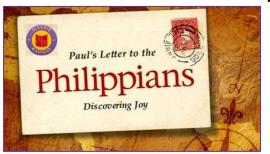


Philippians



Joy In Christ

Lesson 03

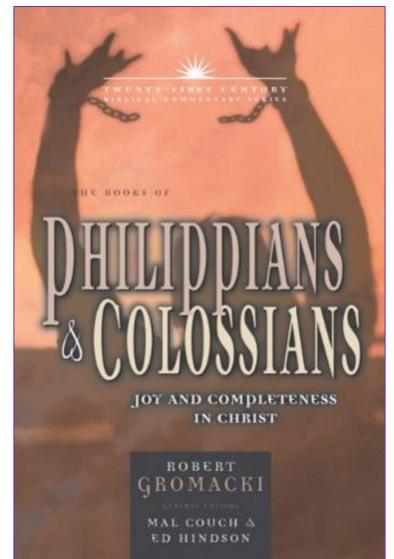
Opportunity of Obstacles

Philippians 1:12-19

Philip Giorgio



Textbook

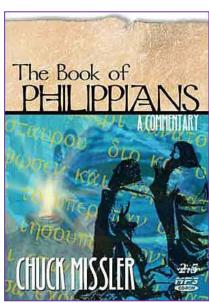


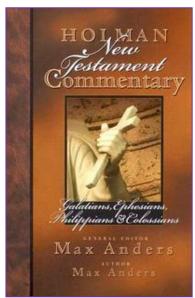


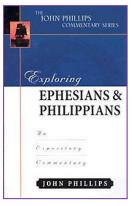


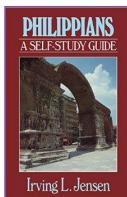
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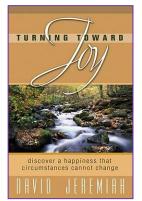


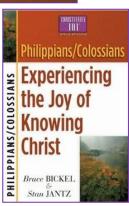


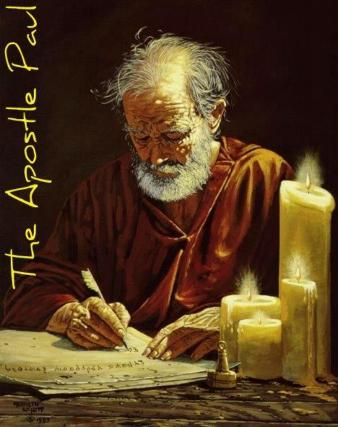




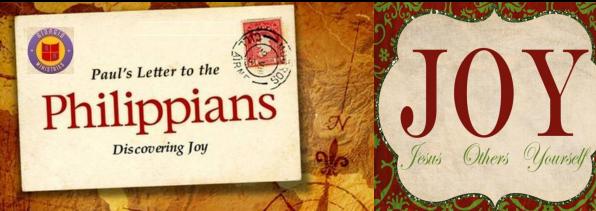




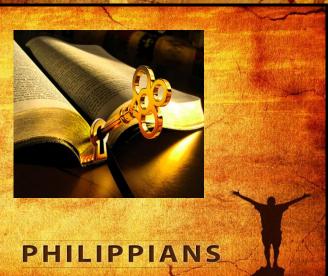


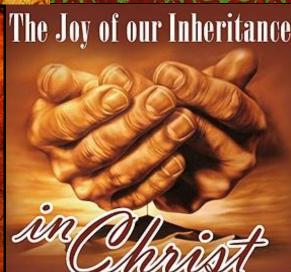


Philippians













Course Outline

Course Outline - Lessons



Philippians: Joy In Christ

Lesson 01: Introduction [PHILIPPIANS]
Lesson 02: The Prayer [Philippians 1:1-11]
Lesson 03: Opportunity of Obstacles [Philippians 1:12-19]
Lesson 04: Blessings of Life and Death [PHILIPPIANS 1:20-26]
Lesson 05: Challenge to the Church [PHILIPPIANS 1:27-2:4]
Lesson 06: Humiliation and Exaltation [Philippians 2:5-11]
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Lesson 13: The Joy of Contentment [PHILIPPIANS 4:10-23]





