

A Study of the Book of Philippians

Theme: "OUR PARTNERSHIP IN THE GOSPEL!"

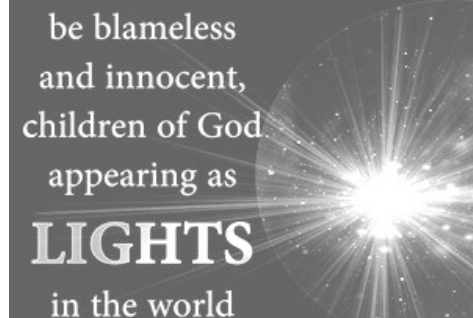
Trinity Lutheran Church Norman, OK.

Pastor David R. Nehrenz

Lesson: 13 Chapter 2:14-18

Date: 12-1-19

BIBLE TEXT:



*(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.

LIFE APPLICATION:

How is it that we are blameless and innocent, children of **God** without blemish, in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, and that we do shine as lights in the world?

Luther's works, vol. 52: Sermons II. – Shine the Light of Christ – We are lights who reflect the Light

“But **this light of grace** which is given to men in addition to the natural light shines in the darkness, i.e., among the blind people of this world who are without grace, but they do not accept it. On the contrary, they persecute it; this is the meaning of his words in John 3[:19]: “This condemns the world, that **the light** has come into the world, and men loved the darkness more than **the light**.” Behold, in this manner Christ, before he was proclaimed by John the Baptist, sojourned among the people on earth, but nobody paid attention to him.

Yet he was the life and **the light** of men. He lived and shined, too, but there was nothing but darkness, and this darkness sensed him not. All the people were worldly blind and in darkness. Had they recognized him for what he was, they would have given him the glory due him, as St. Paul says in 1 Corinthians 2[8]: “Had they recognized the wisdom of God, they would not have crucified the King of Glory.” In such a manner, too, Christ, even before his birth, from the beginning and until the end, has always been life and **light**, and he shines at all times in all creatures in the Holy Scriptures through his holy people, prophets and preachers, with works and words, and he has never ceased to shine.

But there is darkness wherever he sheds **his light**, and the darkness does not comprehend him... That is the way it goes all the time, even today. Scripture may be shown to the blind teachers so that they can grasp it, and it remains true that **the light** shines in the darkness and the darkness does not comprehend it.