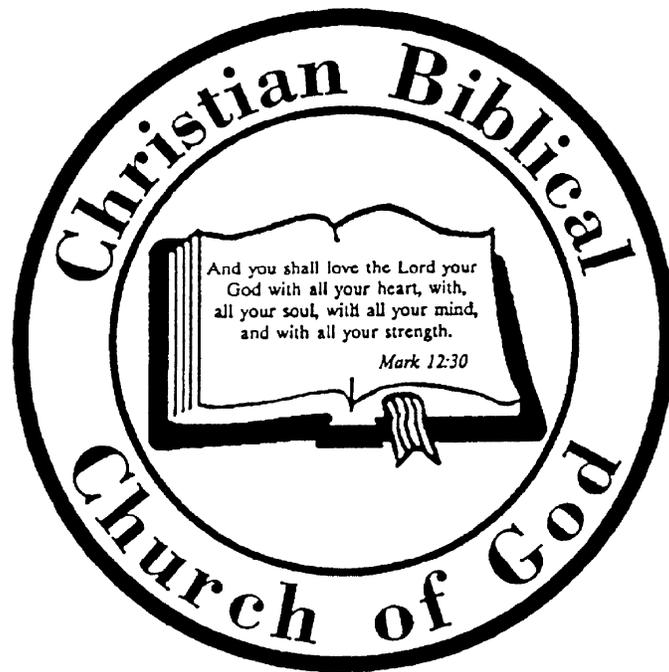


Epistle of the Apostle Paul to the Philippians



Transcript Book

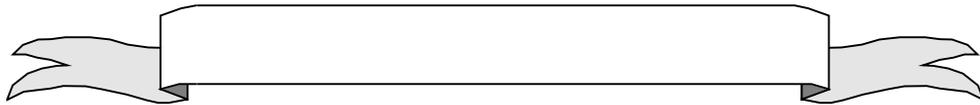
By Fred R. Coulter

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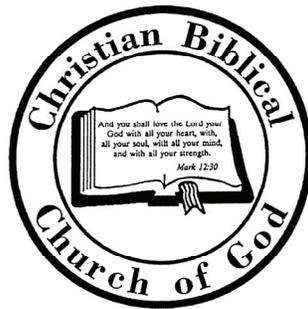
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HAVE SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED

Philippians

Series of 5 sermons by Fred R. Coulter



Signature

Date

- Epistle to the Philippians I
- Epistle to the Philippians II
- Epistle to the Philippians III
- Epistle to the Philippians IV
- Epistle to the Philippians V

Date completed _____

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Philippians

Foreword

This series on Philippians is a compilation of five sermons by Fred R. Coulter which will help you to gain a better understanding of this epistle. Written by the apostle Paul, it exhorts us: "...He (God the Father) Who began a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ" (Phil. 1:6) and "...that your love may abound yet more and more in all knowledge and understanding in order that you may approve the things that are excellent, so that you may be pure and without offense unto *the* day of Christ, being filled with *the* fruits of righteousness, which *are* by Jesus Christ" (Phil. 1:9-11).

Paul goes on to write, "Now then, if *there be* any encouragement in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of *the* Spirit, if any *deep* inner affections and compassions, fulfill my joy, that you be of the same mind, having the same love, being joined together in soul, minding the one thing. *Let* nothing *be* done through contention or vainglory, but in humility, each esteeming the others above himself. Let each one look not *only* after his own things, but *let* each one also *consider* the things of others. Let this mind be in you, which *was* also in Christ Jesus;" (Phil. 2:1-5). Paul further states, you need to "...work out your own salvation with fear and trembling" (Phil. 2:15). Paul further states that you must "...Do all things without complaints and disputes; so that you may be blameless and without offense, innocent children of God in *the* midst of a crooked and perverted generation, among whom you shine as lights in *the* world" (Phil. 2:14-15), "...forgetting the things that are behind, and reaching forth to the things that are ahead, I press toward *the* goal for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. (Phil. 3:13-14).

"Do not be anxious about anything; but by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God in everything; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, shall guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus. Finally, brethren, whatever *things* are true, whatever *things* are honorable, whatever *things* are just, whatever *things* are pure, whatever *things* are lovely, whatever *things* are of good report; if *there be* any virtue and if *there be* any praise, think on these things." (Phil. 4:6-8).

A special thank you goes to Bonnie Orswell, Laila Patterson and Nancy Spaller for producing the transcripts for this book.

Epistle to the Philippians I

Chapter One

Fred R. Coulter

If there's any one thing we need to do in growing in grace and knowledge and overcoming and understanding, 2-Peter 3 is very important for us to realize. Most of us have been in the Church for years and years, and what I'm going to bring to you as a combined study—with sermons and Bible studies done through the years—is to help fulfill this Scripture:

2-Peter 3:18: “Rather, **be growing in the grace and the knowledge** of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ...” That's the whole purpose of why I am doing this. I know there are some that are saying—that are not familiar with what we are doing and what I've been preaching for years—‘who does Fred Coulter think he is rewriting the Bible?’ *No!*

What I'm trying to do is focus in and bring many of the Scriptures together included in the Amplified Translation of Philippians, Therefore, I have included in the booklet the Greek Interlinear so no one can say that I am trying to create something new, some new doctrine, or new thing. What I'm trying to do is create a way, a means, and an atmosphere and type of study so that we can all grow in grace and in knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. That is the most important thing we need to do. Please understand and realize, I'm not trying to set myself up as some great expert more than anyone else. What I'm trying to do is help us really get in and

- *study and know* the Word of God
- *to really live by* the Word of God
- *to be inspired by* the Word of God

I know that the more I study and translate and the more things that I do in getting into the Bible, I personally find the greater the Word of God is, the more fantastic it is. Understanding the Word of God—because of the mind of Christ and the Spirit of Christ—is really a tremendous and awesome thing. We need to be at the level so we can get deeper into God's Word, so we can really study it word-by-word and verse-by-verse, and bring in all the aspects of understanding, knowledge, and with study and the Spirit of God to really understand the Word of God.

In going through this series, what I hope that it will do is be helpful, enjoyable, inspirational and uplifting for you.

Let's begin with a little historical background of the book of Philippians. The Church

in Philippi—the name of the city—was established in 50_{A.D.} right after the conference in Jerusalem where we find that they discussed and went over the things that they wanted to cover for the different Gentiles coming into the Church.

Let's get a little bit of background concerning this book of Philippians. It's interesting to note that Paul was writing this book of Philippians in approximately 60-62_{A.D.} at a time when He was in prison. We'll see a little bit of that as we go.

Acts 16:8: “Now when they had passed by Mysia, they came to Troas”—the ancient city of Troy. If you look on a map that is right on the Bosphorus Dardanelle or right across from Greece, which is now modern Turkey. They could catch a boat and sail across over to northern Greece. That's what they did.

Verse 9: “And a vision appeared to Paul during the night. A certain man of Macedonia was standing, beseeching him and saying, ‘Come over to Macedonia *and* help us.’ And after he had seen the vision, we immediately sought to go into Macedonia, concluding that the Lord had called us to preach the Gospel to them” (vs 9-10). Here they're coming into a brand new area that did not have the Word of God before, coming into a country wholly given over to paganism with a few of the Jewish synagogues being the exception.

You think about how you would begin preaching. Well, when God does things like this, He does it with a sign and a miracle to establish the power of God. That's exactly what He did to start the Church in Philippi.

Verse 11: “Therefore, after sailing from Troas, we came with a straight course to Samothracia, and on the next day to Neapolis; and from there *we went* to Philippi, which is *the* primary city in *that* part of Macedonia... [this was a large city] ...*and* a colony. And we stayed in this city *for* a number of days. Then on the [Sabbath] day of the weeks...” (vs 11-13). This is a very interesting word for Sabbath. In the Greek is ‘ton Sabbaton’ which is plural, meaning *on the first of the weeks*. It could very well be that this was on the Day of Pentecost. In this particular city there was no Jewish synagogue to go to. We find that there was in Thessalonica and there was in Berea, but not here in Philippi.

“...we went outside the city by a river, where *it* was customary *for* prayer to be *made*; and after sitting down, we spoke to the women who were

gathered together *there*. And a certain woman who worshiped God was listening; *she was* named Lydia *and was* a seller of purple from *the* city of Thyatira; whose heart the Lord opened to receive the things spoken by Paul” (vs 13-14). Here is also another verification that your understanding of the Scriptures has to be opened; that God has to call you and me—everyone. We can’t go to God and prove to God how good we are, because we’re not; ‘we’ve all sinned and come short of the glory of God.’ God worked in the mind of this woman to open her mind.

Verse 15: “And after she and her household were baptized...” We have here the same thing, starting right at the beginning:

- repentance
- baptism
- the laying on of hands
- the receiving of the Holy Spirit
- the establishing of the Church for the people that way

“...she and her household were baptized; she besought *us*, saying, ‘If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house *and* lodge *there*.’ And she constrained us” (v 15). They stayed right there at her house for a period of time.

Verse 16: “Now, it came to pass that as we were going to prayer, a certain damsel who had a spirit of Python met us; *and* she brought her masters much gain by divining.” Foretelling the future, fortune telling, actually being able to read people’s minds and different things like that. We have the same kind of thing today.

Verse 17: “She followed Paul and us *and* cried out, saying, ‘These men are servants of the Most High God, and are preaching to us *the* way of salvation.’” One thing we need to understand: Demons think that they can receive salvation by possessing a person. We have a situation that this did not occur. We’ll see what happened.

Verse 18: “Now she did this for many days. Then Paul, being grieved, turned to the spirit and said, ‘I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.’ And it came out the same hour.” I’ve been involved with casting out demons on several occasions, and one was a woman who was just totally, absolutely out of her mind. I remember the minister and I—I was an assistant, not yet ordained—laid hands on her and cast that demon out and in two days she was of her right mind, and it was really a tremendous and miraculous change that occurred to her.

There are also situations where demons are not cast out, because the people don’t want them cast out, because there are people who love demons; they

love these things; they love Satan’s way. These men who owned this girl who had the demon and spirit of divination loved Satan’s way; loved Satan’s wares.

Verse 19: “And when her masters saw that the hope of their gain was gone, they laid hold of Paul and Silas *and* dragged *them* into the marketplace before the magistrates. And they brought them to the captains, saying, ‘These men, who are Jews, are greatly troubling our city...’” (vs 19-20).

They weren’t troubling the city at all. What they were doing was casting the demon out of this one woman who had the ‘spirit of divination’; they lost their game. So, they weren’t troubling the city, but you know there’s going to come a time when God is going to do this again. There’s going to come a time when we are going to face these exact same situations. Right now God is kind of hiding us and protecting us as a small group and we’re not too well known, and not too many people know about us. I’ve gotten hate mail concerning *The Christian Passover* book. I’ve gotten things from Jews saying that Jesus was never the Son of God. When they come to the chapter about the nature of the flesh of Jesus its causes a lot of people to be totally angry, because people *don’t love the Word of God!*

- Paul did!
- Paul loved God!
- Paul preached the love of God!

Paul was used of Jesus Christ to write 14 books of the New Testament. And Luke being with him recorded the part of the ministry of Christ as it follows along in the book of Acts. Then Luke also wrote the Gospel. So, we have a tremendous and powerful influence that the Apostle Paul had in finishing the New Testament; one of these being the Epistle to the Philippians, which is one of the most encouraging and one of the most loving, one of the most profitable books in the New Testament. There is no correction in it except one little hint of someone that he admonishes to have a right attitude with getting long with someone else. We’ll see that when we get to it.

Verse 22: “Then a multitude rose up against them...” People in multitudes want to be deceived; they want to hold on to what they have. Don’t believe it? *Just look at the election seasons!* This whole world is being setup for the great deception that is coming. It’s the same thing here. They stirred up the multitude.

“...the captains tore off their garments, *and* commanded *that they* be beaten with rods. And after laying many stripes on them, they cast *them* into prison, commanding the jailer to keep them safely”

(vs 22-23). None of us have gone through anything like that.

