

Philippians

Background to the Epistle to the Philippians

The Purpose

The Philippians had sent Epaphroditus (Phil 2:25), with a gift as an expression of their concern to meet the needs of Paul (Phil 1:3–5, Phil 2:30, and Phil 4:10–19).

Philippians 4:15-17 — Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only. 16 For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity. 17 Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account. 18 But I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things which were sent from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God.

Sometime during his journey to deliver the gift to Paul, Epaphroditus contracted some life-threatening debilitating illness. At some point he recovers.

Philippians 2:26,27 — For he longed after you all, and was full of heaviness, because that ye had heard that he had been sick. 27 For indeed he was sick nigh unto death: but God had mercy on him; and not on him only, but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow.

It is at this time, Epaphroditus shares some news of the church at Philippi:

- The presence of spiritual conflicts in the church. (Phil 1:27–30)
- The church's immediate need for Paul's visit. (Phil 2:19–24)
- The presence of false doctrine slipping into the church. (Phil 3:2–3)
- The presence of those who usurp positions to lead away from Christ. (Phil 3:17–20)
- The current state of leadership and who is still present since Paul's visit 10 years prior. (Phil 4:2–3)
- The presence of evidence of the temptation to waver in what they had been taught and shown. (Phil 4:9)

Upon Epaphroditus' return to health, Paul sends word to the Philippians through Epaphroditus of his upcoming sentence in Rome and of his optimism in the face of death (1:18b–26), along with exhortations to imitate his capacity to rejoice in the Lord despite one's circumstances (2:14–18).

In summary, Paul's purpose of writing this epistle was to **Thank** them for their Gift and Concern (4:10,18), **Warn of False Teachers** (3:1-3), **Warn of the Dangers of Contentious Quarreling** (1:28; 2:3), **Encourage** (The word joy or rejoice is found in every chapter. 1:4,18,25-26; 2:2,16,18; 3:1,3; 4:1,4,10; Sin is not mentioned once; Paul intends to visit: 1:25, 26; 2:24).

The Church At Philippi

Paul and Silas first visited Philippi in Greece during Paul's second missionary journey, which occurred between approximately 49 and 51 AD. Philippi was the location of the first Christian community established in Europe.

Acts 16:11-15 — Therefore loosing from Troas, we came with a straight course to Samothracia, and the next day to Neapolis; 12 And from thence to Philippi, which is the chief city of that part of Macedonia, and a colony: and we were in that city abiding certain days. 13 And on the sabbath we went out of the city by a river side, where prayer was wont to be made; and we sat down, and spake unto the women which resorted thither. 14 And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul. 15 And when she was baptized, and her household, she besought us, saying, If ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house, and abide there. And she constrained us.

- Philippi consisted mostly of retired Roman Soldiers and their Families. Anyone born there was given automatic Roman citizenship. It was clearly a place where Roman citizenship and its benefits were understood and valued.
- The riverside prayer meeting indicates a small Jewish population as there is evidently not enough Jews to build a synagogue (Jewish law required at least 10 Jewish men in a place in order to have a synagogue.) Paul's usual custom to preach to the "Jews first" was interrupted as there was no synagogue in Philippi.
- The Leadership of the Ladies at Phillippi is significant: Lydia hosts the church in her home (Acts 16:15), and Paul credits Euodias and Syntyche as having "laboured with me in the gospel";
- It was at Phillippi, Paul and Silas prayed for deliverance of a fortune telling slave girl. It was this deliverance that attracted the hatred of those who enslaved the girl and brought Paul and Silas to prison. (Acts 16:16-40)
- Paul and Silas' imprisonment, resulted in the jailer's and his family's salvation.

Acts 16:30 — And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved?

- Paul leaves a testimony of courage and faithfulness to God despite injustice and even illegal treatment.

Acts 16:37 — But Paul said unto them, They have beaten us openly uncondemned, being Romans, and have cast us into prison; and now do they thrust us out privily? nay verily; but let them come themselves and fetch us out.