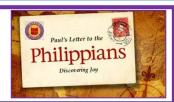
Lesson Outline

Lesson 03 - Outline



Philippians: Joy In Christ

Lesson 03: Opportunity of Obstacles



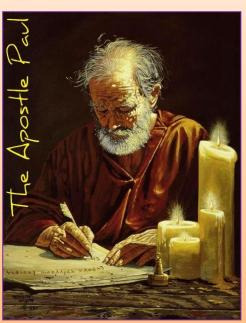
STRUCTURE



» Lesson Preview

Introduction

» Christ is Preached.....



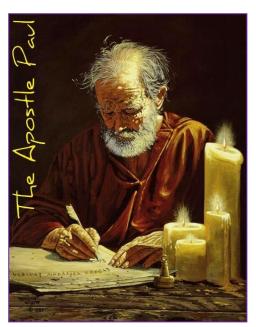


Lesson Preview - Introduction



Preview ... Opportunity of Obstacles

Paul's imprisonment caused him to be known among the elite Praetorian Guard, and it also emboldened many Christians to speak out for the word of God. Unfortunately, some believers shared the gospel out of envy and strife, thinking to cause Paul stress while he was in prison. Despite such selfish motives, Paul was still glad to see the proclamation of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.





Lesson Preview - Introduction



Introduction ... OPPORTUNITY OF OBSTACLES

- Jesus Christ taught that the godly life would involve tribulation (John 16:33), and Paul predicted that believers would face persecution (2 Timothy 3:12).
- Both evil men and demonic spirits oppose God and His children.

How should such opposition be viewed? How should it be received?

- Believers must always return good for evil (Luke 6:27-29; Romans 12:17-21) and turn adversity into opportunities to glorify God.
- They should approach all obstacles with realism and optimism, not with pessimism.

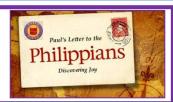


Lesson 03 - Outline



Philippians: Joy In Christ

Lesson 03: Opportunity of Obstacles

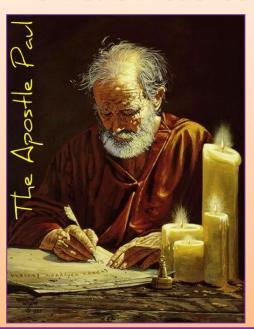


- STRUCTURE
 - » Lesson Preview ...

Introduction

» Furtherance of the Gospel...

» Christ is Preached.







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.

--- Philippians 1:12-14 ... NKJV

THINGS WILL HAPPEN TO A BELIEVER

- Paul wants the Philippian believers to understand a fundamental principle in the will of God and to remember it always ("I WANT YOU TO KNOW").
- Paul used the most common address to believers in Christ (1:12, 3:1, 13, 17; 4:1, 8) - ("Brethren"), i.e., Mr. and Mrs. Brethren.
- What happened to Paul since he had last seen the Philippians ("The THINGS WHICH HAPPENED TO ME")?
- Although Paul did not itemize the obstacles in this letter, he did discuss them elsewhere (2 Corinthians 11:23-27).
- Luke recorded the historical background of that period of the apostle's life (Acts 20:6-28:31).
- Here's the recap...





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.

--- Philippians 1:12-14 ... NKJV

THINGS THAT HAPPENED TO PAUL

- At the end of his 3rd missionary journey, Paul determined to go to Jerusalem with a special welfare collection given by the Gentile churches to the Jewish believers (Romans 15:25-26).
- He fully expected to visit Rome and Spain after the project was completed (Romans 15:23-24).
- At the same time, Paul knew that trouble awaited him in Jerusalem (Acts 20:22-23).
- Other Christians warned him not to go (Acts 21:4).
- Even the prophet Agabus predicted that Paul would be arrested and bound over to the Roman government authorities (Acts 21:10-11).
- Paul's travel companions also tried to prevent him from going but to no avail (Acts 21:12-14).