- Have you ever been hauled to court for witnessing?
- Have you ever been hauled before someone and beaten on your back with stripes and then thrown into prison?

Verse 24: “After receiving this command, he threw them into the inner prison and secured their feet with stocks.” There they were in stocks—they put your wrists in stocks; sometimes they put your head and wrists in stocks; sometimes they put the feet, head and wrists in stocks. There’s nothing you can do!

Verse 25: “But about midnight, Paul and Silas were praying and singing praises to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.” Most people today living in this society would probably curse God; would probably say, ‘You know, God, I never expected this!’ There are a lot of people who can’t even take it when the going gets just a little tough.

It’s one thing to *stand* for what is right doctrine. It’s one thing to *stand* for what the Truth is. It’s another thing to be persecuted and prosecuted and thrown into jail for it. None of us have gone through that, yet. I’m not asking that we do, but I’m just saying that lest we think we’ve had a hard time of it, look at what Paul went through. What was their reaction? *They prayed and sang praises to God!*

Notice what happened; this was quite a fantastic way to start a church. We’re going to see that God did a couple of miracles here, v 26: “And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so *great* that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors opened, and the bonds of all were loosed.” Fantastic and tremendous miracle! There they are in the stocks and all of a sudden God sent the earthquake.

Verse 27: “When the jailer awoke from his sleep and saw the doors of the prison open, he drew a sword and was about to kill himself, supposing *that* the prisoners had escaped, but Paul called out with a loud voice, saying, ‘Do not harm yourself; for we are all here.’” (vs 27-28).

I want you to understand the attitude of this love. Here’s a man who is an enemy—right? Here’s a man that if he killed himself a lot of us may be inclined to say, ‘Good riddens!’ Paul said, ‘No, don’t do that.’

In Matthew 5 is something that is absolutely vitally important to do, to know, to realize and to understand; and we’re going to see that the Apostle Paul was practicing the very words of Jesus Christ.

Later on we will see when he wrote about Alexander the coppersmith who did him great harm. We will see that even though he prayed that God would bring upon Alexander the coppersmith the fruit of his own doings, Paul still did not hate him.

I’ve experienced it, that there are some people who still hate Herbert Armstrong so much, and there are people who hate the Worldwide Church of God so much that they are bitter and they can’t overcome their bitterness, because they don’t understand the love of God that He’s requiring. If you know anyone that way be sure to, by all means, point out to them what Paul did when he was in danger of losing his life. When he was in prison, the captain came down there with a sword either to kill himself or to kill them. He said, ‘No, “...Do not harm yourself; for we are all here.”’ We will see that Paul was practicing the very words of Jesus Christ:

Matthew 5:43^[transcriber’s correction]: “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, **love your enemies...**” (vs 43-44). This, brethren, is the hardest, *hardest*, **hardest** kind of love for us to know, realize and also to express. I’ll be the first one to tell you that it is hard for me! But I know that’s what God says I need to do.

- We need to pray for our enemies!
- We need to pray that God will turn them from us!
- That God may even turn their hearts!

Jesus said, v 44: “But I say to you... [there’s not greater authority than Jesus Christ] ...love your enemies, **bless** those who curse you, **do good** to those who hate you, and **pray** for those who despitefully use you and persecute you.” Was the Apostle Paul practicing this command of Jesus Christ? *Absolutely, yes, he was!*

Acts 16:28: “But Paul called out with a loud voice, saying, ‘Do not harm yourself; for we are all here.’ And after asking for lights, he rushed in and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas” (vs 28-29).

- Can God turn the trick when you trust God?
- Can God change the circumstances when you trust Him?

I want you to think about all the different things in your life that God has done to give you grace and favor, turn back the hand of the enemy, spare you from things that come upon you, and do the same thing that Paul did here and rejoice before God.

Here is a man—a total enemy—coming and

falling down before his face, v 30: “And when he had brought them out, he said, ‘Sirs, what must I do, that I may be saved?’” A complete turnaround! Isn’t that something?

- Can God do miracles?
- Can God perform things in people’s lives?
- Does the Word of God work?
- *Yes, it does!*

When God says, ‘But I say to you, love your enemies, pray for them that spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be the sons of your Father’ that’s something!

When there’s danger we should not go running in; we need to be ‘wise as a serpent, harmless as a dove.’ But when it gets down to circumstances we cannot control, God alone can intervene! That’s what happened here.

Verse 31: “Then they said, ‘Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and you shall be saved, you and your household.’” That’s a good way to start believing—isn’t it? A great earthquake, loose all the prisoners. You talk about having grace and favor in the eyes of your enemies; you talk about being able to reach down change the circumstances; *God did!* This is the hand of God. Paul had nothing to do with it. In a sense, what could he do? He was all stocked up.

Verse 32: “And they spoke the Word of the Lord to him, and to all those in his house. And he took them in that hour of the night, and washed *their* wounds; and he and all his *household* were immediately baptized. Then he brought them into his house *and* laid out a table *for them*; and he rejoiced with all *his* household, who had believed in God” (vs 32-34). That is a tremendous sign! Look at the tremendous things that God did in Philippi to establish this church. Two miracles:

1. casting out the demons
2. opening up the prison

Verse 34: “Then he brought them into his house *and* laid out a table *for them*; and he rejoiced with all *his* household, who had believed in God. Now when day came, the captains sent the sergeants, saying, ‘Let those men go.’ And the jailer reported these words to Paul, *saying*, ‘The captains have sent *word* to let you go. Now then, *you may* go out and depart in peace.’ But Paul said to them, ‘After publicly beating us, who are Romans, without condemnation, and casting *us* into prison, do they *think* now to secretly thrust us out?...’” (vs 34-37). So, Paul relied on his civil rights being a Roman citizen.

There may be times in the future down the

road when we have to rely on our civil rights. There are a lot of hate laws right now being constructed against Christians so that you can’t speak a word against a homosexual, a word against any religion, and you cannot preach the Truth of God. One man was even arrested for witnessing Christ and thrown into prison. They have already tried to register churches to tax them. That failed in Berkley.

Paul says, “...No, indeed, but let them come in person *and* bring us out.’ Then the sergeants reported these words to the captains. And when they heard *that* they were Romans, they were afraid” (vs 37-38). They were using the civil law properly, so Paul did vote. There’s a combination of everything—*wise as a serpent, harmless as a dove!*

- using the law of the land
- using the power of God
- preaching the Word of God
- using the Spirit of God
- letting God open the opportunity to establish what God wanted

All together right here in the establishing of this church.

Verse 39: “And they came *and* entreated them; and after bringing *them* out, they asked *them* to depart from the city. Now after leaving the prison, they came to Lydia... [that was the one at Thyatira] ...and when they had seen the brethren, and had exhorted them, they departed” (vs 39-40).

Acts 17:1: “And after journeying through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where *there* was a synagogue of the Jews.” He goes now from Gentiles to Jews. Then they got all upset, kicked him out; they didn’t like him and they delivered him up to the magistrates. The Jews try and use civil rights for their side, so they left there.

Verse 10: “Then the brethren immediately sent away by night to Berea both Paul and Silas, who, when they arrived, went into the synagogue of the Jews. Now, these were more noble than those in Thessalonica, *for* they received the Word with all readiness of mind *and* **examined the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so**” (vs 10-11).

We won’t get into all the things concerning the Scriptures, but I’ll just have to tell you that they were searching what we call the Old Testament. That was ten years before anything was written in the New Testament. Paul told Timothy that you ‘can be wise unto salvation’ by the Scriptures *through Jesus Christ*. There are just all too many people today who are willing today to just throw out as much of the Word of God that they can, as much of the Scriptures of the Old Testament as these can

under the guise of being Christian.

But here's what we need to do with readiness of mind; being able to prove from the Scriptures whether the things are so or not.

Let's go to Philippians, and what I've done in this *Expanded Amplified Translation* is to expand the meaning of the meaning of the words, to bring in the meaning of other Scriptures to give us full well-rounded and, hopefully, inspiring and understandable translation of Philippians.

Philippians 1:1 "Paul and Timothy servants (bondsmen, even slaves)..." The Greek word for *servant* is 'doulos'—meaning *a slave*. At that time they had slaves. They didn't have mechanical appliances like we have. They had literal people who were slaves. When they said that they were 'servants' of Jesus Christ, they viewed themselves as the *bondslaves* of Christ.

"...of Jesus Christ, to all the saints..." (v 1). Saints are not those little statues on top of St. Peter's Basilica or some little trinket that you put around your neck or on the dashboard of your car for superstitious good luck.

You are a saint, I am a saint, because saint comes from the Greek that means *Holy*—'hagiois.' We are Holy; we are consecrated to God; we are special to God because He has called us and has given us His Spirit and has begotten our minds with His very Spirit that we can be, at the resurrection, the very sons of God.

That's why we are the saints "... (the ones who are consecrated to God as Holy)... [that's what it really means, the full thing] ...in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, together with *the overseers*... (who are to oversee the congregations and are guardians of the faith)..." (v 1)—that's what minister should be:

- not an overlord
- one who administers and helps
- one to lead and to serve

"...and deacons (who are serving and helping)" (v 1). That's what deacon means: *one who helps; one who serves*. Even Paul called himself in one place a servant of God—not the word 'doulos' but 'diakonos'—meaning *one who is serving*; whatever needs to be done for the Church and the brethren.

That's really the office of a deacon. It is not a merit badge because you're bigger and stronger and now we have our own private police standing at the door to keep people out. It's not one who is politically in with the ministry who is a deacon. He is one who really helps and serves the brethren and

serves the Church.

Verse 2: "Grace..." Grace is the absolute most important thing in our relationship with God, because grace is that which puts us in good standing with God continually. "Grace, (God's gracious blessing, Divine favor and generous gift) be to you..." That's a tremendous salutation from Paul. He's wishing the very best for each one of us. These words are recorded for us so that we can understand that and realize that.

"...and peace, harmony and tranquility from God our Father and *the* Lord and Master Jesus Christ" (v 2). We used to be enemies of God, but now we have peace through the blood of Jesus Christ. We used to have carnal minds that are 'enmity against God and not subject to the Law of God,' but now we have made peace with God through Jesus Christ.

That brings us into harmony with God, tranquility with God. I realize that the world is going to come against us in everything that is out there to try and upset that and disturb that, but nevertheless, we need to understand and realize that that's what God has done, and live in His grace.

I want to tell you one other thing that's very important. I want to be sure and really mention this and emphasize it so you will know and understand why this grace is so important. In Romans 8 we find something that we need to understand concerning the grace of God.

- this is why we are not to frustrate the grace of God
- this is why we're not to grieve the Spirit of God
- this is why grace has not been designed to give us lawlessness

God is going above and beyond in this grace. God is giving us something special that we need to really understand and realize.

Do you and I know that **down deep inside that we are sinful people of and by our own selves?** *Yes, we do!* That's the whole struggle that we have. We know that is because within us, inherit in our very being, is the '*law of sin and death*.' Yet, the Spirit of God and the grace of God does this for us.

Romans 8:1: "Consequently, *there is* now no condemnation..." God does not condemn you; God does not criticize you when you are yielding yourself to Him. If you deliberately go out and sin, that's another story; God is going to correct you because He deals with you as sons.

"...to those who are in Christ Jesus, who are

not walking according to *the flesh*, but according to *the Spirit*" (v 1).

- *Seeking first* the Kingdom of God!
- *Seeking first* God the Father and Jesus Christ!
- *Seeking first* the salvation that God has given!

There is no condemnation because of that!

Verse 2: "Because the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has delivered me from the law of sin and death." Before God you are free from that law, and that is done by *the grace of God!* Not free to go break law, but this is to be free from the *law of sin and death* in your relationship with God the Father and Jesus Christ.

That is something we need to understand and fully realize. God's grace does that for us! We need to add just one other thing. Paul said, 'What? Shall we sin that grace may abound? *God forbid!* How are we who are dead to sin live any longer therein?'

That's why this salutation of grace and the understanding that is so important for us to realize.

