

Philippians 1 - Christ our Life

1:1-2 INTRODUCTION AND SALUTATION

v1 Timotheus: Timothy was an outstanding example to this ecclesia and in whom there was a special bond. He worked with Paul in founding the ecclesia: **Acts 16:3**. Timothy had strong feelings for the Philippians: **2:20**. **Servants: Acts 16:17**. A bonds slave, see notes on **2:7**. Immediately draws our attention to Isaiah's servant prophecies: **Isa 42:1-7; 49:4-9; 50:5-6; 52:13-53:13**. No need for Paul to establish his apostleship as with other ecclesias, cp. **Rom 1:1; 1 Cor 1:1**. **In Christ Jesus:** Constant theme in Paul's epistles, see **3:14**. Includes all believers in Philippi. **Bishops:** Overseers, often elders who shepherded the flock: **Acts 14:23; 20:28; Titus 1:5,7**. Christ: **1 Pet 2:25**. **Deacons:** Those overseeing the important practical aspects of ecclesial life. Christ was also a deacon: **Rom 15:8**. **v2 Grace:** Unmerited Divine favour. Motivation for a godly life: **Rom 5:20; Tit 2:11**. A basic quality of God's character: **Ex 34:6-8**. Especially in giving His Son: **Rom 3:24,25**. Having been justified by faith we have **peace** of mind with God: **Jn 16:33; Rom 5:1; Gal 5:22**. Grace and peace epitomises Christ's character: **Rev 1:4; 22:21**.

1:3-8 PAUL'S REMEMBRANCE OF THE PHILIPPIANS

v3 I thank my God: His memory of them causes him to give thanks to God. Same as in **Rom 1:8; 1 Cor 1:4; Eph 1:15-16; Col 1:9**. We should also give thanks for our friends. **v4 Always in every prayer:** Christ's exhortation in **Lk 18:1-8**. Same principle in **Eph 6:18**. **Request with joy:** Rejoicing and joy a constant theme: **1:18,25,26; 2:2,16,17,18,28; 3:1,3; 4:1,4,10**. Worshipping God is a delight: **Psa 37:4** cp. **Mal 1:13**. **v5 Fellowship:** Reason for his joy. **The gospel:** RV. *Furtherance of the gospel*. **First day until now:** Lydia's first response to the gospel: **Acts 16:14,40**.

v6 Confident: Trust in God based on clear evidence of God's providence in the past. **Begun a good work in you:** Important! It is God who works in us: **Eph 2:10**. Without His blessing, our labour is in vain: **Prov 16:3; Psa 127:1**. **Day of Jesus Christ:** Second coming: **1:10; 2:16**. **Progress** a key theme: **1:9,25; 2:2; 3:14; 4:23; Col 3:23**. No time to standstill: **Rom 2:16; 1 Cor 1:8**.

v7 Meet for me to think this: RSV "It is right for me to feel this about you all." **My heart:** Gk. "you have me in your heart." **In my bonds:** Common sympathy between Paul and the Philippians in his afflictions. Not easy to live in a city that supported Rome.

PAUL and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:
2 Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.
3 "I thank my God upon every remembrance of you,
4 Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy.
5 For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now;
6 Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it "until the day of Jesus Christ";
7 Even as it is meet for me to think this of you all, because "I have you in my heart"; inasmuch as both ^bin my bonds, and in ^cthe defence and confirmation of the gospel, ye all are ^bpartakers of my grace.
8 For ^cGod is my record, how greatly ^dI long after you all in the bowels of Jesus Christ.



"Filled with fruits of righteousness" Phil 1:11

v8 I long after you: Paul wants to convince them of his love for them and he calls God to be his witness, cp. **Rom 1:9; 9:1; Gal 1:20**. **Bowels:** Depth of love a response to love of Christ: **2:1; 1 Jn 4:11**; tr. "tender mercies" **Lk 1:78**.

1:9-11 PAUL'S PRAYER FOR THEIR SPIRITUAL GROWTH

v9 Love may abound more: Growth in Christ is very important. This love is based on knowledge of the gospel.

v10 Approve: Gk. "to test, primarily of metals." So we use gospel truth to test what is important and right: **1 Jn 4:1**. **Sincere:** Gk. "to test by sunlight and so found genuine." Our character is tested by God's Word under trial: **1 Pet 1:7**.

v11 Fruits: Also **1:22; 4:17**. Fruit of the Spirit: **Gal 5:22-25**. The principles of the gospel must change our thinking so our daily life is filled with Godly living. **Praise of God:** If men see our good works, glory goes to God: **Mt 5:16 Jn 15:8; 1 Cor 10:31; 1 Pet 3:17**.

1:12-17 PREACHING IN ROME

v12 Furtherance of the gospel: They were very worried about how Paul was faring: **2:25-30**. Knowing this he tells of his situation but not in a way that would bring him pity. He was a living example of **2 Tim 4:2**. All life's experiences are for God's glory. **v13 Bonds in Christ:** Sharing in Christ's sufferings: **Col 1:24**. For the hope of Israel: **Acts 28:20**.