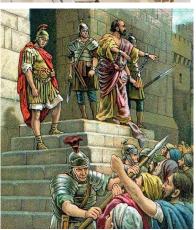
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--- Philippians 1:12-14 ... NKJV

THINGS THAT HAPPENED TO PAUL

- At Jerusalem Paul consented to the request of the church elders to purify himself at the temple as a testimony to the Jewish believers who were still jealous for the law.
- When unbelieving Jews sighted the apostle in the court of the Israelites, they began to beat him (Acts 21:22-31).
- The Roman soldiers rescued him and bound him with chains (Act 21:33).
- When a conspiracy to murder Paul was discovered by the authorities, he was secretly taken to the Roman garrison at Caesarea (Act 23:23-33) where he remained a prisoner for two years (Acts 24:27).









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--- Philippians 1:12-14 ... NKJV

THINGS THAT HAPPENED TO PAUL

- Paul then appealed to have his case tried by Caesar in Rome; thus he undertook a voyage surrounded by soldiers (Acts 25:10-12).
- He then encountered a storm, a shipwreck, and a desperate swim to safety (Acts 27:14-44).
- After a short stay at Malta, Paul finally arrived in Rome, where he spent the next two years under house arrest (Acts 28:16, 30-31).
- By this time, other churches were also concerned, so Paul sent Tychicus to both Ephesus and Colossae so they might know what happened to him (Ephesians 6:21; Colossians 4:7).











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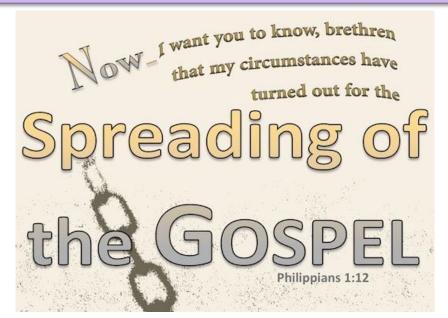
--- Philippians 1:12-14 ... NKJV

THINGS THAT HAPPENED TO PAUL

 Through all these things, still imprisoned, still chained, still unheard, still uncertain, Paul looks back and declares ...

"THE THINGS WHICH HAPPENED TO ME HAVE ACTUALLY TURNED OUT FOR THE FURTHERANCE OF THE GOSPEL."

WHAT A PERSPECTIVE!!!





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.

--- Philippians 1:12-14 ... NKJV

THINGS CAN ADVANCE THE GOSPEL

- The verb "TURNED OUT" emphasizes the lasting effects of past difficulties literally means "have come".
- To Paul, opportunity was on the other side of the obstacle. When believers view adverse circumstances from the divine (eternal) perspective, they will use them for spiritual advantage ("FOR THE FURTHERANCE OF THE GOSPEL").
- A believer must look at the result of the adversity, not the adversity itself.
- Paul did not view difficulty with self-pity, but used the problems to proclaim the gospel in distinctive ways.





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--- Philippians 1:12-14 ... NKJV

Personal Witness

- At this point, Paul wanted to show how God had used his arrest and subsequent two imprisonments to advance the gospel message ("So That").
- Paul was before the Roman court because he was a Christian, not because he had committed a crime.
- Paul was "The Prisoner of the Lord" (Ephesians 4:1) and an "Ambassador in Chains" (Ephesians 6:20).
- Paul was in Rome as a witness, not as a defendant.
- He asked his friends to pray for this unique outreach opportunity (Ephesians 6:19-20; Colossians 4:3-4).



¹⁹ and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

--- Ephesians 6:19-20 ... NKJV



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.

--- Philippians 1:12-14 ... NKJV

Personal Witness

- Two spheres of witness are mentioned.
- FIRST, he spoke to "THE WHOLE PALACE GUARD".