(go to the next track)

Philippians 1:3: "I am thanking my God over every remembrance and **recollection of you.**" I guess so! Here he is in prison again. Started out in Philippi in prison, now he's writing them a letter from prison, only this time in Rome instead of Philippi. He's thanking God continuously for them, and we'll see why. This is the only church that really supported Paul. Amazing, isn't it?

The others, you'll see if you read 2-Timothy, that every one in Asia left Paul. They all deserted him. Some might say that if he's 'really the minister of God why would they leave him?' That's a long historical thing to get into, but it was because that people wanted to *their own version* of Christianity, which later became the Orthodox and Catholic Church. That's the long and short of it.

Verse 4: "Always in every one of my supplications and petitions for all of you (that is, on your behalf); this I am doing with happiness and joy. For your fellowship, participation and partnership in **the good news of the Gospel, from the first day until the present time**" (vs 4-5). Partnership means *sharing and doing the work in whatever way was necessary*; whether financially or whether in things of a gift of food or clothing or whatever it may be.

Verse 6—this is a key important verse and we'll spend some time here: "**Being fully persuaded, totally convinced and completely**

confident of this very thing... [Do you have this same kind of confidence?] ...that He who has begun a good and beautiful work in you will complete, **finish and perfect it, until the Day of Jesus Christ.**"

God is going to finish what He has started in you! That's what the Feast of Tabernacles is all about, when we're going to be living with God! When we are going to be dwelling in the tabernacle of God.

- Do you not think that God wants you there?
- Why did God call you in the first place if He doesn't want you there?

We need to respond back to God with

- the same kind of confidence
- the same kind of faith
- the same kind of love

that God has shown toward us! Be confident that God is going to finish it, that when the last comes for you and me, or anyone who is a Christian, that they are going to be *absolutely sure* that they have attained to the resurrection, so that when Christ returns they will be resurrected to be the very sons of God in splendor and glory and brilliance!

God is going to finish that work! The Feast of Tabernacles pictures when that work is finished, when that work is done. Then we have the *new work* of being kings and priests with Christ to rule this whole world. God is going to finish it!

- it doesn't matter about the aches and pains
- it doesn't matter about the problems of old age
- it doesn't matter about the difficulties that are involved
- it doesn't matter about any of those things

It cannot and will not count against you; **God is going to finish what He has started!**

- Is God able?
- Is God capable?
- Does He have the power? *Absolutely!*
- Is God going to do it? *Without a single doubt at all!*
 - ✓ Paul had none!
 - ✓ I have none!
 - ✓ You should have none!

Let's see what kind of persuasion that Abraham had; what kind of faith that we need to have; what kind of trust that we can have. Brethren, we need to have the *greatest confidence* in the world; the *greatest love* for God in the world, and

love for each other. God isn't going to come down upon us and condemn us and find every little thing to keep us out of the Kingdom of God. He's going to find every way to make it possible to be in the Kingdom of God.

Romans 4:17 is talking about Abraham, and Abraham had every single odd against him—didn't he? His wife couldn't have any children. He was 100-years-old and she was 90-years-old. You know the account when God came and said, 'Next year at this time you're going to have a child.' And she laughed! The Lord asked, 'Why are you laughing.' She said, 'Lord, I'm not laughing.' And the Lord answered back and said, 'Yes, you laughed, but nevertheless, next year at this time you're going to have a child.'

If there's anyone out there that is 90-years-old and if there's any man out there that's 100-years-old, if someone came to you and said that you're going to conceive and have a child, you're going to have to be powerfully convinced—right? Well, Abraham was! This is the kind of conviction and persuasion that we need to have that God is going to have us in His kingdom.

Romans 4:17: "(exactly as it is written: 'I have made you a father of many nations.') before God in Whom he believed, Who gives life to the dead, and **calls the things that are not as though they are.**" This is why we can say that

- if you have the Spirit of God today—which you do
- if you love God with all your heart, mind, soul and being—which you do
- if you are believing in the promises and hope of God—which you do

is God going to have you in His kingdom? *Yes!* What does He also call us? *Behold what glorious love that the Father has toward us that we should be called the children of God (1-John 3). Although it doesn't appear what we shall be, be we know that when we see Him, 'we shall see Him as He is, for we shall be like Him.'*

That's something we need to be fully persuaded and convinced of, to the very depth of our being, just as Abraham was. When God said something, even though it wasn't, it would be! What kind of hope did he have to have? *He had to have what this world would call 'foolish hope.'* But there's no such thing as 'foolish hope' toward God.

- **If God has said it, He will do it!**
- If God has promised it, it is there for you to come and ask God—if it be His will-to fulfill His promise to you. If it is, *He will!*
- His will is that you the Kingdom of God.

Is God going to fulfill that exactly in the same way He fulfilled this promise to Abraham?

Verse 18: "*And who against hope **believed in hope...** [That's something!] ...in order that he might become a father of many nations, according to that which was spoken, '**So shall your seed be.**'*"

The Lord took Abraham out one night and said, 'Look up into the heavens, and if you can number all these stars, I'm telling you so shall your seed be.' When Abraham is resurrected, can you imagine what it's going to be when God says, 'Abraham, these are all your children. All those in the first resurrection are here because of you and Jesus Christ, and all these people on the earth are yours because of the progeny and My promise that I said that you will be 'the father of many nations. Just wait until the end of this thousand year millennium when we resurrect all of the rest of the dead, you're going to be absolutely amazed how many children you actually have, *because I said so!*' Abraham is going to say, 'Thank you, Lord! Yes, God, that is true'; *and so should we!*

Verse 19: "And he, not being weak in the faith, considered not his own body, already having become dead, being about one hundred years old, nor *did he consider* the deadness of Sarah's womb; and he did not doubt the promise of God through unbelief; **rather, he was strengthened in the faith, giving glory to God**" (vs 19-20). And that's why Paul said that God is going to finish the work that He started. God didn't call you in vain! God didn't call anybody in vain! He called you to be His son, to be in His kingdom.

Verse 21: "For he was fully persuaded that what He has promised, He is also able to do." Let's notice what this does, because **to believe in Christ, to believe God and to believe what He says is the most difficult and hard thing for the human mind to really do.** When you do, God blesses you just as He did Abraham.

Are you fully persuaded that what God has promised He is able to do? You may have a little lack of faith, like Sarah in laughing; a little lack of confidence because your circumstances right now may be a little difficult. **Be fully persuaded that what God has promised He is fully able to do!**

Let's go to Isaiah 41 and let's see what we need to do when we're really down and out and really kind of feeling miserable. When we get to the point that we feel that little eensy-teensy thing that we're less than nothing, a we're like a worm, or we're a miserable person, or the circumstances have been bad:

Isaiah 41:10: “Do not fear; **for I am with you...**” Is God with us? *Yes!* Do you have the Holy Spirit of God? *God is with you!*

“...be not dismayed... [don’t be discouraged; don’t be down] ...for **I am your God...**” (v 10). *God is God!* The Apostle Paul said, ‘If God be for you, what can be against you?’ *Nothing!*

“...**I will strengthen you; yea, I will help you; yea, I will uphold you** with the right hand of My righteousness” (v 10). We need to do like the Apostle Paul. If things get difficult, go ahead and pray, open up the Scripture right here to Isa. 41:10 and claim that promise!

- God will help you!
- God will strengthen you!
- God will lift you up!
- God will see you through!
- Christ is there to intercede as our High Priest to make intercession for you!

He’s been tempted in every way, as every human being. That’s a tremendous thing, brethren, for us to understand.

2-Thessalonians 3—here again, we see the encouragement that the Apostle Paul gives, and we need to follow, understand and apply and use in our very lives. 2-Thessalonians 3:1: “As for the rest, brethren, pray for us, that the Word of the Lord may spread rapidly...” Be free, have free course. In other words, look at the difficulties that Paul had being thrown into prison and the persecution of the Jews and Gentiles against him. He’s saying, ‘Pray that the Word of God would have free course.

“...and may be glorified, in the same way that *it has been* with you; and that we may be delivered from perverse and wicked men, for all *are* not of the faith” (vs 1-2). Brethren, if there’s anything that we need to pray about today, those days are coming! You need to be delivered from wicked and unreasonable men. I need to be delivered from wicked and unreasonable men. Hopefully we’re not going to be out there sinning so that we have our own sins involved and that becomes even worse.

“...for all *are* not of the faith. But **the Lord is faithful**, Who will establish you and keep you from the evil one” (vs 2-3). Remember the prayer that Jesus prayed? *Father, I pray that you keep them from the evil one!* That is *protect them!* God will do that! This is tremendous to really understand and be fully persuaded as the Apostle Paul was.

Here’s something we need to understand, brethren. Here’s something we need to realize, because God wants to dwell with His people. In

keeping the Feast of Tabernacles, not only are we picturing that, we are living that and Christ is doing that.

Matthew 28:20: “Teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you. And lo, I am with you always, *even* until the completion of the age.” Isn’t that a tremendous promise?

Philippians 1:6: “Being fully persuaded, totally convinced and completely confident of this very thing... [because God is with you] ...that He who has begun a good and beautiful work in you will complete, **finish and perfect it**, until the Day of Jesus Christ.”

Let’s add Ephesians 2 because we need to let the Spirit of God work in us! Maybe what we ought to do is each one of us take a little personal challenge to ourselves—we have to be honest with ourselves, because God knows anyway. We try and sugarcoat everything and look at it try and put it in the best light even though we know it’s just plain wrong—and I’m trying to do this myself:

Take one thing that you know is a real weakness and say that with God’s help work in overcoming this. *It has to be with God’s help!* Human nature cannot overcome human nature. The Spirit of God can overcome human nature, and the work that God has begun in you He’s going to finish!

Ephesians 2:8: “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this *especially* is not of your own selves...[originating from your own being] ...*it is* the gift of God.” ***The faith, grace and salvation is all the gift of God!***

Verse 9: “Not of works, so that no one may boast.” Talking about self-motivated works of which then Buddhism would be a perfect example; that you can be anything that you think you can be, and since God is in everything and is everywhere, and God is in you; you are God. Therefore you can become anything you want to be and work up the level of spiritual attainment, then you will enter into nirvana.

That, brethren, is salvation by works! Buddhism, Hinduism, Judaism, Catholicism, Protestantism—whatever. Protestants do understand considerable more about the grace of God than do the Catholics.

Verse 10: “For we are His workmanship...” God is working in us! God is working in you! We are **His** workmanship! *God is forming that in you!*

“...created in Christ Jesus...” (v 10). God is creating in you that very character, spirit, image of Christ in you through the begetting of His Holy Spirit. That’s the work that God the Father is doing!

“...unto *the* good works...” (v 10). Don’t let anyone say that there aren’t works that we have to do. There are *good works*. That is the best kind of works possible. The kind of works that are motivated by the Spirit of God to do what God wants. That’s what it is; any other work is *your own work*.

But in Christ we are *His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works* “...that God ordained beforehand in order that we might walk in them” (v 10)—*it is a way of life!*

Philippians 1:7: “Even as it is righteous, proper and just for me to think this of all of you, because you have me in your hearts, even while I am in my bonds and imprisonment: also in the staunch defense and the confirmation and firm **establishment of the good news of the Gospel, you are** all, everyone of you, joint-partakers and fellow recipients of my grace... [the preaching of His grace] ...(God’s gracious blessing, divine favor and generous gift).

Notice what Paul was doing. *The staunch defense!* Do you think the Apostle Paul was mealy-mouthed and would back down when people were coming and attacking the Truth? *No way!* Were there people attacking the Truth? *Absolutely there were!* Did he have a lot of fights concerning that? *Yes, he did!* How about those riots that happened in the synagogue whenever Paul preached in the synagogue defending the Truth? He had to be of firm mind. There are times when it has to be that. There are times when it has to be done with vigor and with power! Even Christ healed one time in anger. There are times when it has to be, and that’s what we’re going to do, brethren. I hope to follow this example of the Apostle Paul. “...in the staunch defense and the confirmation and firm **establishment of the good news of the Gospel...**”

Verse 8: “Now then, God is my witness, how I ardently yearn for you in the tender affections of Jesus Christ from my innermost being, (even from the depths of my heart).” I know that we’ve experienced and have gone through and crushed down into one small, little group and some of us even scattered out of that little group, and **God brought us back together!** I can say the same thing here that I wished that I could be right there with you; and that in the tender affections of my heart, mind and being for the things that you have done to help me and my family in our own situation. We love you for it and thank you for it from the very bottom of our hearts; just as Paul is doing here.

