

A Study of the Book of Philippians

Theme: “OUR PARTNERSHIP IN THE GOSPEL!”

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Lesson: 4 Chapter: 1:12-18 Date: 9-8-19

Philippians 1:12-14 KJV

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

So that my bonds in Christ are manifest in all the palace, and in all other places;

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



BIBLE TEXT: Greeting

1:1 Paul and Timothy, servants of **Christ Jesus**, To all the saints in **Christ Jesus** who are at Philippi, with the overseers and deacons:

2 Grace to you and peace from **God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ**.

Thanksgiving and Prayer

3 I thank **my God** in all my remembrance of you, **4** always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, **5** because of **your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now**. **6** And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the **day of Jesus Christ**. **7** It is right for me to feel this way 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.

8 For **God is my witness**, how I yearn for you all with **the affection of Christ Jesus**. **9** And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, **10** so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for **the day of Christ**, **11** filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through **Jesus Christ**, to the glory and praise of **God**.

The Advance of the Gospel

12 I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, **13** so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for **Christ**. **14** And most of the brothers, having become confident in **the Lord** by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

15 Some indeed preach **Christ** from envy and rivalry, but others from good will. **16** The latter do it out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. **17** The former proclaim **Christ** out of rivalry, not sincerely but thinking to afflict me in my imprisonment. **18** What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, **Christ is proclaimed**, and in that I rejoice.

To Live Is Christ

Yes, and I will rejoice, **19** for I know that through your prayers and the help of **the Spirit of Jesus Christ** this will turn out for my deliverance, **20** as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will 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. **21** **For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain**. **22** If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. **23** I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with **Christ**, for that is far better. **24** But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. **25** Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, **26** so that in me you may have ample cause to **glory in Christ Jesus**, because of my coming to you again.

27 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 may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, **28** and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from **God**. **29** 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, **30** engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

STUDY NOTES:

(vv. 3-7) -**Partnership in the Gospel** - the events in Philippi (Acts 16:11-40)

- He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ
(Ps 57:2; 138:8; Mt 26:64; Jn 6:29; 1 Cor 1:8; 1 Th 1:3; 5:24)
- Paul's imprisonment
- Tradition considers this one of Paul's prison epistles – written in Rome – 60 A.D.

(vv. 8-11) -Fruit of righteousness:
(Mt 5:20-48; Heb 12:11; James 3:18; Gal 5:22)

(vv. 19-30)

- to live is Christ (**Gal 2:20**) more work is be done on earth
- to die is gain (**2 Cor 5:6-8**) then will be with Christ in heaven
- to suffer for Christ is a gift and privilege
(Mt 5:11,12; Acts 5:41; James 1:2; 1 Pet 4:14)

LIFE APPLICATION:

1. How do we pray that what has happened to us has really served to advance the gospel?
 2. Why do we need to become more bold to speak the word without fear?
 3. When in every way, **Christ is** proclaimed, who then can rejoice in that?

LUTHER - Vol. 24, Page 137 – Boldness proclaiming the Gospel

"Christ wants to say: "When the time comes that you see Me risen from the grave and death and ascending on high into heaven to the Father, and you proclaim this about Me, then you will learn and realize—through the Holy Spirit and through your own experience—that I am in the Father, that you are in Me and I in you, and that thus we will be closely united. Thus it will be sheer life by which you live in Me, just as I live in the Father and the Father in Me. For I do live in the Father, and My life is such as to destroy death in My own Person.

Hence you must say that I am God's Son and that He manifests this by a work peculiar to God alone. Later you will also say that I am in you. For just as the Father raised Me from death and I devoured death, so I will also devour death in you. Through faith in Me, therefore, you will become lords over death and will no longer fear the world, the devil, hell, and all their defiance. Then you will have to say: 'Such power I did not have in me before; for without it I would have had to remain subject to the devil's power and to the terror and might of death, just as others are.'

But now I have a new courage, which Christ gives me through His Spirit and by which I perceive that He is with and in me. Now I can sneer at the terrors and threats of death and the devil, and rely cheerfully and boldly on my Lord, who lives and rules above with the Father.' "