

“Often the prophet God brings is the antidote to the sickness of the age.” - GK Chesterton

# Single-Minded Ascension up the Ladder of Status

# Following the Self-Emptying Way of Christ

Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus:  
To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in  
Philippi, including the overseers and  
deacons. <sup>2</sup> Grace to you and peace from  
God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Philippians 1:1-2, CSB

I give thanks to my God for every remembrance of you, always praying with joy for all of you in my every prayer, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.

Philippians 1:3-5, CSB

I am sure of this, that he who started a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. Indeed, it is right for me to think this way about all of you, because I have you in my heart, and you are all partners with me in grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel.

Philippians 1:6-7, CSB

In an honor and shame culture, that the Philippians show such love for one who has been and is being shamed by the Roman authorities, even while they live in a Roman colony city and are proud of their connections with Rome and its authority, says a lot about them.

- Ben Witherington III

For God is my witness, how deeply I miss all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus. And I pray this: that your love will keep on growing in knowledge and every kind of discernment, so that you may approve the things that are superior and may be pure and blameless in the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ to the glory and praise of God.

Philippians 1:8-11, CSB



“We would expect knowledge to lead to love, but Paul puts it the other way around. It is their response to the love of Christ for them that will give them the right knowledge.”

- Carolyn Osiek

Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually advanced the gospel, so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard, and to everyone else, that my imprisonment is because I am in Christ.

Philippians 1:12-13, CSB

Most of the brothers have gained confidence in the Lord from my imprisonment and dare even more to speak the word fearlessly.

Philippians 1:14, CSB

To be sure, some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of good will. These preach out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel; the others proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, thinking that they will cause me trouble in my imprisonment.

Philippians 1:15-17, CSB

What does it matter? Only that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is proclaimed, and in this I rejoice. Yes, and I will continue to rejoice because I know this will lead to my salvation through your prayers and help from the Spirit of Jesus Christ. My eager expectation and hope is that I will not be ashamed about anything, but that now as always, with all courage, Christ will be highly honored in my body, whether by life or by death.

Philippians 1:18-20 CSB

1. His love and delight in the Philippian brothers and sisters

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2. The honoring of Christ and the advancement of the good news about Christ!

1. Where do you see the cultural values in the Gallatin Valley going against the values reflected in Paul's letter to the Philippians?
2. What stood out to you in particular from the passage? Why?
3. How can we honor Christ in our daily lives?
4. What are the characteristics of a citizen of Heaven living in the valley?
5. How can we reflect the character of Jesus (as seen in Philippians 2:5-11) to those around us?