one accord, and of ^bone judgement,

3 That nothing *be done* through contention or vain glory, but that in meekness of mind ^cevery man esteem other better then him self.

4 Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of other men.

5 Let the same mind be in you that was even in Christ Jesus,

6 Who ^dbeing in the form of God, thought it no ^erobbery to be equal with God:

7 ^fBut he made him self of no reputation, and took on him the ^gform of a servant, and was made like unto men, and was found in ^hshape as a man.

8 ⁱHe humbled him self, and became obedient unto the death, even the death of the cross.

9 Wherefore God hath also highly exalted him, and given him a Name above every name,

10 ^jThat at the Name of Jesus should every ^kknee bow, *both* of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth,

11 ^lAnd that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is the Lord, unto the glory of God the Father.

12 Wherefore my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in mine absence, so ^mmake an end of your own salvation with ⁿfear and trembling.

13 For it is God which worketh in you, both the will and the deed, *even of his* ^ogood pleasure.

14 Do all things without ^pmurmuring and reasonings,

15 That ye may be blameless, and pure, and the sons of God without rebuke in the middes of a naughty and crooked nation,

1 a If you so love me that you desire my comfort.

2 b From the consent of wills and minds he proceeds to the agreement in doctrine, that there might be full and perfect concord.

3 ^cRom. 12.10.

6 c If Christ being very God equal with the Father, laid aside his glory, and being Lord, became a servant, and willingly submitted himself to most shameful death, shall we which are nothing but vile slaves, through arrogancy tread down our brethren, and prefer our selves?

6 d For he that was God, should have done none injury to the Godhead.

7 ^eMat. 20.28.

7 e The poor and weak nature of man.

7 f He was seen and heard of men, so that his behavior and person declared that he was as a miserable man.

8 ^gEbr. 2.9.

10 ^hRom.14.11, Isa. 45.23.

10 g Worship, and be subject to him.

11 ⁱJohn 13.13, 1 Cor. 8.6 and 12.3.

12 h Run forward in that race of righteousness, wherein God hath freely placed you through Jesus Christ and conducts you his children by his Spirit to walk in good works, and so to make your vocation sure.

12 i Which may make you careful and diligent.

13 k Which is his free grace.

14 ^l1 Pet. 4.9.

among whom ye shine as ^mlights in the world,

16 ⁿHolding forth the ^oword of life, that I may rejoyce in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither labored in vain.

17 Yea, and though I be ^poffered up upon the sacrifice, and service ^qof your faith, I am glad, and rejoyce with you all.

18 For the same cause also be ye glad, and rejoyce with me.

19 And I trust in the Lord Jesus, to send ^rTimotheus shortly unto you, that I also may be of good comfort, when I know your state.

20 For I have no man like minded, who will faithfully care for your matters.

21 ^sFor all ^tseek their own, and not that which is Jesus Christ's.

22 But ye know the proof of him, that as a son with the father, he hath served with me in the Gospel.

23 Him therefore I hope to send assoon as I know how it will go with me,

24 And trust in the Lord, that I also my self shall come shortly.

25 But I supposed it necessary to send *my* brother Epaphroditus unto you, my companion in labor, and fellow soldier, even your messenger, and he that ministered unto me such things as I wanted.

26 For he longed after all you, and was full of heaviness, because ye had heard, that he had been sick.

27 And no doubt he was sick, very near unto death: but God had mercy on him, and not on him only, but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow.

28 I sent him therefore the more diligently, that when ye should see him again, ye might rejoyce, & I might be the less sorrowful.

29 Receive him therefore in the Lord with all gladness, and make much of such:

30 Because that for ^uthe work of Christ he ^vwas near unto death, and regarded not his life, to fulfill that service which was lacking on your part toward me.

Chapter 3

2 *He warneth them to beware of false teachers. 3 Against whom he setteth Christ, 4 Likewise him self. 9 And his doctrine, 12 And reproveth man's own righteousness.*

Moreover, my brethren, rejoyce in the Lord. It grieveth me not to write ^wthe same things to you, & for you it is a sure thing.

2 Beware of ^xdogs: beware of evil workers: beware of the ^yconcision.

3 For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoyce in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence ^zin the flesh:

4 Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh,

15 ^aMat. 5.14.

16 l As they which in the night set forth a candle to give light to others.

16 m The Gospel.

17 n The word signifies to pour out as the drink offering was poured on the sacrifice.

17 o To confirm you in your faith.

19 ^pAct. 16.1.

21 ^q1 Cor. 10.24.

21 p They rather sought profit by their preaching then God's glory.

30 q He calls it here the work of Christ to visit Christ who was bound in the person of Paul, and was in need of necessaries.

30 r He approves them which hazard their life to relieve the prisoners of Christ.

Chapter 3

1 a Which ye have often heard of me.

2 b Which bark against the true doctrine to fill their bellies.

2 c The false apostles gloried in their circumcision, whereunto S. Paul here alludes, calling them concision, which is cutting off and tearing asunder of the Church.

3 d In outward things.

much more I:

5 Circumcised the eight day, of the kindred of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, *an Ebrew of the Ebrewes, *by the Law a Pharise.

6 Concerning zeal, I persecuted the Church: touching righteousness which is in the Law, I was unrebukeable.

7 But the things that were vantage unto me, the same I counted loss for Christ's sake.

8 Yea, doubtless I think all things but loss for the excellent knowledge sake of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have counted all things loss, and do judge *them* to be dung, that I might win Christ.