Chapter 1

Introduction to All the Saints, vs. 1,2

Philippians 1:1,2 — 1 Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons: 2 Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

Writers "Paul and Timothy"

Philippians 1:1 — Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:

Paul with Timothy's help and the Holy Spirit's inspiration wrote the letter of Philippians. Paul possibly wrote this epistle about 10 years after his first visit to Philippi.

Matthew Henry — "...he [PAUL] joins Timothy with himself, to express his own humility, and put honour upon Timothy."

Philippians is written probably during Paul's 2 year House Arrest in Rome (Acts 29:14-31). Philippians 1:3,4 Paul mentions his bonds. He was under arrest as he had made his appeal to Ceasar and was waiting an audience. This was not in a dugeon, but he was under house arrest with 1 guard and was allowed visitors and was free to share the Gospel with them. Paul made his appeal to Ceasar not for his personal defence but so that "the Gentiles will hear the gospel."

- Acts 16 - 2nd Missionary Journey with Silas: First Visit
- Acts 20 - 3rd Missionary Journey: Second Visit
- (No in Scripture) Possible 4th Missionary Journey (After Epistle written): Third Visit
- (Acts ends with Paul waiting in Rome) Followed by Second Imprisonment in Rome and Martyrdom

Paul is Hopeful and intends to visit: "I shall come shortly" (2:24). It is probable he died in Rome and didn't make it for a 3rd visit to Philippi, but Paul does recommend and send Timothy to them.

"ALL"

- "ALL" the saints points back to Paul's purpose of encouraging the Church.

He makes it clear that the letter he is writing is intended for "All the saints." He is inferring that for the Christian church the only qualification that really matters is to be "saints in Christ Jesus." It is also interesting that he mentions "ALL" before he does "BISHOPS and DEACONS".

Galatians 3:28 — There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.

- The Gospel is for All.

John M. Mcaleb:

Of one the Lord has made the race, Thro' one has come the fall; Where sin has gone must go His grace; The Gospel is for all.

Say not the heathen are at home, Beyond we have no call, For why should we be blest alone? The Gospel is for all.

Received ye freely, freely give, From every land they call; Unless they hear, they cannot live: The Gospel is for all.

Refrain

The blessèd Gospel is for all, The Gospel is for all; Where sin has gone must go His grace: The Gospel is for all.

"SAINTS"

How many saints are there in church history?

The saints are not a canonized list of names of dead people canonized by the Roman Catholic church, but a saint Biblically is any believer who is "in Christ" and in whom Christ dwells, whether in Heaven or on Earth. Saints are those who have dedicated themselves to the worship and service of the one true God as revealed through his Son, Jesus Christ.

- Holiness in character: religious, sacred, consecrated
- Morally blameless
- Physically and spiritually pure
- One set apart for Holy fellowship and service. "sanctified"

Col 1:12 ¶ Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:

Titus 2:12 — Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

"Grace be unto you and peace"

- GRACE: God's unmerited favor. Providence.
- PEACE: Phil. 4:7; God's gift of peace is beyond human understanding

Prayer for the Saints, vs. 3-11

3 I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, 4 Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy, 5 For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now; 6 Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ: 7 Even as it is meet for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart; inasmuch as both in my bonds, and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel, ye all are partakers of my grace. 8 For God is my record, how greatly I long after you all in the bowels of Jesus Christ. 9 And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment; 10 That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ. 11 Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God.

Ephesians 6:18; 1 Timothy 2:1; Colossians 1:19; Romans 15:30; 1 Thessalonians 5:25

D. L Moody used to tell the story of a man who came to him and said, “When the Mexican war began I wanted to enlist. My mother, seeing I was resolved, said if I became a Christian I might go. She pleaded and prayed that I might become a Christian, but I wouldn’t. I said when the war was over I would become a Christian, but not till then.

“All her pleading was in vain, and at last, when I was going away, she took out a watch and said: My son, your father left this to me when he died. Take it, and I want you to remember that every day at 12 o’clock your mother will be praying for you. Then she gave me her Bible, and marked out passages, and put a few different references in the fly-leaf. I took the watch and the Bible just because my mother gave them. I never intended to read the Bible.

“I went off to Mexico, and one day while on a long, weary march, I took out my watch, and it was 12 o’clock. I had been gone four months, but I remembered that my mother at that hour was praying for me. Something prompted me to ask the officer to relieve me for a little while, and I stepped behind a tree away out on those plains of Mexico, and cried to the God of my mother to save me.”