PALACE GUARD	πραιτώριον
praitōrion	prī-tō'-rē-on

Normally transliterated as "praetorium". Headquarters in a Roman Camp (This is incorrect - see next slide)



- SECOND, Paul spoke "To All the Rest".
 - Paul had the opportunity to give witness to other types of soldiers, to household servants, and to the government officials, including Nero.
 - Paul's witness was successful, for he claimed that some of Caesar's household were believers (Philippians 4:22).



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--- Philippians 1:12-14 ... NKJV

PRAETORIUM GUARD

Chuck Missler

- The Greek word praitorion, normally transliterated as "PRAETORIUM", was originally assumed to refer to a building; however, since the 17th century many ancient manuscripts have been uncovered that mention the Roman Praetorium and in none of these manuscripts does the word ever refer to a palace or a building.
- In all of them it refers to PEOPLE: to the PRAETORIAN GUARD, the official bodyguards of the emperor, the elite special forces of the empire, which also took charge of all imperial prisoners. They received double pay and special privileges.
- These are the very soldiers that guarded Paul during his two years of house arrest. Paul was able to witness to the guard.
- These guards observed how Paul spoke to his friends, how he wrote, and how he prayed.
- The guards were changed every 6 hours and a great number of them were saved (Philippians 4:22).

CAN YOU IMAGINE BEING ASSIGNED TO PAUL FOR A FULL SHIFT?



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.

--- Philippians 1:12-14 ... NKJV

ENCOURAGEMENT OF PREACHERS

- Paul's presence in Rome as a political prisoner caused a stir within the local church.
- The majority of the believers were stimulated to intensify their evangelistic efforts.
- Paul gives FOUR distinctives for these believers.
 - 1. They constituted the majority ("Most").
 - 2. They were definitely believers ("Brethren") who are "In the Lord".
 - 3. They had "Become Confident by" Paul's "Chains".
 - 4. They had become "MUCH MORE BOLD TO SPEAK THE WORD WITHOUT FEAR."
 - Christ encouraged His disciples not to fear (Matthew 10:28), and
 - Paul did likewise to Timothy (2 Timothy 1:7-8).

Lesson 03 - Outline

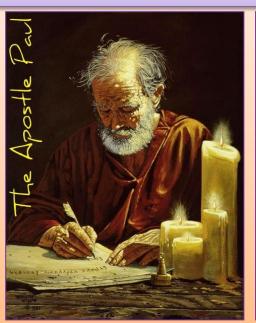


Philippians: Joy In Christ

Lesson 03: Opportunity of Obstacles



- STRUCTURE
 - » Lesson Preview Introduction
 - » Furtherance of the Gospel Philippians 1:12-14





Christ is Preached - Philippians 1:15a-16 - OBSERVATIONS



15 Some indeed preach Christ even from envy and strife, and some also from goodwill: 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.



Some Preached With Bad Motives

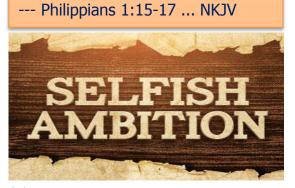
- Paul divides the majority who were encouraged "TO SPEAK THE WORD WITHOUT FEAR", into TWO groups (indicated by the word - "SOME").
- Both preached the same redemptive message ("PREACH CHRIST"), but each group had different motives for doing so.
- The FIRST group preached with BAD MOTIVES.
- Paul presents FIVE bad characteristics of this group.
 - 1) They preached "FROM ENVY".

 Envy is a work of the flesh, a sin caused by a lack of submission to the Holy Spirit and a lack of love for the brethren (Galatians 5:16, 21, 26). It is an expression of the unsaved life, although Christians can also commit it (Romans 1:29; Titus 3:3). Envy involves jealousy. These men were jealous of Paul's success and popularity.