Verse 9: “And this end I am praying that your love (the Godly, Divine love) may yet be increasing and growing to a greater extent and to a higher degree in knowledge and understanding, and spiritual perception and discernment in every

life experience.” Brethren, that’s the whole dedication of what the ministry of Jesus Christ should be, to help every one of the brethren of God be able to do this.

Verse 10: “(Growing unto the level of spiritual understanding) **for you to be able to try, prove and discern the things that** are more excellent...” That’s what we need to do with the Word of God.

What does it say in Psa. 34? *Oh taste and see that the Lord is good!* That’s what we need to be doing, that you can really know and understand. One of the goals that I have is to help you and teach you to attain to that, so that you can be in the Kingdom of God. If you make it, hopefully I’ll make it!

“...in order that you may be pure and clean... [that is before God and without blemish, without spot] ...(having that complete sincerity and unblemished character), that you may even be spotless, free from any offence, and wholly blameless until the Day of Christ” (v 10). Notice how he was focusing in on the Day of Christ, the return of Christ.

We’re going to see through the book of Philippians that Paul was expecting Christ to return in the not to far distant future. That’s what he’s emphasizing here.

Verse 11: “Being filled with the spiritual fruits of righteousness, (that Christian character and spiritual maturity) with the actions and conduct of righteousness, which are through Jesus Christ, to God’s own magnificent praise, honor and glory.” That’s the way our whole lives have to be.

Let’s look at a couple of Scriptures that will amplify that for us. Let’s see how this dedication, this kind of living needs to be and how we need to view our life even as the Apostle Paul viewed his life in Christ.

Galatians 2:20: “I have been crucified with Christ...”—and so do you; you’ve been crucified with Christ through the operation of baptism, and that’s what *crucified with Christ* means. Not that Paul was nailed to the cross; not that you were nailed to the cross; but in a sense *your sins* were nailed to that cross, because Christ died for your sins and my sins, so in a sense you were crucified with Christ, and that through the operation of baptism you buried the old dead self.

“...yet, I live. *Indeed*, it is no longer I... [‘ego’—not for myself. I’m living not for myself] ...but Christ lives **in** me....” That’s how He does the workmanship. That’s how He does what He is doing.

“...For *the life* that I am now living in *the* flesh, I live by faith—that *very faith* of the Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself for me” (v 20). What then is that to produce in our lives? *It is to produce character! It is to produce fruit!* Christ is working *in us* to accomplish that.

Galatians 5:22: “But the fruit of the Spirit is love... [Wherever we go throughout everything that the Apostle Paul preached, love is the basis of it—love, grace, faith and hope.] ...joy, peace, long-suffering...” We have opportunities to apply these things in our lives.

I know there are some of suffering long with the physical ailments that you have, and it has not been easy; it has been very difficult. If God has called you to that then we just have to buck-up and go on from there. That’s the way that it is. Ask God for help, strength and understanding that through the suffering that you may be going through, that you also *may be conformed to the suffering of Christ*. That you may understand that and that your suffering maybe there is a little bit of something that God is going to teach you of what it was that Christ went through to save you. That’s why it’s *long suffering*; it needs to suffer long.

“...kindness, goodness, faith, meekness, self-control; against such things there is no law. But those who *are Christ’s* have crucified the flesh with its passions and lusts” (vs 22-24). That’s why the Apostle Paul said that he was ‘crucified with Christ.’

Verse 25: “If we live by *the Spirit*, we should also be walking by *the Spirit*.” That’s what the meaning of the Feast of Tabernacles is: ***When we are actually spirit beings living in the tabernacle of God, walking as spirit sons of God!***

Scriptures in Philippians from *The Epistle of the Apostle Paul to the Philippians, An Inspirational Bible Study; A New Expanded Amplified Translation* by Fred R. Coulter

All other Scriptures from *The Holy Bible in Its Original Order, A Faithful Version* by Fred R. Coulter

Scriptural References:

- 1) 2 Peter 3:18
- 2) Acts 16:8-20, 22-28
- 3) Matthew 5:43-44
- 4) Acts 16:28-40
- 5) Acts 17:1, 10-11
- 6) Philippians 1:1-2
- 7) Romans 8:1-2
- 8) Philippians 1:3-6
- 9) Romans 4:17-21
- 10) Isaiah 41:10
- 11) 2 Thessalonians 3:1-3
- 12) Matthew 28:20

- 13) Philippians 1:6
- 14) Ephesians 2:8-10
- 15) Philippians 1:7-11
- 16) Galatians 2:20
- 17) Galatians 5:22-25

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- 2 Timothy
- 1 John 3
- Psalm 34

Also referenced: Book:

The Christian Passover by Fred R. Coulter

Epistle to the Philippians II Chapters One & Two

Fred R. Coulter

There's an awful lot in the book of Philippians for us because of what it pictures in our living with Christ. As we get into the second chapter we will see that it focuses in on our living together, our working together. That's going to be a very, very important thing in understanding how we're going to be getting along ruling as kings and priest with Jesus Christ during the Millennium.

Philippians 1:11: "Being filled with the spiritual fruits of righteousness (that Christian character and spiritual maturity)... [Brethren, that's what we really need, that *spiritual maturity*.] ...with the actions and conduct of righteousness, which are through Jesus Christ, unto *the* praise to God's own magnificent praise, honor and glory."

We are having a phenomena taking place that there are a lot of Christians who are getting themselves on a 'treadmill to nowhere,' who are going back and becoming as Protestant as you can believe. It's really most difficult to understand. There are people who are just giving up on God because of what a man has done or has not done.

This is so important, and I'm finding myself now having to bring many sermons that go right back to the very basic beginning. Some people who have been in the Church of God for years and years are finding themselves in a situation where that in order to understand the Word of God I have to speak to them almost like a hostile Protestant. It's really amazing. People are willing to give up on the Holy Days, ready to give up on clean and unclean meats, ready to give up on tithing and the different laws of God, though they may be minor laws, they are not major laws as far as tithing and clean and unclean meats. Now, don't anyone get all upset over that. I'm not endorsing throwing away unclean meats, or I'm not endorsing at all throwing away the doctrines and principles of tithing. Just because they've been misapplied by some people for some time, doesn't mean to throw out everything.

Paul found the same thing in Hebrews 5:12, and many people are in this category today. "For truly, by this time you ought to be teachers, *but instead* you need to have *someone* teach you again what *are* the beginning principles of the oracles of God..." Do you think that anyone is going to enter into the Kingdom of God being a lawbreaker? *Of course not!* It won't happen! It's not going to take place! But there are so many people that you have to go back to tell again that this is the commandment. Yes, God does exist! Yes, this is true! Paul had the

same problem here.

"...and have become those in need of milk, and not of solid food" (v 12). Those of us who have been in the Church of God for years and years and have taken the good fruit of God's Spirit and a good productive use of God's Word and to go back to these very basic beginnings, it's really difficult. Rather than developing the spiritual, righteous and Christian maturity that we ought to be having that Paul is talking about in Philippians 1.

Verse 13: "For everyone who is partaking of milk *is* unskilled in *the* Word of Righteousness because he is an infant. But solid food is for those who are fully grown... [spiritually mature, so that we can go on and do the things are right and good] ...who through repeated practice have had their senses trained to discern between good and evil" (vs 13-14).

Hebrews 6:1: "Therefore, advancing beyond the beginning principles of the doctrines of Christ..." In other words, let's not just stay on the basics forever, brethren. There is so much more to do; so much more to learn, so much more to grow in, in attitude and understanding:

- the Word of God
- the love of God
- the love of each other

We need those basic things to go on to learn.

- What would it be if every Sabbath you came and I gave you a sermon on why you ought to keep the Sabbath?
- What would you ever learn?

You wouldn't learn anything, except that you ought to keep the Sabbath!

- Is there more to Christianity than keeping the Sabbath?

Yes, there's a whole lot more to Christianity than that!

Philippians 1:11: "...with the actions and conduct of righteousness, which are through Jesus Christ... [constantly Christ in you] ...to God's own magnificent praise, honor and glory. But brethren, I desire that you realize and understand that the things which have happened to me have turned out for the advancement and furtherance of the good news of the Gospel" (vs 11-12). He's writing this while he was in prison. Something happened while he was in prison, and we'll see what it is.

Verse 13: "As a result, my imprisonment for the sake of Christ, it **has become well known**

throughout the whole palace, and conspicuously obvious to everyone else. And most of the brethren who are trusting in the Lord, as a result of my imprisonment, they have resolved to speak fearlessly and proclaim the Word, the message of the Gospel, more earnestly and abundantly” (vs 13-14).

This then has been a change of circumstances for the brethren. We’ve all experienced the change in circumstances for us as brethren and ministers because of what has transpired in the Church. We find ourselves not exactly in the same situation, but we call ourselves *The No Hassle, Recycled Church*. We want to help people be recycled back to Christ.

What has happened? This is exactly what has happened in the whole Church today, when things get turned upside down, when things happen that you don’t expect to happen, when trials occur that you don’t expect to occur, then what do you do? *That’s the test!*

- All of our faith is going to be proved!
- All of our love toward God is going to be proved!
- All our love toward each other is going to be proved!

That’s exactly what was happening here in Philippi.

Verse 15: “On the one hand, some are preaching and proclaiming Christ, even from spite and envy, contention and strife...” They were out there hostile toward Paul and the message of Jesus Christ. They were hostile to what he was saying. ‘Look if he’s of God what is he doing in prison?’ *He’s in there because he deserves it!* ‘I want to tell you about Christ; I want to preach to you about Christ.’

Let’s see what happened; let’s see what was already developing while Paul was still alive and not in prison. Here in 2-Corinthians is what was happening in the congregation. Absolutely amazing!

2-Corinthians 11:1: “I would *that* you might bear with me in a little nonsense; but indeed, do bear with me. For I am jealous over you with *the* jealousy of God because I have espoused you to one husband, so that I may present *you as* a chaste virgin to Christ. But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds might be corrupted from *the* simplicity that *is* in Christ. For indeed, if someone comes preaching another Jesus, whom we did not preach, or you receive a different spirit, which you did not receive, or a different gospel, which you did not accept, you put up with it as *something good*” (vs 1-4).

There were those who were coming around even before he was imprisoned. This is just while he was gone. He had to write this letter back to the

Corinthians and say, ‘Look, what’s going on here?’ Then he goes on saying that these are false apostles, false ministers, servants of Satan who appear as ‘angels of light.’ The same thing was happening while he was in prison, as he’s writing the book of Philippians.

Philippians 1:15—the Philippians were “...preaching and proclaiming Christ, even from spite and envy, contention and strife; but on the other hand, some also are preaching and proclaiming Christ from right and good intentions. Now those in the first instance, who are preaching and proclaiming Christ from a contentious, feuding party **spirit, not merely from pure motives, are imagining and supposing** to inflict additional distress and affliction to my imprisonment” (vs 15-16).

That’s just the way Satan is. Get him while he’s down; go after this guy. There were several different kinds of gospels that were being preached. It is absolutely amazing! It is amazing how quickly that some people are willing... I know some who have gone back to Judaism! I know some people who say we ought to follow the Pharisees! I know some people who say, ‘Look, we should keep the Passover on the 14th, but on the 15th; by the way ‘let’s have the Jewish Seder Meal with it.’ It is amazing!

Then you have, on the other hand, those who go off on the other end as Protestants and go off and start keeping all the things that Protestants keep. It’s amazing!