God saved him, and after the Mexican war was ended, he said, “I have enlisted again to see if I can do any good for my Master’s cause.”

The story is told about two wives who were doing their laundry in a laundry mat. They were both mending their husband’s pants.

One wife said, “My husband is so miserable. Nothing goes right at work, and he can’t find anything good on television. Our home is a place of despair. When we go to church, the song leader is terrible and the pastor is an idiot.

The other wife said “My husband is so excited.” He can’t wait to go to church. He loves the sermons. We laugh all the time and enjoy our family.

It got very quiet in the laundry room as the women continued sewing the pants. One was patching the seat of the pants, and the other was patching the knees.

1. The Motivation of His Prayer

Prayer motivated by love

- **Thankful**

Thankful for You Upon Every Remembrance of You

- **Desirous of Fellowship in the Gospel**

In Every Prayer of Mine, **making request with joy** for your **fellowship in the Gospel** (from the first day until now)

1 Thessalonians 5:11 -- Build Each Other Up

Knowledge is increased by fellowship, love and truth. 1:7 "Partakers of my grace"

Luke 19:15 "gained by trading"

- **Confident and Expecting**

Confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:

Spiritual Prayer: Romans 8:26; 2 Corinthians 10:4 Confident: Proverbs 15:29; Hebrews 4:16

- **Common Trial: Common Blessing**

Even as it is meet for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart; inasmuch as both in my bonds, and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel, **ye all are partakers of my grace**.

Having witnessed and benefited from their Christian Fruit, it is just and evident ye are "partakers of my grace" -- you are truly saved. To partake of this grace is to communicate the same you receive to others.

"Have you in my heart" -- Paul is warmly attached to them.

As they had fellowshiped and shared with Paul in his BONDS and in the WORK of the Gospel, they also will share in same favor of God.

2 Timothy 2:12 — If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us: Romans 8:17 — And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together. 1 Peter 4:13 — But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.

- **Personal Longing**

I long after you all in the bowels of Jesus Christ.

2. The Requests of His Prayer

- **I pray your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment;**

Perfection of love is produced by the increase of the knowledge of the Son of God, "yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment" Phil. 3:10 "That I may know Him"

Shows our perception advancing.

Knowledge produces love but love produces greater knowledge.

- **I pray ye may approve things that are excellent**

Perfection of love produces the ability to discern.

- **I pray that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ.**

The perfection of love produces purity.

"Sincere" — judged by sunlight. Tested as genuine, Pure, "Without offence"

- **I pray you are filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God.**

The perfection of love produces a fruitful life. 1:11 "Being filled With the fruits of righteousness" The nature of man must be changed by grace before he can bear fruit. "Which are by Christ Jesus Unto the Glory and Praise of God" Fruit is the Indication of the general character.

Purpose in the Trial: Furtherance of the Gospel, vs. 12-30

- It is God's will that the Gospel be preaching everywhere to everyone.
- God uses ordinary people (young, old, male, female, gifted, simple) to spread the Gospel.
- Whose cause do we further by our manner of living?

The Gospel Furthered In the Midst of Persecution and False Pretenses, vs. 12-18

12 But I would ye should understand, brethren, that the things which happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel; 13 So that my bonds in Christ are manifest in all the palace, and in all other places; 14 And many of the brethren in the Lord, waxing confident by my bonds, are much more bold to speak the word without fear. 15 Some indeed preach Christ even of envy and strife; and some also of good will: 16 The one preach Christ of contention, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my bonds: 17 But the other of love, knowing that I am set for the defence of the gospel. 18 What then? notwithstanding, every way, whether in pretence, or in truth, Christ is preached; and I therein do rejoice, yea, and will rejoice.

1. "I would ye should understand"

Paul rights here desiring that the Believer's would not be offended. Paul's imprisonment might be a stumbling-block to those who had received the gospel by his ministry. They might be tempted to think, If this doctrine were indeed of God, God would not allow such treatment of Paul.