Christ is Preached - Philippians 1:15a-16 - OBSERVATIONS



15 Some indeed preach Christ even from envy and strife, and some also from goodwill: 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.



Some Preached With Bad Motives

- 2) They preached from "STRIFE".
 - Envy is the inward emotion; strife is its outward expression. It is also a work of the flesh (Galatians 5:20), a manifestation of the unsaved life (Romans 1:29), and a result of false teaching (1 Timothy 6:4). Strife results when believers choose to follow certain leaders to the neglect of others (1 Corinthians 3:3).
- 3) They preached "FROM SELFISH AMBITION".

 Such lack of humility is the cause of personal rivalry (Philippians 2:3). It is also a work of the flesh (Galatians 5:20).
- 4) They did no preach "SINCERELY".
 This word was used of that which was holy and sacred, free from ceremonial defilement. These teachers preached because they loved their own reputations, not from pure motives.
- 5) They preached ("SUPPOSING TO ADD AFFLICTION TO MY CHAINS").

Their intent was to aggravate Paul.

Christ is Preached - Philippians 1:15b, 17 - OBSERVATIONS



15 Some indeed preach Christ even from envy and strife, and some also from goodwill: 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.

DEFENDING THE FAITH

--- Philippians 1:15-17 ... NKJV

Some Preached with Good Motives

- Paul presents THREE characteristics of the "GOOD MOTIVES" group.
- 1) They spoke "FROM GOODWILL".

 The Greek word means "that which seems to be good". It involves free choice, a determination that brings a holy pleasure to oneself and a benefit to the object of that choice. This group loved to preach Christ, and they wanted to encourage Paul.
- 2) They preached out of "LOVE". In this context, their love was directed basically toward Paul. They loved him for who he was and for what he did for others, and for what he did for them. Love for the brethren always reflects a love for Christ.
- 3) They knew why Paul was in prison ("KNOWING THAT I AM APPOINTED FOR THE DEFENSE OF THE GOSPEL".

The apostle's trial was really a defense of the gospel message of redemption through Christ and thus a trial of Jesus Christ Himself. The defense (Greek, apologian) was a logical presentation of facts and arguments designed to show that Christianity was not a civil threat to the Roman government.

Christ is Preached - Philippians 1:18 - OBSERVATIONS



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. 19 For I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayer and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, --- Philippians 1:18-19 ... NKJV

Rejoice always Pray continually Give Thanks

ALL PREACHED CHRIST

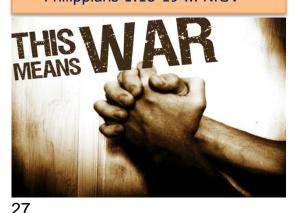
- We have no indication which group, the "GOOD MOTIVES" group or the "BAD MOTIVES" group was the majority group.
- In Paul's analysis of the preachers, he came to TWO conclusions.
 - 1) Regardless of their motivation, the content of their message was orthodox. They did preach Christ (Philippians 1:1-16, 18). They were theologically correct in the doctrines of Christology and soteriology. The content of Christ's person and redemptive work must be derived solely from a logical exposition of the inspired, written Word of God.
 - 2) Paul could rejoice over the proclamation of their message ("AND IN THIS I REJOICE"). He could rejoice that their message was sound, that Christ was magnified, that sinners were regenerated, and that they were his brethren.
- Since Paul's concern is the defense not of himself but of the gospel, the adversaries' desire to cause him distress ("AFFLICTION") can leave him relatively calm and unflustered.

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Christ is Preached - Philippians 1:19 - OBSERVATIONS



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. 19 For I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayer and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, --- Philippians 1:18-19 ... NKJV



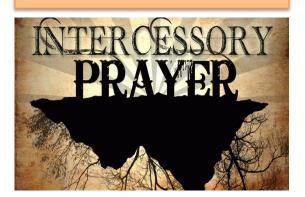
INCREASE OF SUPPORT

- It was conceivable that the apostle could be found guilty and that he be martyred as a Roman criminal (Philippians 1:20-21).
- However, he fully expected to be set free (Philippians 1:24-25).
- He later expressed his hope to see the Philippians again (Philippians 2:24-25).
- He even asked Philemon to prepare a guest room for him (Philemon 1:22).
- His conviction about his forthcoming release is here stated in the verb "I know", in the Greek an inner persuasion conveyed by the indwelling Holy Spirit.
- The fact of Paul's release is seen in the phrase "MY DELIVERANCE".

