

Chapter 1 is all about the gospel,

- Defending,
- Extending,
- And living the gospel.

Paul opened the chapter by thanking God for the Philippian church.

He was confident (or persuaded, vs 6) that the Lord was going to complete the work He'd begun in the church of Philippi.

The Lord wants us to be faithful in supporting His ministry

- faithful in our walk,
- faithful in our spiritual growth.

It's YOUR responsibility to be faithful, no one can do that for you.

When we realize that, we will understand, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

When we are walking with the Lord,

- we will have the same confidence Paul had in the Lord.

With that said, Paul encouraged believers to let your conduct be worthy of the gospel to stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel.
Phil 1:27

In other words, actions speak louder than words.

Then we jump into chapter 2: The first 11 verses are about servanthood.

Eph 6:7 - Work with enthusiasm, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people.

Phil 2:2-4

2 fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. 3 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. 4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

Paul had already experience the same joy he experienced.

In chapter 2 Paul said: Jesus was humble even to the point of death vs 8-10 (He was a servant). Therefore God exalted Jesus and gave Him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

“Every” means “every!” Matt 8, two demon possessed men.

When the men came out of the tombs,

- the demons begged Jesus to permit them
- to go away into the herd of swine.

When Jesus cast them into the herd of swine

- the whole herd of swine ran violently into the sea.

Paul went on to say in verse 12 to work out our own salvation with fear and trembling.

To “work out” means to

- continually work on bringing something
- to completion or fruition.

How are we to work out our salvation? Paul says with “fear”

Fear is reverence or respect.

And trembling which is a healthy fear of offending God thru disobedience.

Then Paul said to do all things without complaining and disputing.

Don't be like the rebellious murmurings of the children of Israel on their journey to the promise land.

Finally, Paul closed chapter 2 by commending two servants, Timothy and Epaphroditus.

William James an American Philosopher once said,
“Impression without expression leads to depression.”

In chapter 3 Paul warned of the mistakes about salvation,

- I'm good enough without Christ, verses 2-11.
- I'm saved so I don't have to work, verses 12-16
- and in verses 17-21, it's just the Spirit that counts.

The Judaizers insisted that certain OT laws

- had to be observed in order to be saved.

So Paul warned the church of evil workers and told them to have no confidence in the flesh.

He was referring to our old nature. We've all heard it said,

- “God helps those who help themselves.”

The bible has nothing good to say about the flesh,

The flesh profits us nothing as far as our spiritual life is concerned.

John 6:63

63 It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.

Paul said in verses 12-16 of chapter 3, press on toward the goal of the prize.

He also said our citizenship is in heaven and one day our body will be conformed to the glorious body of Christ.

Now we've come to the final chapter of Philippians.

Paul laid out an example of two women, Euodia and Synthche who butted heads with one another.

We may think, "oh, Christians don't have disagreements."

Differences are inevitable, but they don't have to lead to division.

In verses 4-7 Paul explained how to have peace despite problems.

He said, be anxious for nothing. But, in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, we are to let our requests be made known to God.

We're familiar with the slogan, "No Worries." For the believer, that should be a way of life.

Phil 4:10-20

10 But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at last your care for me has flourished again; though you surely did care, but you lacked opportunity. 11 Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: 12 I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. 13 I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

14 Nevertheless you have done well that you shared in my distress. 15 Now you Philippians know also that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church shared with me concerning giving and receiving but you only. 16 For even in Thessalonica you sent aid once and again for my necessities. 17 Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that abounds to your account. 18 Indeed I have all and abound. I am full, having received from Epaphroditus the things sent from you, a sweet-smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God. 19 And my God

shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. 20 Now to our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.

Paul learned to be content in whatever state he was in,

- he knew what it was to abound
- and he knew what it was to have little.
- he was thankful for the Lord's provision.

Was it time for him to stop making his needs known? No!

Paul begins this section by commending the Philippians because they'd shared in his affliction.

Now, they may not have been with him physically,

- but they participated in supporting him
- while he was out in the mission field

And Paul's purpose for writing to the Philippians

- was to encourage them to be joyful in the Lord
- and to thank them for their support in ministry.

We support the bible society in Israel. They need prayer:

- There is always political unrest in Israel.
- The government there and others in Israel
- would love to rid themselves of Christianity,

They'd also like to complete the Hebrew translation of the bible in audio form.

One of our local missions

- is the local food bank.
- This year we've donated close to two tons of food.

But Paul's main focus wasn't on the giving from the church. Notice what he says in verses 14 & 15.

14 Nevertheless you have done well that you shared in my distress.

15 Now you Philippians know also that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church shared with me concerning giving and receiving but you only.

It had been 10 years since many of them first came to the Lord.

Paul began this letter to the Philippians by celebrating their partnership.

Phil 1:3-5

“I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now”

The Greek word for “Partnership” is “Koinonia.” It means “fellowship” or “active participation.”