Verse 17: “But the others, who are preaching and proclaiming Christ from the wellspring of love, (Godly, Divine love), know that I am resolutely set for the defense of the glad tidings of the Gospel.” There is a time when we have to really defend the Gospel. There is a time when we have to take each one of these false doctrines and go through and study each one of them so that we can fully and completely understand the Word of God.

What we’re having here in Philippians is kind of a little repeat of what went on. Let’s see something that is important relating to a combination of Judaism and Christianity.

Galatians 5:1: “Therefore, stand fast in the liberty wherewith Christ has made us free, and do not be held again in a yoke of bondage. Behold, I, Paul, tell you that if you become circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing!” (vs 1-2). Many people don’t even understand that.

It means that the Pharisees who were in the Church (Acts 15), the Jews who were preaching

Christ, began to preach concerning the Gospel and say that unless you are circumcised in the flesh you cannot be saved. That's what they were saying. It's not a matter of circumcising children, because that's what God required in the Old Testament, and that's fine. If you don't circumcise your children, that's fine. Circumcision is nothing! Uncircumcision is nothing! But the keeping of the commandments (1-Cor. 7). Paul says the same thing here.

Verse 3: "Again, I am personally testifying to every man who is being circumcised that he is a debtor to do the whole law"—everything under the Old Covenant; that's what you would have to do.

We're under the New Covenant, so we don't do everything within the Old Covenant. ***The covenant is the relationship between us and God!***

- Our relationship is not to a temple on earth, *but to God the Father in heaven above!*
- Our High Priest is not an earthly priest, *but a heavenly priest Jesus Christ!*

If we look to a physical thing to bring us salvation *then Christ profits nothing*, because it's by faith that we're justified! It is by faith, love and hope that we walk.

Verse 4: "You who are attempting to be justified by *works of law*..."—any law, regardless of what it may be. Only God justifies by the Spirit, through His grace, through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

If you are looking to be justified by law "...you are being deprived of any *spiritual* effect from Christ. You have fallen from grace!" (v 4). That's part of what we're seeing preached in contention.

Here is something that is also true, the accusations against Paul. When he was in prison you can imagine the accusations that were going. You can imagine the things that were said:

- He's a liar!
- All the things of Judaism!
- He's gone in to giving up the law!
- Paul, it would have been better if you got everyone to follow circumcision!

Romans 3:7: "For if, by my falsehood, the Truth of God has shown itself *to be* supremely great, to His glory, why am I still being judged as a sinner? But not, according as we are being blasphemously charged, and according as some are affirming *that* we say, 'Let us practice evil things in order that good things may come.' Their condemnation is deserved" (vs 7-8).

You can just hear what was going on when

Paul was in prison. And you know it's true, so very few people have been able to really grow in grace and knowledge enough to develop the full maturity and the spirituality in Christ that if something happened to the minister they would be able to carry on, on their own.

We're getting a little taste of this, because we've been scattered. We've gotten a little taste of it, because we have been beaten up by those who sought to take over the Church or have sought to use their authority to try and force one thing or another upon the brethren in the Church.

3-John—here's how it eventually got; it was something! It was really something what was going on in the Church. All of these occasions arose because either the apostles were gone or, in this case, Paul was in prison.

When John was old, can you imagine what went on?

- Christ died
- all of the apostles died, except John
- Jerusalem was destroyed
- the Jews scattered
- Christ had not yet returned

they were expecting Christ to return during their lifetime

- all of the false Christianity building and growing
- disruption within the Church

Here is John, maybe pretty close to 90, 95 or 100-years-old. We don't know exactly his age. Can you hear what would be said against him? *Oh, this old John, look how old he is! He can hardly walk! He can hardly talk!*

There was time that it was written that John was so old and weak that when they carried him into the Church at Ephesus all he could say, 'Little children, love one another.' Can you imagine all the young 'bucks' just waiting to get at John? *That's exactly what happened!*

3-John 1: "The elder to Gaius the beloved, whom I **love in Truth.**" {see sermon series: *Epistles of John*—the love of God, the Truth of God}

Verse 2: "Beloved, I personally am praying for you, that in all respects you may prosper and be in health, even as your soul is prospering. For I rejoiced exceedingly at the coming of *the* brethren *who* testified of you in the Truth, even how you are **walking in Truth**" (vs 2-3). Notice *love in the Truth, walk in the Truth!*

Verse 4: "I do not have any greater joy than these *testimonies* that I am hearing—that my children are **walking in Truth.**" What is Truth?

- Thy Word is Truth
- Your commandments are Truth
- Your laws are Truth
- Your statutes are Truth
- Everything concerning all Your precepts are true

{note Psa. 119}

Verse 5: “Beloved, you are faithfully practicing whatever you have been doing for the brethren and for strangers.” In other words, we’re going to see the same thing in Philippians: do it out of a pure heart.

Verse 6: “Who have testified of your love before *the* Church. You will do well to send them on their way in a manner worthy of God; because for the *sake of His* name they went forth *preaching*, taking nothing from the Gentiles. For this cause, we are personally obligated to receive *those who do* such *service*, in order that we may be fellow workers in the Truth. I wrote to the Church, but Diotrefes, the one who loves to be chief among them, **does not accept us**” (vs 6-9).

Here they set up their own church organization, their own structure, and there’s an active split going right on in the Church, hostile against God, hostile against those that He is sending.

Verse 10: “Because of this very thing, if I come, I will call him to account for the actions that he is practicing with evil words—maliciously berating us; and he is not satisfied with these things, *for* he himself neither receives the brethren, *nor does he permit* those who wish to *receive the brethren*, *but* he forbids *them* and casts *them* out of the Church.” That’s how far this thing went, way back then! We’ve lived through that ourselves. We have seen it happen! That’s why the book of Philippians is so important for us.

Verse 11: “Beloved, do not imitate that which *is* evil; rather, *imitate* that which *is* good. The one who practices good is of God; but the one who practices evil has not seen God.” Then he said that Demetrius had a good report.

So, the same thing was happening when Paul was in prison. Everyone was out there, they had a ‘better doctrine’; they had a ‘better understanding’; they had better things than what the Apostle Paul brought, John brought, Peter brought, and that’s why God had the Word of God preserved so we could have the New Testament as well as the Old. That’s what I’m trying to do with this translation is to put it in such a way that we can bring to bear every one of these things that we understand in the Bible into the book of Philippians and put it together in a full inspirational study of the other Epistles of Paul.

Philippians 1:17: “But the others, who are preaching and proclaiming Christ from the wellspring of love, (Godly, Divine love)...” That’s what it needs to be.

- we need to worship God in spirit and in truth
- we need to love God with all our heart, mind, soul and being
- we need to love our neighbors as ourselves
- we need to love the brethren as Christ has loved us

“...know that I am resolutely set for the defense of the glad tidings of the Gospel” (v 17). Brethren, I tell you that’s exactly what I’m set for, too. In this whole thing, what it’s taught me as a minister, that the Word of God has got to stand fast. We have got work, study, grow and really put ourselves to it, to know and understand the Word of God. That’s the only way we can defend it.

- We have to live by it!
- We have to think by it!
- We have to run our lives by it!

That’s what all this Christian maturity is really all about. This is not a matter of just living a good life. That’s what ‘religion’ is for. This is *a way of life!* This is not a ‘religion.’ This is *a total calling from God!* This is not just something that we do because we agree with it. *This is something that we do because we love God*, and that’s the important thing.

Paul was looking at it from the best possible viewpoint considering the whole world was pagan then. The whole Roman Empire was pagan, filled with idols, statues, gods, superstitions and things like that. Anyway that Christ was preached was better than nothing. It’s just like with Protestantism today. It’s better to have Protestantism than nothing! Paul was looking at it that way then.

Verse 18: “What then is the situation? Regardless of the circumstances, in every mode and manner, whether in show and pretence, or in truth and sincerity, Christ has been preached and proclaimed; and for this reason I am rejoicing.” You know all the Christmas season I’ll rejoice myself, not that it’s Christmas, but that the pagan day of Baal has one of the most accepted pieces of music sounding through in almost every church: *The Messiah* by Handel, which proclaims the entire Gospel of Christ. ***What a witness!***

If you have *The Messiah* and go through and listen to it, it’s absolutely fantastic. I guarantee you, since it’s taken right out of the Bible, you can listen to it over and over again and it will inspire you tremendously. Isn’t that something? Here in their contention against Christ, with their Christmas tree

over here, with their Christmas carols and all of that, and here comes *The Messiah!* What an absolutely marvelous thing that God has done! ***What a witness right in their very camp!*** Paul was happy about it, too.

Verse 19: “Because I know that this set of circumstances shall turn into deliverance from imprisonment through your supplication and earnest beseeching, coupled with the supply and help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ.” We need to mention something here right now. One of the things that really can sort of just be neglected and we let down on and that’s is *prayer!*

- where we are supplicating God
- where we are beseeching God

Not only for the ‘gimmees,’ but for others, for the things that we can do to reach out and help others. It has been growing slowly, and bit-by-bit as God wants it to grow. I’ve said before, I’m not willing—until it becomes absolutely clear—to start running down the road saying ‘this is the work of God; brethren, give all your heart and soul, and all your mind and money to me, while I run down and do the work of God.’ *NO!* Too many different people have been doing that and it is *their work* and not the work of God!

Through supplication and earnestly beseeching, coupled with the supply and help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ—the Holy Spirit is a helper, the Spirit of Truth—and we know that God gives the Spirit ***to those who obey Him!*** (Acts 5:32). Absolutely important for us to know. The Holy Spirit is

- the *Spirit of love*
- the *Spirit of power*
- the *Spirit of a sound mind*

That’s what we need to have, brethren; to reach out to other people.

Let’s see a little bit more concerning the Spirit of God and for each of us with the supply of the Spirit of God that He has given us. There are a couple of warnings that Paul gives in some of the other epistles. When we have the Spirit of God, the Spirit of God *leads* us. It doesn’t pull us; it doesn’t push us. *It leads us!* So, we need to yield *to the lead* of the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit is there to help us, especially when we are yielding to God. I know there are times when I’m more yielded to God, and I know there are times when you’re more yielded to God. What we need to do is yield to God and His Spirit.

1-Thessalonians 5:19: “Quench not the Spirit.” How do you quench the Spirit?

- by not praying when you ought to
- by not studying when you ought to
- by sinning
- by neglect

All of those things quench the Spirit. We have to let the Spirit be *stirred up in us* as the Apostle Paul told Timothy, ‘Stir up the Holy Spirit that is in you by the laying on of my hands.’ Let’s see how this works in relationship

- to sin
- to overcoming
- to grieving the Holy Spirit that is in us

Ephesians 4:27—this gives us an indication how this comes along: “Neither give place to the devil.” I tell you what, this world is so filled with so many things that the devil is doing, it is incredible! It is absolutely amazing! Satan is there deceiving the whole world and he wants to have a place in your heart and mind.

Verse 28: “Let the one who stole, steal no more; rather, let him labor with *his* hands, working *at* what *is* good, so that he may impart *something* to the one who has need. Do not let any corrupt communication come out of your mouth...” (vs 28-29). I can tell you that’s one of the things that we all need to work on.

“...but that which is good and needful for edification that it may give grace to those who hear. And **grieve not the Holy Spirit of God...**” (vs 29-30). What grieves the Holy Spirit of God? *All of these things we were just talking about!* We have to put all of those aside. We have to resolve to take out that one thing in our lives and when we are able to overcome that set another goal and take another thing. Try in every circumstance to love God, love your neighbor as yourself, but at the same time be ‘wise as a serpent and harmless as a dove.’

Verse 31: “Let all bitterness, and indignation, and wrath, and clamor, and evil speaking be removed from you, together with all malice; and be kind *and* tenderhearted toward one another, forgiving one another, even as God has also in Christ forgiven you” (vs 31-32). Tremendous and wonderful things for us to grow in.

Philippians 1:20: “According to my earnest expectation and hope, that in nothing whatsoever shall I be ashamed...” Brethren, because there is no condemnation to us, we don’t have to be ashamed in anything that we do.