They responded to Christ's affliction with the same criticism:

Matthew 27:41-43 — Likewise also the chief priests mocking him, with the scribes and elders, said, 42 He saved others; himself he cannot save. If he be the King of Israel, let him now come down from the cross, and we will believe him. 43 He trusted in God; let him deliver him now, if he will have him: for he said, I am the Son of God.

They might be timid of owning this doctrine, lest they find their own trouble through association.

2. The Things Which Have Happened Unto Me

2 Timothy 3:10-12 — 10 But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience, 11 Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of them all the Lord delivered me. 12 Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

- **Acts 9:29** He preached to the Hellenistic Jews and they responded with planning to kill him.
- **Acts 13:50** At Antioch, the Gentiles glorified God at their preaching, but the Jews controlled by jealousy drove out Paul and Silas from there coasts. ("shook off the dust of their feet")
- **Acts 14:5** At Iconium, "... the city was divided: and part held with the Jews, and part with the apostles". The unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles and Paul and Barnabas had to flee to escape from being stoned.
- **Acts 14:19** Jews from Antioch and Iconium Followed Paul and Barnabas to Lystra and stirred up the People to stone Paul. Supposing he was dead, they dragged him out of the city and left them. But as the disciple stood around him, he rose up and returned into the city.
- **Acts 16:22** At Philippi, Paul and Silas cast the devil out of the girl and were arrested, clothes rent off, beaten, whipped with many stripes and cast into prison.
- In Acts 23:10, the authorities had to hide Paul for fear the people might tear him to pieces.
- Five Times received of the Jews 39 Lashes. 2 Cor. 11:24
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Other passages of Paul's Persecution: Acts 18:12, Acts 21:36, Acts 22:22,

1 Corinthians 4:9-12 — For I think that God hath set forth us the apostles last, as it were appointed to death: for we are made a spectacle unto the world, and to angels, and to men. 10 We are fools for Christ's sake, but ye are wise in Christ; we are weak, but ye are strong; ye are honourable, but we are despised. 11 Even unto this present hour we both hunger, and thirst, and are naked, and are buffeted, and have no certain dwellingplace; 12 And labour, working with our own hands: being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we suffer it:

3. "Have Fallen Out Rather" to the Furtherance of the Gospel

Out of Great Evil, God Produced Great Good.

2 Timothy 2:9 — Wherein I suffer trouble, as an evil doer, even unto bonds; but the word of God is not bound.

- News of Pauls Arrest and Therefore Preaching was Spread Far and Wide, v. 13
- Believers were stirred to courage and boldness, v.14

Job 17:7-9 — Mine eye also is dim by reason of sorrow, and all my members are as a shadow. 8 Upright men shall be astonished at this, and the innocent shall stir up himself against the hypocrite. 9 The righteous also shall hold on his way, and he that hath clean hands shall be stronger and stronger.

- Not everyone stirred has good intentions but praise God that the Gospel is being preached!, v.15

18 What then? notwithstanding, every way, whether in pretence, or in truth, Christ is preached; and I therein do rejoice, yea, and will rejoice.

The Gospel Furthered When Christ is Magnified, vs. 19-26

19 For I know that this shall turn to my salvation through your prayer, and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, 20 According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death. 21 For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. 22 But if I live in the flesh, this is the fruit of my labour: yet what I shall choose I wot not. 23 For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better: 24 Nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you. 25 And having this confidence, I know that I shall abide and continue with you all for your furtherance and joy of faith; 26 That your rejoicing may be more abundant in Jesus Christ for me by my coming to you again.

- This Evil Situation Shall "Turn" to my salvation (God's Gonna Turn it Around!)
 - Through 1) Your Prayer and 2) the supply of the spirit of Jesus Christ.
- In Nothing Be Ashamed - but with all boldness
- In LIFE and DEATH magnify Christ, v.21
- Magnify Christ in ministry to HIS BODY, v.24 "is more needful for you" "for your furtherance and joy and faith"

Compare: v.12 "furtherance of the gospel" v. 24 "your furtherance"

The BODY is the light to the world and the demonstration to the world of God's grace and power. A healthy body is essential to Christ being magnified and the Gospel being furthered.

