

Philippians

Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are at Philip'pi, with the bishops and deacons: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, thankful for

5 your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. It is right for me to feel thus about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the

10 affection of Christ Jesus. And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve what is excellent, and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruits of righteousness which come through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God. I want you to know, brethren, that what has happened to me has really served to

15 advance the gospel, so that it has become known throughout the whole praetorian guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ; and most of the brethren have been made confident in the Lord because of my imprisonment, and are much more bold to speak the word of God without fear. Some indeed preach Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from good will. The latter do it out of love,

20 knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel; the former proclaim Christ

out of partisanship, not sincerely but thinking to afflict me in my imprisonment.

What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed; and in that I rejoice. Yes, and I shall rejoice. For I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my

5 deliverance, as it is my eager expectation and hope that I shall not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. If it is to be life in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that
10 is far better. But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account.

Convinced of this, I know that I shall remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again. Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I

15 may hear of you that you stand firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear omen to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God.

For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, engaged in the same conflict which you saw and

20 now hear to be mine. So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any incentive of

love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfishness or conceit, but in humility count others better than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the

5 interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly

10 exalted him and bestowed on him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and

15 trembling; for God is at work in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. Do all things without grumbling or questioning, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in

20 vain. Even if I am to be poured as a libation upon the sacrificial offering of your

faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me. I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, so that I may be cheered by news of you. I have no one like him, who will be genuinely anxious for your welfare. They all look after their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ.

5 But Timothy's worth you know, how as a son with a father he has served with me in the gospel. I hope therefore to send him just as soon as I see how it will go with me; and I trust in the Lord that shortly I myself shall come also. I have thought it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus my brother and fellow worker and fellow soldier, and your messenger and minister to my need, for he has been longing for

10 you all, and has been distressed because you heard that he was ill. Indeed he was ill, near to death. But God had mercy on him, and not only on him but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow. I am the more eager to send him, therefore, that you may rejoice at seeing him again, and that I may be less anxious. So receive him in the Lord with all joy; and honor such men, for he nearly died for the work of

15 Christ, risking his life to complete your service to me. Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you is not irksome to me, and is safe for you. Look out for the dogs, look out for the evil-workers, look out for those who mutilate the flesh. For we are the true circumcision, who worship God in spirit, and glory in Christ Jesus, and put no confidence in the flesh. Though I myself have

20 reason for confidence in the flesh also. If any other man thinks he has reason for

confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law a Pharisee, as to zeal a persecutor of the church, as to righteousness under the law blameless. But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. Indeed I count
5 everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as refuse, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own, based on law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith; that I may know him and the power of his resurrection,
10 and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that if possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Brethren, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but one thing I do, forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on
15 toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Let those of us who are mature be thus minded; and if in anything you are otherwise minded, God will reveal that also to you. Only let us hold true to what we have attained. Brethren, join in imitating me, and mark those who so live as you have an example in us. For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears,
20 live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their end is destruction, their god is the belly,

and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. But our
commonwealth is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,
who will change our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power which
enables him even to subject all things to himself. Therefore, my brethren, whom I
5 love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved. I
entreat Eu-o'dia and I entreat Syn'tyche to agree in the Lord. And I ask you also,
true yokefellow, help these women, for they have labored side by side with me in the
gospel together with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in
the book of life. Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let all men
10 know your forbearance. The Lord is at hand. Have no anxiety about anything, but in
everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made
known to God. And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will keep
your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever is true,
whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely,
15 whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise,
think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in
me, do; and the God of peace will be with you. I rejoice in the Lord greatly that now
at length you have revived your concern for me; you were indeed concerned for me,
but you had no opportunity. Not that I complain of want; for I have learned, in
20 whatever state I am, to be content. I know how to be abased, and I know how to

abound; in any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of facing plenty and
hunger, abundance and want. I can do all things in him who strengthens me. Yet it
was kind of you to share my trouble. And you Philippians yourselves know that in
the beginning of the gospel, when I left Macedo'nia, no church entered into
5 partnership with me in giving and receiving except you only; for even in
Thessaloni'ca you sent me help once and again. Not that I seek the gift; but I seek
the fruit which increases to your credit. I have received full payment, and more; I
am filled, having received from Epaphrodi'tus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering,
a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. And my God will supply every need of
10 yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father be
glory for ever and ever. Amen. Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The brethren who
are with me greet you. All the saints greet you, especially those of Caesar's
household. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. *

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