Christ is Preached - Philippians 1:19 - OBSERVATIONS



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. 19 For I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayer and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, --- Philippians 1:18-19 ... NKJV



INCREASE OF SUPPORT

- Paul predicated his freedom on two means of support
 (1) BY MAN and (2) BY GOD.
- BY MAN:

One means of support was the intercession of believers ("THROUGH YOUR PRAYERS").

Some believers question whether they should pray since God has already determined what he will do. These people fail to recognize that God has also chosen to work through human instrumentality. When believers lovingly pray for one another, God will accomplish His work.

He works in and through people, not apart from them. Paul even asked Philemon to pray for his release from prison (Philemon 1:22).

Christ is Preached - Philippians 1:19 - OBSERVATIONS



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. 19 For I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayer and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, --- Philippians 1:18-19 ... NKJV

⁹ For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, you are God's building.

---1 Corinthians 3:9 ... NKJV

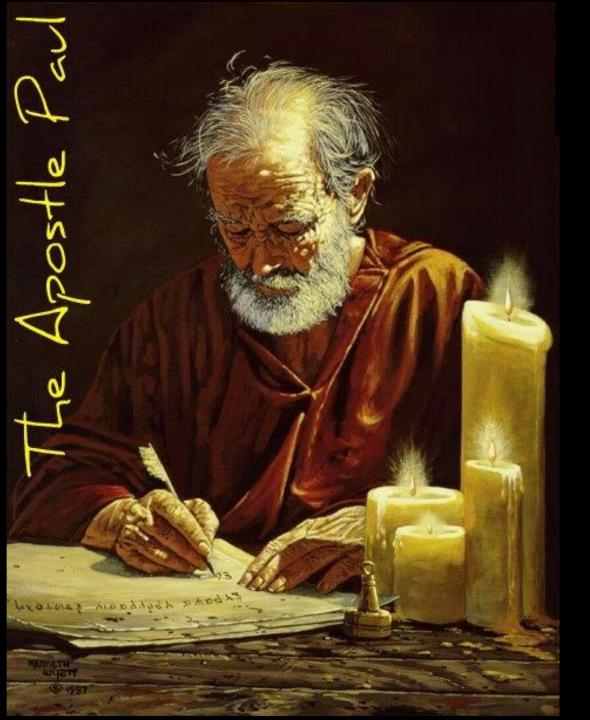
INCREASE OF SUPPORT

BY GOD:

In the program of redemption, God and humans are co-laborers (1 Corinthians 3:9). The prayers of saints and the provision of God are two complementary sides of the same divine-human activity. Divine help is here called "THE PROVISION OF THE SPIRIT OF JESUS CHRIST".

 The Holy Spirit is called "THE SPIRIT OF JESUS CHRIST" because He was sent by the Son as well as by the Father and because He has glorified Jesus Christ at all times (John 15:26; 16:14).





Philippians "Joy In Christ"

End of Lesson

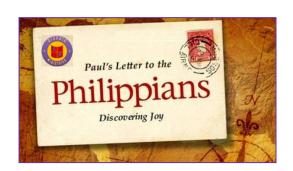




Instructor: Philip Giorgio www.GiorgioMinistries.com







Philippians: Joy In Christ

Lesson 4: Blessings of Life and Death

[Philippians 1:20-26]

Next Lesson

Next Lesson



Philippians: Joy In Christ

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Lesson 13: The Joy of Contentment [PHILIPPIANS 4:10-23]	

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