At the end of the letter, here in chapter 4 in verses 14 & 15

- Paul used the word “share” two different times.

In verse 14 he says, you shared in my distress

- and in verse 15 he says,
- no church shared concerning
- giving and receiving.

It means to be a partner together in something.

Paul was saying, “Yet you did good to become partners in my affliction.”

He was grateful for the partnership he had with the church,

- one - they providing support for him
- while he was in the mission field,

and two,

- thru their giving they too were involved
- in the spreading of the gospel.

John said to Gaius in 3 John 8 speaking of their partnership:

8 We therefore ought to receive such, that we may become fellow workers for the truth.

Paul was grateful for their partnership,

Our giving is an indicator of our spiritual health. The Philippian church was spiritually healthy.

And prayerfully, we too are working together with one common cause,

- “the truth of the gospel message”
- the truth.

And we, “Calvary RR” are working together with other ministries in spreading the truth.

16 For even in Thessalonica you sent aid once and again for my necessities.

Paul mentions the church of Thessalonica as a reminder that he was appreciative of their previous gifts.

17 Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that abounds to your account.

Paul's concern for himself was not the monetary support the church provided,

But, he also knew that the monetary support provided to the ministry

- was also added to their account from the Lord.
- That's the fruit Paul is alluding to.

Here is how it worked in Paul's day, and it works the same in our day.

- The fruit that came from Paul's ministry
- was credited to those supporting the ministry.

Interesting how we give to God's ministry to further His kingdom,

- then He blesses us, even in the present (we'll see that in verse 19)
- and we'll be blessed again in the future

He knows every little thing you've done for Him your entire life

- and He puts all of that into your account.

18 Indeed I have all and abound. I am full, having received from Epaphroditus the things sent from you, a sweet-smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God.

What is a sacrifice? It's something that costs something. The person offering something has to feel it.

In 2 Sam 24, David went to Araunah to purchase a threshing floor from him

- in order to build an altar to the Lord there.

Araunah had a generous heart and wanted to give David anything he wanted.

Here was the problem, "Had Araunah's noble offer been accepted,

- it would have been *his sacrifice*, not *David's*;

David knew that it would not be a *gift* nor a *sacrifice* for the LORD

- if it did not cost him something.
- God will one day reward us for our sacrifices for His kingdom. That's called storing up treasures in heaven.

We've heard the term, "pay it forward."

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- That's when you do something kind for someone
- because someone else has done something kind for you.

Our motives in blessing others

- shouldn't be because someone has blessed us

We shouldn't give out of obligation but willingly.

2 Cor 9:7

7 So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly (which is out of grief or sorrow) or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.

The Greek word for cheerful is "hilarós." We get our English word "hilarious" from this Greek word.

Peter Marshall, a Scottish/American Pastor once said, "Give according to your income lest God make your income according to your giving."

In giving to the Lord, we are to yield our bodies as a spiritual sacrifice Rom 12:1-2.

Heb 13:15 says we are to offer Him the praise of our lips:

15 Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.

Heb 13:16

16 But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.

So why do we sacrifice?

- Paul says in verse 18 that it is well pleasing to God
- verse 16 of Hebrews says that God is well pleased.

Paul is saying,

- that's how God sees our giving.
- It's a sweet smelling aroma.

The opposite is true, if we give grudgingly, it stinks!

Phil 4:19

19 And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

We're they rich? No! They were obedient. In fact, Paul once bragged of the Philippians to the Corinthians.

This is what he said of the church.

2 Cor 8:2

2 They are being tested by many troubles, and they are very poor. But they are also filled with abundant joy, which has overflowed in rich generosity.

They were very poor but were filled with abundant joy.

Later in 2 Cor 11, Paul said to the Corinthians, I robbed other churches, taking wages from them to minister to you.

He was referring to the Philippian church that he'd taken money from

- so that he might help the Corinthians.

Phil 4:18-19

18 Indeed I have all and abound. I am full, having received from Epaphroditus the things sent from you, a sweet-smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God. 19 And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

In verse 18 we see the word “full” and in verse 19 we see the word “supply.”

In Greek, they are the same word but in English they're different,

- Paul says, I am full and God shall supply.

The original Greek word means to be full to the max, all they way.

In Matt 13 Jesus spoke a parable

- comparing the kingdom of heaven
- to a large net for taking fish.

Fish of every kind were gathered,

- some good and some bad.
- But the net was filled.
- The Lord supplied all of the fish they needed.

So Paul was telling the church,

- you filled me up and my God is going to fill you up!

This means that God will supply your needs.

Phil 4:20

20 Now to our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.

Paul is addressing the family of believers.

Phil 4:21-23

21 Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The brethren who are with me greet you. 22 All the saints greet you, but especially those who are of Caesar's household.

A saint is a person that has given his life to Christ.

22 All the saints greet you, but especially those who are of Caesar's household.

23 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.