

Philippians 1:1-30 **Thanksgiving – Fellow Sufferers – Exhortation for Philippians** **Bond Servants of Jesus Christ – to Saints in Philippi**

1 Paul and Timothy, bondservants of Jesus Christ,

To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops and deacons: **2** Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Thankfulness in remembrance of Philippians – Fellowship in the Gospel

3 I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, **4** always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, **5** for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now, **6** being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ; **7** just as it is right for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart, inasmuch as both in my chains and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers with me of grace.

Prayer for Philippians

8 For God is my witness, how greatly I long for you all with the affection of Jesus Christ. **9** And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, **10** that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, **11** being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

Value in Paul's Suffering

12 But I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel, **13** so that it has become evident to the whole palace guard, and to all the rest, that my chains are in Christ; **14** and most of the brethren in the Lord, having become confident by my chains, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

Divisions in motives – Christ is being Preached

15 Some indeed preach Christ even from envy and strife, and some also from good will: **16** The former preach Christ from selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my chains; **17** but the latter out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel. **18** What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is preached; and in this I rejoice, yes, and will rejoice.

Paul values his chains that Christ may be magnified in Paul's person

19 For I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayer and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, **20** according to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death.

To Live is Christ – To Die is Gain

21 For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain. **22** But if I live on in the flesh, this will mean fruit from my labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell. **23** For I am hard pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better. **24** Nevertheless to remain in the flesh is more needful for you. **25** And being confident of this, I know that I shall remain and continue

with you all for your progress and joy of faith, ²⁶ that your rejoicing for me may be more abundant in Jesus Christ by my coming to you again.

Live Worthy of the Gospel of Christ – Suffer for the Sake of Christ

²⁷ Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸ and not in any way terrified by your adversaries, which is to them a proof of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that from God. ²⁹ For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake, ³⁰ having the same conflict which you saw in me and now hear is in me.

NKJV

Facts Revealed:

Bond Servants of Jesus Christ – to Saints in Philippi [Philippians 1:1-2]

- ✠ Paul and Timothy, bondservants of Jesus Christ.
- ✧ Both Paul and Timothy are together in prison as Paul writes this letter to the Philippians.
- ✧ The letter is addressed to the Saints in Christ Jesus with the bishops and deacons.
- ✧ As is most usual, Paul sends his blessing of Grace (khane charitos) and Peace (shalom eirene) from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Thankfulness in remembrance of Philippians – Fellowship in the Gospel [Philippians 1:3-7]

- ✠ As in most of Paul's letters to Churches, Paul expresses his thankfulness for them before God in his prayers for them.
- ✧ Paul's great joy as he remembers the Philippian Church is based on: Their faithful fellowship in the Gospel from the first until now.
- ✧ Paul has great confidence that God Who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the Day of Jesus Christ (The coming of the Lord to set up His Kingdom).
- ✧ It is right for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart, inasmuch as both in my chains and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers with me of grace.

Prayer for Philippians [Philippians 1:8-11]

- ✠ Paul calls God as witness to the fact that he has a longing for the Philippians with the affection of Jesus Christ. His prayer for them is:
- ✧ That their Christian love may abound more and more in **knowledge** and **discernment**.
- ✧ That by their knowledge and discernment, they may **approve the things that are excellent**.
- ✧ That they may be **sincere and without offense** until the Day of Christ.
- ✧ That they may be **filled with the fruits of righteousness** Jesus Christ to the glory and praise of God.

Value in Paul's Suffering [Philippians 1:12-14]

- ✠ When a person is going through persecution and trouble, it is encouraging to realize that great benefit will be realized as a result of the pressing trials of the circumstances.
- ✧ I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel, so that it has become evident to the whole palace guard, and to all the rest, that my chains are in Christ.
- ✧ Being made confident by my chains, most of the brethren in the Lord are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

Divisions in motives – Christ is being Preached [Philippians 1:15-18]

- ✠ Even though the Gospel is preached by people with differing motives, Paul is able to rejoice.

- ✧ Some preach Christ from envy and strife, not sincerely, but supposing to add affliction to Paul's chains.
- ✧ Others preach Christ from good will out of love, knowing that Paul is appointed for the defense of the Gospel.
- ✧ Considering the various motives at work, Paul is able to say: "What then? that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is preached; and in this I rejoice, yes, and will rejoice."
- ✧ This demonstrates the spirit of a true man of God.

Paul values his chains that Christ may be magnified in Paul's person [Philippians 1:19-20]

- ✧ Paul anticipates great personal benefit from his suffering for Christ.
 - ✧ I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayer and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ.
 - ✧ Paul's earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death.

To Live is Christ – To Die is Gain [Philippians 1:21-26]

- ✧ For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.
 - ✧ If I live on in the flesh, this will mean fruit from my labor.
 - ✧ Paul struggles to decide which way to choose.
 - ✧ Paul realizes that to depart from this life and be with Christ is far better for him.
 - ✧ To remain in the flesh is more needful for the Churches.
- ✧ Paul is confident that he will remain to continue with the Churches:
 - ✧ For their progress and joy in the faith.
 - ✧ That their rejoicing for Paul may be more abundant in Jesus Christ by his coming to them again.

Live Worthy of the Gospel of Christ – Suffer for the Sake of Christ [Philippians 1:27-30]

- ✧ Paul's advise for the Church at the present is:
 - ✧ Only **let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ.**
 - ✧ Believers are expected to live in a way that reflects the light of their relationship with Christ, in a community darkened by false religious concepts.
 - ✧ This evidence should be expressed in their lives whether Paul comes to them or not.
- ✧ Paul longs to hear of their affairs, that they stand fast in unity of one spirit.
- ✧ That in unity of mind they are reported as striving together for the faith of the Gospel.
- ✧ That they are not terrified by their adversaries, as proof of their Salvation from God.
- ✧ To the Adversaries it will be proof of their pending perdition.
- ✧ For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake, having the same conflict which you saw in me and now hear is in me. [Philippians 1:29-30]