

A Study of the Book of Philippians

Theme: "OUR PARTNERSHIP IN THE GOSPEL!"

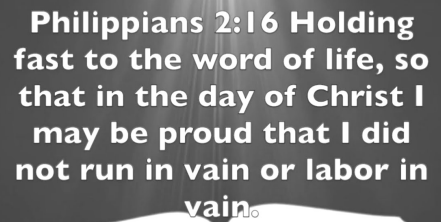
Trinity Lutheran Church Norman, OK.

Pastor David R. Nehrenz

Lesson: 14 Chapter 2:16-18

Date: 12-8-19

BIBLE TEXT:



Philippians 2:16 Holding fast to 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 vain.

*(1) So if there is any encouragement in **Christ**, any comfort from love, any participation in **the Spirit**, any affection and sympathy, (2) complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. (3) Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. (4) Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.*

*(5) Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in **Christ Jesus**, (6) **who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped**, (7) **but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men**. (8) **And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross**. (9) **Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name**, (10) **so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth**, (11) **and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father**.*

*(12) 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 trembling, (13) for it is **God** who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.*

(14) Do all things without grumbling or questioning, (15) that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world.

(16) holding fast to 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 vain.

(17) Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. (18) Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.

(19) I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, so that I too may be cheered by news of you. (20) For I have no one like him, who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare. (21) They all seek their own interests, not those of **Jesus Christ**. (22) But you know Timothy's proven worth, how as a son with a father he has served with me in the gospel. (23) I hope therefore to send him just as soon as I see how it will go with me, (24) and I trust in **the Lord** that shortly I myself will come also.

(25) 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, (26) for he has been longing for you all and has been distressed because you heard that he was ill. (27) 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. (28) I am the more eager to send him, therefore, that you may rejoice at seeing him again, and that I may be less anxious. (29) So receive him in **the Lord** with all joy, and honor such men, (30) for he nearly died for the work of Christ, risking his life to complete what was lacking in your service to me.

STUDY NOTES:

-Obeyed – the commands of God (**Rom 1:5; 15:18; 2 Cor 10:5,6**)

-The presence and the absence of the Apostle Paul – his missionary journeys

(2nd journey **Acts 16:12-40; 3rd journey Acts 20:1,3,6**)

-Work out your salvation – carry it to the finish, persevere, develop, growth, ongoing process

strenuous involvement, maturation, (**Mt 24:13; 1 Cor 9:24-27; Heb 3:14; 6:9-11; 2 Pet 1:5-8**)

-Fear and trembling – taking one’s spiritual life seriously – no laughing matter (**2 Cor 7:15**)

-To will and to do and to act out one’s faith (**Gal 5:6; Jas 2:18-22**)

-No complaining or arguing (**1 Cor 10:10; 2 Tim 2:23; Titus 3:9**)

-Blameless and pure and without fault – covered in Jesus’ righteousness

(**1 Th 3:13; Mt 5:45-48; Eph 5:1**)

-Crooked and depraved generation of mankind (**Mt 17:17; Acts 2:40; Eph 2:1-3;**)

-Shine like the stars / the lights (**Dan 12:1-3; Mt 5:15,16**)

-The Word of life (**Acts 13:46-49; 1 John 1:1,2**)

-The Day of Christ (**1 Cor 1:8; 2 Pet 3:18**)

- I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith,

(**Ex 29:38-41; Num 28:7; Rom 15:16; 2 Cor 6:10; 12:15; 2 Tim 4:6**)

- Paul is in prison and considers that his blood may soon be poured out in his death as a martyr, on the altar of God, on behalf of God’s people.

- Paul is living out the life of our Lord Jesus, who was the true “drink offering,” who drank the bitter cup of the punishment we deserved on the cross.

(**Matt 20:22,23; 26:36-47; Mk 10:38-40; 14:32-43; Lk 22:39-45; John 18:11**)

LIFE APPLICATION:

In what ways do we hold fast to the word of life, so that in **the day of Christ** we may be proud that we did not run in vain or labor in vain?

LUTHER’S WORKS – DRINKING THE CUP – A TRUE DRINK OFFERING - Vol. 55, Page 84

“By “**drink**” or “**cup**” Scripture means any sort of torture, misery, and suffering, just as Christ prayed in the garden, where He sweat blood (Luke 22:44) and said (Matt. 26:39): “Dear Father, if it is possible, remove this cup from Me. But if it cannot be otherwise but that **I drink it**, Thy will be done.” ...

Therefore Christ had **to drink a “cup”** on earth and be “drunk” ; that is, He suffered torture and pain and perished before all the world. Furthermore, in His own kingdom He was so miserable and poor that He had no place where He could lay His head (Matt. 8:20). No crown, royal adornment, or pomp could be seen about Him—nothing but cross, nails, and blood. There He hung, unable to touch either heaven or earth and unable to stand up on His feet.⁹³

But here we do not have the simple expression “**drink of the cup**,” as in other places. “He will drink from the brook” is intended to show that He will not feel ordinary or small pains and misery; but He will bear or endure the greatest, the most bitter and cruel pain and torture, and will die a most contemptible death. For this word “torrent” refers to a strong and fast-flowing stream or brook, which, when it is swollen from heavy rains, tears irresistibly onward in full flood.

So the suffering of Christ is not called a mere drink or cupful but means drinking up an entire stream or brook, as Psalm 42:7 also says of such suffering: “All Thy waves and all Thy billows have gone over me.” This stream, then, is the whole world with its power; for Scripture also calls great and many nations “streams” and “waters” (Is. 8:7).⁹⁴ This is exemplified by Herod, the high priests, Pilate, and the Romans. Lastly, we should mention the devil and all his hell, sin, the terror and fear of death, and whatever other miseries exist. All this came upon Him; He had **to drink it up and conquer.**”