Phil 1: 27-30

- Some background of Philippians
 - Acts 16: 9-12
 - Philippi was a Roman colony
 - @800 miles from Rome
 - Everything reflected the influence of Rome
 - Dress, language (Latin), Roman Law, culture
- Paul had established a church in this colony
 - Lydia (Vs 14-15)
 - Testimony of fortune teller....cast out???

- Now at the time of this writing Paul had been gone for about a year
- He has genuine concern for this church
 - Why?
 - He is no longer with them physically to aid them
 - Jesus said something like this to His disciples
- Matt 25: 14-30
 - Here is a man ready to go on a journey
 - He has three slaves
 - He give to each of them something

- In this parable there are three aspects of one great lesson
- The one great lesson is this....
 - It is not the gifts/talents given to them that are important
 - It is the diligence with which they are implemented that is important
- The starting point in our message today is
 - Phil 1: 6....
 - He that hath begun a good work in you.....
 - Will complete it

- Matt 25: 15
 - The "Master" prepared His disciples for a time when He is will not be physically with them
 - And He gave them all various gifts
- What are the "talents?"
 - What has the "Master" given to us?
 - Eph 4: 12-16
 - Spiritual knowledge and spiritual gifts
 - Why then do some receive more and other less?
 - Vs 15.....to each according to his "ability"
 - They are distributed "by the Master" (I Cor 12: 11)

- Lesson # 2
 - Spiritual gifts and knowledge are to be shared
 - Discernment, encouragement, helps, hospitality
 - For the glory/exultation of the "Master"
- Lesson # 3
 - Whatever the "Master" gave to each was intended to grow
 - Seed kept in the dark.....
 - Yields maggots and decay

- Paul reflecting through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit
 - Now says to us and the church at Philippi....
- Conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the Gospel of Jesus Christ
 - What does that mean?
 - How do you and I view our lives?
 - I go to church???
 - I Peter 2: 9

- Do you and I see ourselves as.....
 - A chosen race?
 - A priesthood flowing with royal blood?
 - A holy (created for the glory of God) people?
 - Owned lock, stock and barrel by God? (slave)
 - To proclaim His excellencies to a dying world?
 - Who has called you and me out of darkness?
- Herein is the key to victorious Christian living

- Far too often we focus on the problems in our lives and not the solution
 - The solution is found in Matt 25: 19-21
 - Doing the will of the "Master"....which results in.....
 - Well done....
 - The result is found again in Matt 25: 22-23
 - Well done
 - Enter into the joy of your "Master"
- •Zeph 3: 17
 - He will joy over thee with singing (KJV)

- Phil 1: 27
 - While absent I will hear that you are standing firm
 - Eph 6: 10-18
 - Vs 11....stand firm; Vs 13...stand firm; Vs 14....stand firm
- 4 kinds of people in this world
 - Complacent....don't rock the boat
 - Compromising....it not really a big deal
 - Rev 21: 8...cowards....will not take responsibility
 - Courageous...as for me and my house......

- •Matt 25: 24-30
 - Here is a person who always has an excuse
- Lesson # 4
 - A life not devoted to God never returns to Him unspoiled
 - James 4: 17
 - If you and I know there are things in our lives that need to be purged out
 - No excuse will stand before God

- Why is this message coming to us today?
 - The world is looking for a church that lives in a manner consistent with what it preaches!!!
 - If we, rightly claim that we are citizens of heaven, which is what we are, does our way of living reflect that?
 - He has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light
 - Is that what people see in me and in you?

- What gift of grace is Jesus my Redeemer
- There is no more for heaven now to give
- He is my joy, my righteousness and freedom
- My steadfast love and deep and boundless peace

- To this I hold my hope is only Jesus
- For my life is wholly bound to Him
- Oh how strange and divine, I can sing all is mine
- Yet not I but through Christ in me.

- The night is dark, but I am not forsaken
- For by my side, the Savior He will stay
- I labour on in weakness and rejoicing
- For in my need His power is displayed

- To this I hold my Shepherd will defend me
- Through the deepest valley He will lead
- Oh the night has been won
- And I shall overcome
- Yet not I but through Christ in me

- No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven
- The future sure, the price it has been paid
- For Jesus bled and died for my pardon
- And He was raised to overthrow the grave

- To this I hold my sin has been defeated
- Jesus now and ever is my plea
- •Oh the chains are released, I can sing I am free
- Yet not I but through Christ in me

- With every breath, I long to follow Jesus
- For He has said that He will bring me home
- And day by day, I know He will redeem me
- Until I stand with joy before the throne

- To this I hold my hope is only Jesus
- All the glory evermore to Him
- When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat
- Yet not I but through Christ in me
- To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus