

A Study of the Book of Philippians

Theme: "OUR PARTNERSHIP IN THE GOSPEL!"

Trinity Lutheran Church Norman, OK.

Pastor David R. Nehrenz

Lesson: 7 Chapter 1:28-29 Date: 10-6-19

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.*

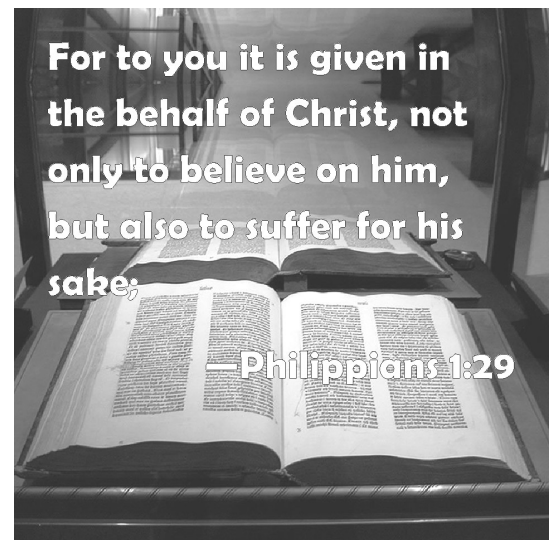
To Live Is Christ

*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. 1,2) *Paul and Timothy* (Ac 16:1; 2 Cor 1:1; 1 and 1 Tim)

-*Saints in Christ Jesus* (1 Cor 1:2; 2 Cor 1:1; Col 1:2,26-28)

(“*hahioi – sanctus*” = *declared holy / set apart through faith in Christ as his holiness is credited to our account*)

-*Philippi* (Acts 16:12; 20:6; 1 Thess 2:2) (in Macedonia) -*Overseers = Bishops = Pastors* (1 Tim 3:1)

-*Deacons = “Elders” today* (1 Tim 3:8)

(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)

-*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. 12-18) -*Chains for the Gospel – (even though Paul was a Roman citizen)* (Acts 28:14-31)

-*Brothers in Christ* (Eph 3:13; 6:4; 1 Tim 4:15; 2 Tim 2:9; 1 Th 3:3)

-*Reasons for preaching Christ* (1 Cor 9:17; 2 Cor 2:17; 11:13; Jas 3:14)

(vv. 19-26) -*your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ*

The Holy Spirit in Jesus sent to us:

(Jn 14:16; 15:26; 16:14; 20:21-23; Acts 2:33; 16:7; Rom 8:9; Gal 4:6; 1 Pet 1:11)

-*to live is Christ* (Ps 139:16; Gal 2:20; Eph 2:10) *more work is to be done on earth*

-*to die is gain* (Lk 23:43; 2 Cor 5:6-8; 2 Tim 4:6) *then will be with Christ in heaven*

(vv. 27-29) -*to suffer for Christ is a gift and privilege* (Mt 5:11,12; Acts 5:41; James 1:2; 1 Pet 4:14)

-*lives worthy of the Gospel-* (1 Cor 7:10; Eph 4:1)

-*standing firm in one spirit and one mind – striving side by side* (1 Cor 1:10; 16:13;)

-*the faith of the Gospel (the doctrine handed down to us)*

(Gal 1:23,24; 1 Tim 4:1; Jude 3)

-*the opponents of the Gospel included Jews and Gentiles*

(Acts 13:45; 14:22; 17:32; Rom 8:17,18; 2 Th 1:5;)

-*their ultimate destruction* (1 Pet 2:7,8)

-*to believe in Christ also means to suffer conflict for his sake*

(Col 1:29; 2:1; 1 Thess 2:2; 1 Tim 6:12; 2 Tim 4:7; Heb 10:32)

LIFE APPLICATION: If it has been granted to you and me that for **the sake of Christ** we should not only believe in him but also **suffer for his sake**,

when we will be engaged in the same conflict that we have seen Paul had to experience?

The Book of Concord - Vol. 46, p. 255 – Suffering of Christ and of Christians

“For we have the gospel and the preaching office only by **the blood and sweat of our Lord**. He won them by his anguished, bloody sweat. He earned them by his blood and cross, and gave them to us. We have them without any cost to ourselves, having done nothing and given nothing for them. Ah, God! How **bitter** it was for him! Yet how kindly and gladly he did it! **How greatly the dear apostles and all the saints suffered** that these things might come to us! How many have been put to death for them in our own time!

To boast a bit myself, too, how many times have **I had to suffer—and will yet suffer**—the pains of death for them, that I might thereby serve my countrymen! But all this is nothing compared with what Christ, God’s Son and our dear heart, has given for them. Yet by **all this suffering** he will have earned from us only this, that some men persecute, condemn, blaspheme, and consign to the devil this dearly-bought office of preaching the gospel, while others keep hands off, supporting neither pastors nor preachers and giving nothing toward their maintenance.

Besides this, they turn the children away from this office, so that it will soon go to destruction, **and Christ’s blood and agony** will be in vain. Still, they go their way undisturbed, having no qualms of conscience, no repentance or regret, for this hellish and more than hellish ingratitude, this unspeakable sin and blasphemy. They show neither fear nor awe of God’s wrath, neither desire nor love for the dear Savior in return for his bitter pain and agony. Instead, with these terrible abominations they still claim to be evangelicals and Christians!”