What are some ways we can ensure a healthy BODY?

The Gospel Furthered in Unity and Humility, vs. 27-30

27 Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel; 28 And in nothing terrified by your adversaries: which is to them an evident token of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that of God. 29 For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake; 30 Having the same conflict which ye saw in me, and now hear to be in me.

- "as it becometh the Gospel"
- Regardless of what men may or may not do,
- Stand Fast in One Spirit (Unity and Steadfast)
- With One Mind **striving together** for the faith of the Gospel.

"Teamwork", "Workers Together", "One plants another waters", "mission work: foreign and home", "Paul and Silas, Paul and Barnabas, Paul and Timothy"

Prayer, Introducing the Presence of God, Introduction the Word of God in new places

- Fear God rather than men (Matthew 10:28 able to kill the body but not the soul)
- Your Trials seem as evidence to your enemies of your guilt, but you know that if we suffer with Him, we will also reign with Him. (2 Timothy 2:12)
- Suffering is not a mistake, but in Christ it is call to both BELIEVE on Him and to SUFFER for His sake.

ILLUSTRATION:

2 Corinthians 4:17 — For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;

Philippians 2: — 1 If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, 2 Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. 3 Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. 4 Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. 5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: 6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: 7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: 8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. 9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: 10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; 11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. 12 Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. 13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure. 14 Do all things without murmurings and disputings: 15 That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; 16 Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain. 17 Yea, and if I be offered upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I joy, and rejoice with you all. 18 For the same cause also do ye joy, and rejoice with me. 19 But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timotheus shortly unto you, that I also may be of good comfort, when I know your state. 20 For I have no man likeminded, who will naturally care for your state. 21 For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's. 22 But ye know the proof of him, that, as a son with the father, he hath served with me in the gospel. 23 Him therefore I hope to send presently, so soon as I shall see how it will go with me. 24 But I trust in the Lord that I also myself shall come shortly. 25 Yet I supposed it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother, and companion in labour, and fellowsoldier, but your messenger, and he that ministered to my wants. 26 For he longed after you all, and was full of heaviness, because that ye had heard that he had been sick. 27 For indeed he was sick nigh unto death: but God had mercy on him; and not on him only, but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow. 28 I sent him therefore the more carefully, that, when ye see him again, ye may rejoice, and that I may be the less sorrowful. 29 Receive him therefore in the Lord with all gladness; and hold such in reputation: 30 Because for the work of Christ he was nigh unto death, not regarding his life, to supply your lack of service toward me.

Christ's lowliness and humility. 2:1-30

Philippians 3: — 1 Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you, to me indeed is not grievous, but for you it is safe. 2 Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the concision. 3 For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh. 4 Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more: 5 Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee; 6 Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless. 7 But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. 8 Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, 9 And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: 10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; 11 If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead. 12 Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. 13 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, 14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. 15 Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you. 16 Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing. 17 Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample. 18 (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: 19 Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.) 20 For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: 21 Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

Warnings for all. 3:1-21

Dogs - false prophets Isa. 56:10-11

Philippians 4 — 1 Therefore, my brethren dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, my dearly beloved. 2 I beseech Euodias, and beseech Syntyche, that they be of the same mind in the Lord. 3 And I intreat thee also, true yokefellow, help those women which laboured with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and with other my fellowlabourers, whose names are in the book of life. 4 Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice. 5 Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand. 6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. 7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. 8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. 9 Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you. 10 But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at the last your care of me hath flourished again; wherein ye were also careful, but ye lacked opportunity. 11 Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. 12 I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. 13 I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me. 14 Notwithstanding ye have well done, that ye did communicate with my affliction. 15 Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only. 16 For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity. 17 Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account. 18 But I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things which were sent from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God. 19 But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus. 20 Now unto God and our Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen. 21 Salute every saint in Christ Jesus. The brethren which are with me greet you. 22 All the saints salute you, chiefly they that are of Caesar's household. 23 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

Rejoicing in the Peace of God. 4:1-7

Mediate with a pure mind and do these things "and the God of Peace shall be with you" 4:8-9

The peace of contentment in any state. 4:10-12

Trusting in the strength and riches of Christ. 4:13-20

Greetings from all to all. 4:21-23