In all the palace: Praetorian Guard over Caesar's palace. **All other places:** **Acts 28:30-31**. **v14 Confident in my bonds:** Many were inspired by Paul's example to witness for Christ. We should also: **2 Tim 1:7-9,12**. **v15 Envy and strife:** Some saw Paul as a threat, particularly those who loved to have pre-eminence. Consider **Acts 28:19-29**. Many were upset. **v16 Contention:** cp. **Jas 3:14-16**. **Not sincerely:** Not with pure, sincere motives. **v17 The other of love:** Gk. *agape*, self-sacrificial love.

1:18-26 HOPES FOR RELEASE

v18 Christ preached: Paul's humility. He did not seek self-promotion.

9 And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all ^ajudgment;

10 "That ye may ^aapprove things that ^aare excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence ^atil **the day of Christ**;

11 Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, ^bwhich are by Jesus Christ, ^cunto the glory and praise of God.

12 But I would ye should understand, brethren, that the things which happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel;

13 So that my bonds ^bin Christ are manifest in all ^cthe palace, and ^din all other places;

14 And many of the brethren in the Lord, waxing confident by my bonds, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

15 Some indeed preach Christ ^eeven of envy and strife; and some also of good will:

16 The one preach Christ ^fof contention, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my bonds:

17 But **the other of love**, knowing that I am set for ^gthe defence of the gospel.

18 What then? notwithstanding, every way, whether in pretence, or in truth, Christ is preached; and I therein do **re-joice**, yea, and will **re-joice**.

19 For I know that this shall turn to my salvation ^hthrough your prayer, and the supply of **the Spirit of Jesus Christ**.

20 According to my ⁱearnest expectation and ^jmy hope, that ^kin nothing I shall be ashamed, but ^lthat ^mwith all boldness, as always, so now also **Christ shall be magnified** in my body, whether ⁿit be by life, or by death.

21 For to me ^oto live is Christ, and to die is gain.

22 But if I live in the flesh, ^pthis is the fruit of my labour:



Paul writing from Rome

yet what I shall choose I wot not.

23 For ^qI am in a strait between two, ^rhaving a desire ^sto depart, and to **be with Christ**; which is far better:

24 Nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you.

25 And ^thaving this confidence, I know that I shall abide and continue with you all for your furtherance and **joy** of faith;

26 That your **rejoicing** may be more abundant in Jesus Christ for me by my coming to you again.

27 Only ^ulet your conversation be ^vas it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye ^w'stand fast in one spirit, with ^xone mind ^y"striving together for the faith of the gospel";

28 And in nothing terrified by your adversaries: ^zwhich is to them an **evident token** of perdition, ^{aa}but to you of salvation, and that of God.

29 For ^{ab}unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to **suffer for his sake**;

30 Having the same conflict ^{ac}"which ye saw in me, and now hear ^{ad}to be in me.

1:27-30 EXHORTATION TO STEADFASTNESS

v27 Your conversation: Gk. *Citizenship*. The city of Philippi took great pride in their Roman citizenship. Our world today is focussed more than ever on the here and now. The ecclesia needed to stay focussed on their calling to a future kingdom. **One mind:** As in **Phil 2:19-20** "likeminded". **Striving together:** Also in **4:3** "laboured with me". A constant theme of the athlete pressing forward. **v28 NIV** "this is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved." Their persecutors would feel judged by the righteous lives of believers as in **Jn 19:8; Acts 27:24**.

v29-30 They saw Christ in Paul. Consider **Acts 16:20-39** and contrast this with Christ in **Isa 53:5; Mt 26:59; 28:2; Acts 2:24**.

Colour code: Blue (God and Jesus Christ); Red (sin/devil/judgment of wicked); Green (Kingdom); Orange (important words and phrases); Purple (return of Jews to the land); Yellow (practical exhortation). Prepared for 2017 Perth Youth Conference. These notes are based on the 1983 Adelaide Youth Conference notes. For a pdf file email acdangerfield@webshield.net.au

v19 Your prayer: The example of their preaching helped Paul endure his trial. Epaphroditus may have told Paul of this. An important lesson: **1 Thess 5:25; Heb 13:18**. **My salvation:** Gk. "result in my deliverance", cited from **Job 13:16** - look at context.

v20 Earnest expectation: Gk. "watch with outstretched head, an eager longing." Only other occurrence is **Rom 8:19**. **Christ magnified:** Gk. "made great". Paul was told on the road to Damascus that he would bear Christ's name before kings and suffer for his Name's sake: **Acts 9:15-16**. **Nothing ashamed:** cp. **Isa 54:4; Rom 9:33; 10:11**.

v21 Live is Christ: Principle of **Gal 2:20**. **Die is gain:** Whoever shall lose his life shall gain it: **Mk 8:35**. **v22 Life in the flesh:** He is struggling with trials of life. **v23 Be with Christ:** Not afraid of death because of his hope of resurrection at his next waking moment: **2 Cor 5:1-4,8**. His next waking moment will be the resurrection. **v24 Abide in the flesh:** He prefers to die, but selflessly concludes it may be best for the ecclesia if he remains alive. **v25 Continue:** Paul wants to do his best for the ecclesia: **3:12-14**. **v26 Rejoicing:** Paul continues to focus on Christ.