- Christ is there for us!
- He died for us!
- He has given us His Spirit!
- He wants us to be in His Kingdom!

There's nothing to be ashamed of.

“...but that in all boldness and confidence, as always, also even now, Christ shall be magnified and exalted in my body—whether through life, or through death” (v 20). Paul didn't know how long he would live. If you were in prison you wouldn't know either.

Verse 21: “Because for me life (the purpose of living) is Christ, and to die is to gain the victory”—because he would have then overcome and ready for the resurrection. Later on when he wrote Timothy he said in 2-Tim.: ‘I've finished the course, I fought the fight, and now there is a crown of righteousness laid up for me,’ and not only for Paul, but all those that love the Lord Jesus Christ. He's saying it would be ‘a victory for me.’

Verse 22: “On the other hand, if I continue living in the flesh, the Gospel is for me the fruit of my work and labor; and what I shall choose, to live or to die, I really don't know.” Paul was just being wise and straightforward and the situation here.

Verse 23: “Because I am hard pressed and mentally burdened by the two, while having the desire to depart ([through death) and be with Christ, which for me would be very much better.” A lot of people say, ‘See, he's going to heaven.’ But other Scriptures show that to be with Christ he was looking for and anticipating the return of Christ within his lifetime. So, if he died, then Christ would be coming and he would be with Him. That's what is meant by it, not that he would float off to heaven; not at all!

Verse 24: “However, for your sake it is much more necessary for me to remain living in the flesh. And I have confidence and am persuaded of this: I shall remain living and continue with all of you for the advancement of your spiritual growth, and the increase of your joy and gladness of the faith” (vs 24-25).

That's what it needs to be, brethren. That's why the Feasts of God are so wonderful, that we can have it so that it's going to be for joy and for gladness, and for drawing close to God, drawing close to each other, having a wonderful time together, because it's a *love feast* from God!

Verse 26: “In order that your glorying and boasting may richly abound in full sufficiency in Christ Jesus with me, through my presence again with you. Only (regardless of what happens)...” (vs 26-28). Regardless the circumstances in our lives:

- whether we're healthy or sickly

- whether we have an affliction or we don't
- whether we're young or old
- whether we're having difficulties
 - ✓ at home
 - ✓ on the job
 - ✓ with our neighbor
 - ✓ the law
 - ✓ the bureaucracy

regardless of what it is—and Paul can say this is really true, because he was in prison, “...be ordering and conducting yourselves, living your lives, according to the principles and values which are becoming to and worthy of the glad tidings of the Gospel of Christ: so that **whether I come and see you, or be absent, I may hear the things concerning you; that you are standing fast, firm and resolute in one spirit and attitude of mind, with one soul united and vigorously striving for the faith of the glad tidings of the Gospel**” (v 27).

That's what we need to do. What did Jesus Christ say? *When the Son of man returns, will He find faith—the faith—in the earth?* In other words, **who's going to have enough belief at the end to be faithful to God?** That's what Paul is saying here, and that's why this is preserved for us.

It's true, and there are many of you who are scattered, and many of you who do not have a minister, and the only minister you have is me by either video, audio or Internet, and some of you have to keep your Sabbath at home because you've been beaten, battered and bruised by ministers and brethren, false doctrine and all of this. And you're sort of just huddled in at home to gain your senses and bearings, and hopefully I can often help you and God can inspire me to serve to you in such a way that you can grow in grace and knowledge, that you can be ordering your life whether I ever see you or not, or whether you ever see me or not. That's what Paul is saying here. That's the way I want it to be also.

It's always true, what a man or woman is, is what they are when they're alone and shut the door and they're by themselves, left alone with only God. ***God knows!***

(go to the next track)

Philippians 1:28: “And never be terrified or in consternation... [or frustration] ...by anything done by those who are opposing (the Gospel)... [who are opposing Christ] ...in reality, it is truly a demonstration of their own destruction, but *to* you it is a demonstration of your salvation—even this is from God.”

That's why it's so important that we don't get out in the world and we walk the abortion lines

and all of this sort of thing. ***We cannot make the world a better place without Christ!*** We can make a small difference in our lives and those around us. But the way this world is going, it is "...a demonstration of their own destruction..."

We're living in a time where it's just like it says in Rev. 11, that it is like Sodom and Egypt on every hand.

Verse 29: "Because for the sake of Christ, the gift and privilege... [of salvation and God's Holy Spirit] ...was graciously given to you, not only to believe on Him but for His sake to suffer." All of us have suffered in one way or the other. What we need to do is count it just like the Apostle Paul and give God the glory that we have been counted worthy of that. That's quite a different way of thinking about it that maybe we have in the past.

Verse 30: "This is the same battle and agonizing struggle, which you have seen in my life, of which you are now hearing, and which is still in my life." There he is in prison, praying, studying, growing, overcoming, and we know that that's where we see that when he was in prison the second time—this is his first imprisonment—he and Mark went through and wrote out—with Luke—all of his epistles and got them all organized, so that we can have the New Testament.

The New Testament was put together quite quickly, beginning right after the death of James. Then we have the Epistles of Paul brought together, we have Peter who took those and put in his two epistles, later they were passed on to John. John, Andrew and the rest of the apostles who were with John in Ephesus canonized the rest of the New Testament so that we can have it. That is really tremendous!

"This is the same battle and agonizing struggle, which you have seen in my life..." (v 30).

Philippians 2 becomes really a very profound chapter, and there are so many, many things that we can learn from this.

Philippians 2:1: Now then, if there be any encouragement and comfort in Christ..." Brethren, that's what it needs to be. Not a matter of being maudlin; not a matter of being just a bucket of honey and self-righteousness and oozy-goozy and pouring false love and all that sort of thing out. We need encouragement, comfort *in Christ*.

- if you can't go to Christ and be comforted
- if you can't be encouraged by the brethren
- if you can't be encouraged by going to Sabbath services

- if you can't be encouraged by hearing a sermon
- if you can't be uplifted and pointed to Christ

What good is it? *You're surely not going to be beaten into the Kingdom of God*—are you? Is that what God is going to do? *Of course not!*

"...if any comfort and inspiration of love, if any fellowship and communion of the Spirit, if any compassions and tender affections of the innermost being" (v 1). This is where Christianity really starts getting down to the nitty-gritty. What's going on in your heart, mind, soul and being. Absolutely no room for hypocrisy here—right? Absolutely no room for pretensions here! He was comparing that with all those who had their pretensions.

Verse 2: "Fulfill to overflowing my joy and happiness..." Just imagine Paul in prison writing this, wondering if he would live or die; will he be able to preach or is his mouth going to be stopped? 'What is that God wants of me? Why am I here in prison?'

So, the Philippians sent off this gift to him—the only ones who communicated with him—help, support, love, and he's saying, v 2: "Fulfill to overflowing my joy and happiness, that you be of the same attitude of mind and heart, having the same love, **joined together** in soul..." That's a very interesting Greek word. It is 'sunpsuchoi'—*the joining together of your very soul, one with another*. I can't think of anything that describes the Feast of Tabernacles any more than that. ***It describes what it's going to be when we're living with Christ!***

That is so amazing when you really stop and think of it. Just what we do with the Feast of Tabernacles and keeping God's Holy Days, ***it's not an exercise in religion***, brethren! It is to

- grow in that grace and knowledge
- to grow in that love
- to grow and have a foretaste of the kind of relations one with and another and with Christ

that God wants us to have. Here's how it's accomplished:

"...that you be of the same attitude of mind and heart, having the same love, joined together in soul, and **all be minding the one thing (the attainment of the Kingdom of God)**. Never let anything be done which is motivated by contention and strife, nor by self-exaltation or arrogant vain-glory..." (vs 2-3). We have seen it all, and experienced it all—haven't we? *Yes, we have!*

"...but in humility and lowliness of mind let each of you be esteeming others above himself. Do

not be selfishly focusing and concentrating on your own things..." (vs 3-4).

- whether it be your health
- whether it's good or bad
- whether it be your own possessions—few or many
- whether it be your own job—good or bad

"...but let each of you also consider the things and necessities of the others" (v 4). That's the way to get the hassle out of the Church. Brethren, that's what we have been doing in our little church for quite a long time, and you know the value of it.

Let's review and get some other Scriptures and add it to this so that we get the full and the complete meaning and picture.

Verse 2 says that we should "...all be minding the one thing (the attainment of the Kingdom of God. This is what we need to focus in on everyday.

- God made us to have goals
- God made us to be creative
- God made us to set standards
- God made us to have something to look forward to

God's Spirit is to inspire us even when the going gets tough. The way that we accomplish that is to have our heart mind and our goals set on the attaining of the Kingdom of God.

Matthew 6:31: "Therefore, do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'With what shall we be clothed?'"

- Do you believe that God loves you?
- Do you believe that God cares for you?
- Do you believe that God *can* care for you?
- Do you believe that God *can* provide for you?
- *Yes, indeed; regardless of the circumstances!*

I have a job where it is very difficult, because I work on pure commission, and unless I get out and work there isn't anything coming in. Many times I've been down to that last little teeny bit, and there's been nothing on the horizon. In praying and saying, 'God, You know!' Then lo and behold the phone rings and there's someone needing a real estate loan.

- I know that it is God providing it!
- I know that it is God Who is making it possible!

Same way in every one of our lives, regardless of what it is. My story is just one little blip of one little thing that should be multiplied many times over in

all of our lives.

Verse 32: "For the nations seek after all these things. And your heavenly Father knows that you have need of all these things." ***God knows! He even knows before you ask!***

God is so loving, kind and gracious that even when you are not really seeking God the way you ought to, God is going to be merciful and do something for you to inspire you to return back to Him.

Have you ever done something that is outlandishly foolish and God turns around and does something so good for you that you just feel like a 'crumb bum' and a worm. I know that I have! What is God doing? *God is showing that He is there to help you!* That's what He's doing. God knows that you have need of these things.

Verse 33: "But *as for you, seek first...* [primary, 'protos'] ...the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you." If not in this life, then a hundredfold in the next life. Can you imagine what it's going to be like to live in New Jerusalem? *That is going to be amazing! That is going to be tremendous!*

Verse 34: "Therefore, do not be anxious... [don't be worried] ...about tomorrow; for tomorrow shall take care of the *things* of itself. Sufficient for the day *is* the evil of that *day*." That sure is true! When something happens that's not good, put it away, ask God to forgive you. Forget it! Tomorrow is a new day!

Why should you pollute tomorrow with the problems of yesterday that you've already been upset about and have repented over. God has put it behind, why don't you? Should you spoil today with the corruption of yesterday? *Seek first the Kingdom of God!*

Matthew 22—very important, very fundamental, very foundational, which is something that is the basis of everything that God had done, everything that God wants us to do.

- every law that God has ever given
- every statute that God has ordained
- every little thing that God has done
- every great thing that God has done

Matthew 22:37: "And Jesus said to him, **'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.'**" *That's focusing in on the attainment of the Kingdom of God!*

Verse 38: "This is *the* first and greatest commandment; and *the* second *one* is like it: 'You

shall love your neighbor as yourself.” What is the third commandment? *That we love each other as Christ has loved us!*

Verse 40: “On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.” People don’t realize that when they are casting away the Law of God, *they’re casting away part of the love of God.* When they are casting away the prophecies of God, *they are casting away part of the love of God.* Everything that God does is based on love, one way or the other; even the punishment of the wicked is based on love *because you cannot live forever in sin!* The only way to get people to hate sin, to realize that sin is not right, is that there is a penalty for it. *The wages of sin is death!*

I imagine that some of those who repent when the second resurrection takes place are going to be those poor wretched souls that have died of AIDS. It’s been miserable and wretched and rotten! Their whole lives have just been totally corrupted by it. When they realize that they are resurrected and have an opportunity for salvation, can you imagine what their reaction is going to be?

Everything that God does is based on love!

This has to be in our lives as well; this kind of love coming from God’s Holy Spirit

- has got to flow
- has got to be stirred up
- we have to grow in it
- we have to focus in on it

This is what is so great about these Epistles of Paul. They’re inspirational epistles to grow in the love of God.