9 And might be ^efound in him, *that is*, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the Law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, *even* the righteousness which is of God through faith,

10 That I may know him, and the virtue of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his afflictions, and be made conformable unto his death,

11 If by any means I might attain unto the ⁱresurrection of the dead:

12 ^oNot as though I had already attained *to it*, either were already perfect: but I follow, if that I may comprehend *that* for whose sake also I am ⁿcomprehended of Christ Jesus.

13 Brethren, I count not my self, that I have attained *to it*, but one thing *I do*: I forget that which is behind, and endeavor my self unto that which is before,

14 And follow hard toward the ⁱmark, for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

15 Let us therefore as many as ^kbe ^lperfect, be thus minded: and if ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even the ^msame unto you.

16 Nevertheless, *in that* whereunto we are come, let us proceed by one rule, ⁿthat we may mind one thing.

17 Brethren, be followers of me, and look on them, which walk so, as ye have us for an ensample.

18 *For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you weeping, *that they are* the enemies of the ⁿCross of Christ,

19 Whose ^{end} is damnation, whose God *is their* belly, and whose ^oglory *is to their* shame, which mind earthly things.

20 But our ^pconversation is in heaven, from whence also we look for the *Saviour, *even* the Lord Jesus Christ,

21 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 him self.

Chapter 4

5 *2 Cor. 11.22.

5 *Act 23.6.

5 [^]Or, profession.

9 e As one grafted in him by faith.

11 f That is, to life everlasting.

12 g Or have now taken full possession thereof, not that he doubted to attain unto it, but because he would declare the excellency thereof.

12 h We can run no further then God gives us strength, and shows us the way.

14 i That is, to obtain the crown of glory in the heavens.

15 k Or, have more profited then others.

15 l This perfection stands in forsaking sin, and to be renewed through faith by him which is only perfect.

15 m That is, that this is the true wisdom, and straight rule of living.

16 *Rom. 15.5, 1 Cor. 1.10.

18 *Rom. 16.17.

18 n That is, of the Gospel, which is the preaching of the cross.

19 [^]Or, reward.

19 o The vain glory which they seek after in this world, shall turn to their confusion and shame.

20 p In mind, and affection.

20 *1 Cor. 1.7, Tit. 2.11.

1 *He exhorteth them to be of honest conversation, 15 And thanketh them, because of the provision that they made for him being in prison, 21 And so concludeth with salutations.*

Therefore, my brethren, beloved and longed for, *my* joy and my crown, so continue in the Lord, ye beloved.

2 I pray Euodias, and beseech Syntyche, that they be of one accord in the Lord,

3 Yea, and I beseech thee, faithful yokefellow, help those *women*, which labored with me in the Gospel, with Clemente also, and with other my fellow laborers, whose names *are* in the ^abook of life.

4 Rejoice in the Lord alway, again I say, rejoice.

5 Let your patient mind be known unto all men. The Lord *is* ^bat hand.

6 *Be nothing careful, but in all things let your requests be shewed unto God in prayer, & supplication with giving of thanks.

7 And the peace of God which passeth all understanding, shall ^cpreserve your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

8 Furthermore, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things *are* honest, whatsoever things *are* just, whatsoever things *are* pure, whatsoever things pertain to love, whatsoever things *are* of good report, if there *be* any virtue, or if there *be* any praise, think on these things,

9 Which ye have both learned and received, and heard, and seen in me: those things do, & the God of peace shalbe with you.

10 Now I rejoice also in the Lord greatly, that now at the last ye are ^drevived again to care for me, wherein notwithstanding ye were careful, but ye lacked opportunity.

11 I speak not because of ^ewant: for I have learned in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.

12 And I can be abased, and I can abunde: every where in all things I am instructed both to be full, and to be hungry, and to abunde, and to have want.

13 I am able to *do* all things through the help of ^fChrist, which strengtheneth me.

14 Notwithstanding ye have well done, that ye did communicate to mine affliction.

15 And ye Philippians know also that in the ^gbeginning of the Gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no Church communicated with me concerning the ^hmatter of giving and receiving, but ye only.

16 For even *when I was* in Thessalonica, ye sent once, and afterward again for my necessity,

17 Not that I desire a gift: but I desire the fruit which may ⁱfurther your reckoning.

18 Now I have received all, and have plenty: I was even filled, after that I had received of Epaphroditus that which *came* from you, an odor that smelleth sweet, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasant to God.

19 And my God shall fulfill all your necessities through his riches with glory in Jesus Christ.

3 *Psal. 69.28, Luk. 10.20, Rev. 3.5, and 10.8 and 21.27.

3 a This book Ezekiel calls the writing of the house of Israel, and the secret of the Lord, Eze. 13.9.

5 b To succor you.

6 *Mat. 6.25.

7 c From Satan, who seeks to take from us this peace of conscience.

10 d That is, begin anew to help me.

11 e That I was not able to endure my poverty.

13 f Not of his own virtue or free will.

15 g When I first preached the Gospel unto you.

15 h He had given of his part in communicating with them spiritual things, but he received nothing of them, which ought at least to have relieved him in his necessity.

17 [^]Or, abunde toward your count.

20 Unto God even our Father *be* praise for evermore, Amen.

21 Salute all the Saints in Christ Jesus. The brethren, which are with me, greet you.

22 All the Saints salute you, and most of all they which are of

ⁱCesar's household.

23 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with you all, Amen.

Written to the Philippians from Rome, and *sent* by Epaphroditus.

22 i Of such as did belong to the Emperor Nero.