Romans 5:5: “And the hope of God never makes us ashamed because the love of God has been **poured out into our hearts** through the Holy Spirit, which has been given to us.” I’ll guarantee you one thing, if you go to God and say, ‘God, help me to have more love.’ You’re not going to get off your knees and just feel great and grandiose and, ‘Oh, I love the world.’ *NO!* God is going to send you a little trial to see how you’re going to react, so that you may have a chance to grow in love. *Think on that!*

It’s the same way with us together. We have that love. Some people don’t understand us, because every Sabbath when we meet we all give each other a hug. We don’t do it because we think: ‘Oh, there’s So and So, I’ve got to hug So and So.’ *NO!* We do it because we truly love God, and we truly love each other and are happy and glad to see each other, even if it is every week. That’s something!

I remember when some first came to the Feast of Tabernacles, they came back from the Midwest and they were amazed that we were such a little group. When then they came we thought, *WOW!* we’re almost

twice as big as we were before. When everyone came in and we were hugging each other and greeting each other, one of them came up to me and said, ‘Are these people you haven’t seen in a long time?’ I said, ‘Oh, no, we get together every Sabbath.’ They were amazed!

The reason is because we’re trying to apply and live by what is written in the Bible, by what God has given to us. Let’s see how we are to conduct ourselves in attaining the Kingdom of God.

Ephesians 4:1: “Therefore, I, the prisoner of the Lord... [another prison epistle that Paul wrote] ...am exhorting you to walk worthily of the calling to which you were called with all humility and meekness... [same words almost that is in Philip. 2] ...with long-suffering, forbearing one another in love” (vs 1-2). If someone does something that isn’t just right, don’t flip out, *forebear in love!* Put up with it a little bit. Maybe the person will come to their senses and say, ‘Why did I do that?’; and go home and repent and change, and everything will be just fine. *We are to forbear each other in love!*

Verse 3: “Being diligent to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.” No competition, no vainglory, no haughtiness, no arrogance, no seeking who is going to be the best, who is going to be the head, who is going to be the most, whatever. It’s such a wonderful thing to have a group where there is no politics!

I’m not a political person; that’s just the way that it is. I try not to have any politics in the Church. I don’t have to get up there and preach and say, ‘Brethren, we ought not to have any politics in the Church.’ If we preach the love of God, we won’t have it. Isn’t that simple?

Verse 4: “*There is one body and one Spirit, even as you were also called in one hope of your calling.*” That’s interesting—isn’t it?

- It’s not that some are going to heaven!
- It’s not that some are going to earth!
- It’s not that some are going to be the 144,000!
- It’s not that some are going to be first!
- It’s not that some are going to be last!

We all have one calling! Yes we do! Eternal life in Christ!

Verse 5: “One Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, Who is over all, and through all, and in you all. But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of the gift of Christ” (vs 5-7). That’s what makes everything so worthwhile and makes the Feasts of God wonderful, and makes the Word of God rich, fulfilling, teaching, helping and we can grow in grace and in

knowledge and understanding in ways that we have never even thought of.

What I want to do is show you how consistent the Apostle Paul was in his writings; how consistent his teachings were. I get papers all the time, doctrinal this and that. A person wrote in and said, 'Did you know that there were two Pauls?' This is presented from a Judaism point of view. 'There was Paul who was for law—that's the true Paul. And there was Paul for grace over here and that was not the true Paul. That was another Paul.' *No so!* You read all of the Epistles of Paul and they all preach the same thing.

Romans 12:9: "*Let love be without hypocrisy... [with being special to one and avoiding the other] ...abhorring that which is evil and cleaving to that which is good.*" Isn't that exactly what Paul is teaching in the book of Philippians? *Yes!*

Verse 10: "*Be kindly affectioned toward one another in brotherly love. Let each esteem the other more highly than himself.*" That is so tremendous! See how that just fits in with Philip. 2—almost word for word.

A little more instruction, v 11: "*Be not slack in business....*" I just might mention here that it sure is true, and I have seen it happen many times, that yes, you'll pay people in the world, but if you owe something to a brother, you don't pay them back at all. Don't be slothful, take care of those things.

"...*Be fervent in spirit. Be timely in serving. Be rejoicing in hope. Be patient in tribulation. Be steadfastly continuing in prayer*" (vs 11-12). It's almost like reading Philip. 2—isn't it?

Verse 13: Contribute to the needs of the saints, *and* strive to be hospitable. Bless those who persecute you; bless, and do not curse" (vs 13-14). Isn't that what we cover in part 1 of this series about loving your enemy and praying for those who spitefully use you? The same Gospel as Christ was preaching. Exactly identical; absolutely no different.

Verse 15: "Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep."

- Share in the happiness!
- Share in the sadness!
- Pray for one another!

That's what he's saying here.

Verse 16: "*Be of the same mind toward one another....*" We're going to see that we're to let the mind of Christ be in us. If there is any one thing that really fulfills the Feast of Tabernacles, that is understanding what it's going to be like to be a spirit being, because of what God has done to make that

possible for us to attain.

"...Do not set your mind on high ambitions... [don't get high flatulent and lofty and all carried away in your own vain thoughts] ...rather, be accommodating with those of low estate...."

I never will forget this man, when we had a Spokesman's Club in Salt Lake City. He was little, short man, from Mexico, and he couldn't speak too good of English, but if you listened you could follow along and understand him. I remember one man who was really good and fluent speaker who was to evaluate the speech of this man. He got up there and said, 'You need to work on overcoming your accent.' That really made me furious! Here's a man who was speaking a language that was hard for him to understand, but he's up there trying and doing a pretty good job of it.

When I got up to evaluate the evaluator. I said, 'Now, you need to understand something. How many languages do you speak?' He said, 'English.' I said, 'Well then, this man is doing better than you because he speaks two. If he has an accent, so what? Listen to what he has to say. When you can speak Spanish as perfectly, then you can tell him that maybe he ought to work on his English accent, but in the mean time, don't put the man down.'

"...Do not be wise in your own eyes".... [*Knowledge puffs up, but love edifies!*] ...Do not render to anyone evil for evil..." (vs 16-17). Regardless of how bad it has come against you, don't go back and render evil for evil. You might pray that they could be converted. *Try that!* If not, let God take care of it.

- Is God able to fight that battle?
- Is God able to render back to a person what they do?
- Do you not think that God is going to fight for His saints?
- Do you not think that God is going to take care of them?

Yes, He is!

- *even if they die*
- *even if you die or I die*

God is able to take care of us!

"...*but* be prepared to do what is right in the sight of all men. If possible, as much as is your part, be at peace with all men" (vs 17-18). That's a challenge sometimes. It doesn't mean to lay yourself out and get run over. But if all possible, as much as lies within you, *live peaceably with all men.*

Verse 19: "Beloved, do not avenge yourselves; rather, leave *this* to *God's* wrath..." Stand aside! Don't let your anger be the sword of the

Lord. Let the sword of the Lord be the sword of the Lord.

“...for it is written, “Vengeance is Mine! I will recompense,” says *the Lord*” (v 19). If your situation is so bad—I’ve had them that way; I’ve just had to say,

- God, You know how to do this!
- You know how to handle it!
- You have said that You would repay!

I don’t need to go out there and get myself in the middle of this and become such a horrible part of it that it’s a bigger mess. God is able to do it!

Verse 20: “Therefore, if your enemy is hungry, feed him...” If there’s any spark of decency in him, he will be amazed!

“...if he is thirsty, give him drink; for in doing this you will be heaping coals of fire on his head. Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good” (vs 20-21). Isn’t that fitting, right in exactly with what we have read in Philippians?

It’s absolutely amazing how consistent Paul’s writings really are!

Romans 15:1: “Now, we who *are* strong in the *faith* are obligated to support the ones who are weak...” Paul said, what we just read in Philipp. 2, *don’t be looking on your own things, but everyone looking on the things of others.* Here’s exactly the same thing that he’s teaching those at Rome.

“...and not to please ourselves. Accordingly, let each one of us please *his* neighbor for good, unto edification” (vs 1-2). Not tearing down, no criticizing.

- We need to preach against the world!
- We need to preach against sin!
- We need to be on guard against that!

But with each other we need to do what we do for edification! For up-building, not tearing down.

“...for even Christ did not please Himself... [Isn’t that an amazing statement?] ...rather, as it is written, “The reproaches of those who are reproaching You have fallen upon Me.” (vs 2-3)—referring to Christ.

- He was bruised for our iniquities!
- He was crucified for our sins!
- By His stripes we are healed!
- By the very power of His Holy Spirit through God the Father we’re going to be resurrected!

Christ took all of that upon Him. We’re going to see in part three of this series the absolute and

tremendous and overwhelming humility that Jesus Christ had and how that is for us and salvation and overcoming.

Verse 4: “For all the things that were written before were written for our instruction, so that through patient endurance and encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.” How anyone can want to throw away the Scriptures of the Bible is beyond me.

Verse 5: “Now, may the God of patience and encouragement grant you to be likeminded toward one another according to Christ Jesus, so that with one accord and one mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ” (vs 5-6). That is absolutely amazing, how those fit so closely together.

- Look at all the inspiration that is there.
- Look at how much Paul has done here to help lead and encourage the brethren
 - ✓ in hope
 - ✓ in faith
 - ✓ in love
 - ✓ in coming together
 - ✓ in unity
 - ✓ in understanding of God
 - ✓ in pointing toward Christ Jesus
 - ✓ in letting God fight your battles for you

Absolutely tremendous!

When did Paul at any time ever say, ‘Take up your sword and go out and kill those dirty sinners’? *Never once, brethren! Never once!* Once again, let’s see the humility of Paul, the humility of Christ, and the reason that God has called us.

1-Corinthians 1:23: “But we proclaim Christ crucified...” That means all that there is about it:

- why He came
- why He did what He did
- why He died
- the nature of His flesh
- the nature of His crucifixion
- the nature of His resurrection
- the kind of human nature that Jesus Christ had

That’s all involved with preaching *Christ crucified!*

“...To *the Jews it is* a cause of offense... [a stumbling block even to this day] ...and to the Greeks *it is* foolishness” (v 23)—because they were ‘wise and intelligent’ and had philosophy and religion, and all of that.

Verse 24: “But to those who are called—both Jews and Greeks—Christ *is* God’s power and God’s wisdom”—because all things reside in Christ.

- He is our *power*

- He is our *wisdom*

And in that wisdom, there are important things that I want everyone to do constantly, and that is:

- Fill your mind with the Word of God and be able to *think* with the Word of God.
- To be able to take what you put in your mind and use it for your thought process.

Verse 25: “Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God... [if there be any weakness] ...is stronger than men.... [than the strength and power of men] ...For you see your calling, brethren, that *there are* not many who are wise according to the flesh, not many who are powerful...” (vs 25-26).

We can look around here with our little congregation and see that that is true. The great brains of the intelligent are sitting here. It’s by work, sweat, prayer, study, by weakness and all the things that we have that we have been called. Not because of what we are, but because of what God is!

“...not many who are highborn *among you*. Rather, God has chosen the foolish things of the world...” (vs 26-27). That is so absolutely true! ***Even though He’s called us foolish, we’re to be wise in Christ!***

“... so that He might put to shame those who are wise and God has chosen the weak things of the world... [It’s not great wonder that we have our aches and pains and infirmities—we’re weak! *He’s called the weak things of the world to confound that which is mighty!*] ...so that He might put to shame the strong things. And the lowborn of the world, and the despised has God chosen—even the things that are counted as nothing... [that don’t even exist] ...in order that He might bring to nothing the things that are; so that no flesh might glory in His presence” (vs 27-29).

And say, ‘God, You had to call me, because I am so good.’ *Not so!* All you have to do is ***remember Job***. He was wise, he was rich, he was righteous, and his boasting before God got him absolutely nowhere! Once he understood the glory and the power of God, he realized that he was just nothing but dust and ashes. That’s why God has not called the mighty, wise and the rich. “...so that no flesh might glory in His presence.”

Verse 30: “But you are of Him in Christ Jesus, Who was made to us wisdom from God, even righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption.” Made wisdom, because there’s nothing more wise than the inspired Word of God. That’s why we need to learn to think with it. The righteousness of God imputed to us, given to us, is the very righteousness of Jesus Christ.

By sanctification we have been made Holy, the consecrated called out ones in Christ, and redemption—bought back; we are bought with a price and *that price is the life of Jesus Christ*.

Verse 31: “So that, as it is written, ‘The one who glories, let him glory in *the Lord*.’”

Philippians 2: 1: “**Now then, if there be any encouragement and comfort** in Christ, if any comfort and inspiration of love, if any fellowship and communion of the Spirit, if any compassions and tender affections of the innermost being. Fulfill to overflowing my joy and happiness... [and yes, ***your*** joy and happiness] ...that you be of the same attitude of mind and heart, having the same love, joined together in soul, and all be minding the one thing (the attainment of the Kingdom of God). Never let anything be done which is motivated by contention and strife, nor by self-exaltation or arrogant vain-glory; but in humility and lowliness of mind let each of **you be esteeming others above himself**. Do not be selfishly focusing and concentrating on your own things, but let each of you also consider the things and necessities of the others” (vs 1-4).

That is, brethren, how we can have the love of God!

Scriptures in Philippians from *The Epistle of the Apostle Paul to the Philippians, An Inspirational Bible Study; A New Expanded Amplified Translation* by Fred R. Coulter

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Scriptural References:

- 1) Philippians 1:11
- 2) Hebrews 5:12-14
- 3) Hebrews 6:1
- 4) Philippians 1:11-15
- 5) 2 Corinthians 11:1-4
- 6) Philippians 1:15-17
- 7) Galatians 5:1-4
- 8) Romans 3:7-8
- 9) 3 John 1-11
- 10) Philippians 1:17-19
- 11) 1 Thessalonians 5:19
- 12) Ephesians 4:27-32
- 13) Philippians 1:20-30
- 14) Philippians 2:1-4, 2
- 15) Matthew 6:31-34
- 16) Matthew 22:37-40
- 17) Romans 5:5
- 18) Ephesians 4:1-7
- 19) Romans 12:9-21
- 20) Romans 15:1-6
- 21) 1 Corinthians 1:23-31

22) Philippians 2:1-4

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Acts 15
- 1 Corinthians 7
- Psalm 119
- Acts 5:32
- Revelation 11

Also referenced: Sermon Series:
Epistles of John

Epistle to the Philippians III Chapter Two

Fred R. Coulter

I hope that you have found going through book of Philippians to be very helpful. I want to read Philippians 2 from the point of view and of the mind that Paul was in prison. He didn't know whether he would live or die, or see the brethren again or not. Here is a tremendous instruction for us that gets down *to the very heart and core of Christian growth*, Christian maturity, growing in grace and knowledge and developing and having the very attributes that God wants us to have.

Philippians 2:1: "Now then, if there be **any** encouragement and comfort in Christ, if any comfort and inspiration of love, if any fellowship and communion of the Spirit... [the Spirit fellowshiping with us; and truly our fellowship—as John says—is with God the Father and Jesus Christ] ... if any compassions and tender affections of the innermost being." That's what God wants. He doesn't want a façade of 'religion' on the outside. He doesn't want the merit badges of the Pharisees and Sadducees. He doesn't want great names and titles. ***He wants conversion and love from your innermost being!***

Verse 2: "Fulfill to overflowing my joy and happiness, that you be of the same attitude of mind and heart, having the same love, joined together in soul, and all be minding the one thing (the attainment of the Kingdom of God). Never let anything be done which is motivated by contention and strife, nor by self-exaltation or arrogant vain-glory; but in humility and lowliness of mind let each of you be esteeming others above himself. each esteeming the others above himself. Do not be selfishly focusing and concentrating on your own things, but let each of you also consider the things and necessities of the others" (vs 2-4). This gives us the attitude of mind so that we can grow in grace and knowledge.

Verse 5 becomes a very central and key important verse: "**For this cause...** [everything that has gone before] ...**let this mind and attitude be in you, which also was in Christ Jesus.**" That's the kind of mind and attitude that we are to have.

I remember a man writing when we did the series *Who is Jesus?* He said, 'How can a human being have the mind of the eternal God? *Well, if you have the Spirit of God, which is eternal, in your very mind and being—by the begetting from God the Father—then you can have the mind of Jesus Christ!*

Let's understand exactly what it was that Jesus did, and to understand that the lesson is not

that we're going to have the same spirit mind as Christ, *but the mind and attitude that Christ had when He was here on the earth*; the mind and attitude that God has in His own humility, to reach down and save all of those whom He is calling.

Verse 6: "Who was really existing as God, in God's form and appearance, when facing the prospect of becoming human, He did not consider being equal with God a conspicuously to claim or to cling to greedily." Let's think on that for just a minute.

God is Creator! He made everything that there is! What good would God's power, might and creative ability in righteousness be if He could not save humankind? What good would that do for His creation and for us? *None whatsoever!* When God was facing the prospect of becoming human—that is the One Who became Jesus Christ—He didn't throw a temper tantrum and tell God the Father, 'You're making me give up all of this.' ***NO!***

Verse 7: "But He willingly emptied Himself of His Divinity (that is He gave up existing as God with eternal glory and all that He had with the Father before the world existed), and divested Himself of all His privileges as God; and having been made in the similitude and likeness of mortal men, He took upon Himself the exact form of flesh and blood of human beings and the appearance of a common slave"—the appearance of a common slave. The Greek for *slave* is 'doulos.'

Verse 8: "And after existing as a human being with the same fleshly functions as all human beings, (and having experienced every temptation common to every human beings, yet never sinning), He humbled Himself in abject abasement, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross (which is a most excruciating form of death)." When we understand exactly what God did, that that is for us:

- that we may be saved
- that we may be partakers of His Divine nature
- that we may be partakers of His Divine life

Let's look at some of the Scriptures that show what God has done. This is really tremendous and really fantastic, brethren. John 1 is very basic, but there are people who have believed this in the past who are throwing this aside, who are not accepting what the Word of God is teaching, telling

us that it means something else other than what it really says.

John 1:1: “In *the* beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and **the Word was God.**” There is nothing any plainer or clearer than that. This becomes very important in relationship to the Feast of Tabernacles, in relationship to what Jesus Christ has done, and in relationship to our understanding of what God did for us! We might ask ourselves as we go through this:

- What have I done for God?
- What have I given up for God?
- What have I put behind me?

The ‘rich man’ came to Jesus and said, ‘Good Master, what good thing should I do to inherit eternal life?’ Jesus said, ‘Don’t call me *good*, there’s only One good and that is God.’ At that time, in the form of a human being, He was no longer God as God *is* God. That’s why He said that there is only One good, and that is God. ‘But if you will enter into life, **keep** the commandments.’ Then He named a lot of the commandments, and the young man said, ‘I’ve done all of these things from my youth, what lack I yet?’ And Jesus said, ‘If you will be perfect, go sell everything that you have and give to the poor and come and follow Me.’

You stop and think for a minute: Is there anyone of us that has really given up something. And even if we did, should we brag about it? What good would it be if we just boasted and bragged in empty vain glory. ‘I gave this up for God!’ You did? **Look what God gave up for you!**

Verse 2: “He was in *the* beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and not even one *thing* that was created came into being without Him. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men” (vs 2-4).

Verse 14: “**And the Word became flesh...**” That’s the same kind of flesh that we have. God gave up being a spirit being with eternal power and glory, divested Himself of all His glory—emptied Himself of His power and existence as God—to be made flesh, subject to the same pulls and temptations that we have.

“...and tabernacled... [temporarily lived among His creation] ...among us (and we ourselves beheld His glory, *the* glory as of *the* only begotten with *the* Father), full of grace and Truth” (v 14).

Let’s look at some other Scriptures that also prove that Jesus was in heaven and was God *before* He became a human being. That’s so we can fully comprehend and understand what it is that God did. When we read this Scripture, we really begin to

understand it. We know that Jesus loved the Father. We know that the Father loved Jesus Christ. We know that for the salvation of all mankind, God placed everything as it were at risk and on the line to save the world, to offer salvation to all humanity. We’re the firstfruits at this present time, and we don’t need to brag and boast about that, because God didn’t call us because of what we are; God called us because *He chose us!*

John 3:16: “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, so that everyone who **believes in Him** may not perish, but may have everlasting life. For God sent not His Son into the world that He might judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him” (vs 16-17).

Verse 31 shows that Jesus came from heaven, Jesus *was* God, and it is amazing how all of these detractors and those who are throwing away the Truth of God just close their mind to these Scriptures and say, ‘It doesn’t mean that; it means something else.’

Verse 31 “He Who comes from above is above all... [Can anything be plainer than that?] ...The one who is of the earth is earthy, and speaks of the earth. He Who comes from heaven is above all.” What a tremendously clear Scripture. *He that comes from heaven!* Where did Jesus come from? *Heaven!* *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God!* So, He that comes from heaven is above all!

John 8:23—Jesus was telling those who were the religion leaders of His day: “And He said to them, ‘You are from beneath; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world.’” Why? *Because He came from heaven!*

Verse 58: “Jesus said to them, ‘Truly, truly I say to you, before Abraham was born, I AM.’” We know that’s one of the names of God. In the Old Testament when the Lord God told Moses to tell the children of Israel Who He was, He said, ‘I AM that I AM,’ which means that God’s name is so absolutely fantastic that there is virtually no vocabulary in any language that can truly describe God! Just think on that for a while.

John 16—here again showing that Jesus came from heaven. That’s a tremendous thing! When we stop and think about what it is that we have done for anyone else to help them, to save them, to do whatever we can—whatever it is, even in the flesh—and then we compare what God has done for us! Then we stop and think about how absolutely ridiculous and silly and worthless it is to be complaining, griping Christians. That’s why Philip. 2 is so important:

- to have love
- to have unity
- to have that spirit in mind and attitude

Paul is saying, ‘I want you to perfect this, the very mind of Christ in you.’

John 16:27: “For the Father Himself loves you... [That means that the Father Himself is loving you. God has that capacity to have that special and particular love for every human being whom He calls] ...because you have loved Me, **and have believed** that I came forth from God.... [He didn’t come from the earth. He came *from* God.] ...I came forth from the Father and have come into the world; again, I am leaving the world and am going to the Father” (vs 27-28). If He came from the Father, where was the Father? *In heaven above!* If He came to the earth and returned back to the Father, and the Father is in heaven—we are told to pray, ‘Our Father **Who is in** heaven’—He’s not here on the earth.

That’s the whole plan of God: that God the Father is going to eventually be here on the earth with His whole spirit family. That’s what the Feast of Tabernacles pictures.

John 17:1: “Jesus spoke these words, and lifted up His eyes to heaven and said, ‘Father, the hour has come... [It was time for Him to go through the crucifixion] ...glorify Your own Son, so that Your Son may also glorify You; since You have given Him authority over all flesh...” (vs 1-2). That’s why Jesus Christ is the Savior:

- because of what He did
- because of what He gave up
- because of what He performed in this life

having the law of sin and death in Him, being like any other human being and never sinning—never once sinning! Therefore, His sacrifice covers all human beings for all time, because *He* was Creator; because *He* has done this!

He has “...authority... [and power] ...over all flesh in order that He may give eternal life to all whom You have given Him” (v 2). That’s why we’re here; that’s what the Word of God is all about; that’s what our calling is all about—to *receive eternal life!* Not just to have a ‘religion’ to be ‘good people’ in the world. There are many ‘religions’ that can accomplish that. But to have eternal life that comes from God the Father!

Verse 3: “For this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, Whom You did send. I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work that You gave Me to do. And now, Father, glorify Me with Your own self, with the glory that I had with You **before the world existed**” (vs 3-5). Was Jesus Christ God? *Yes,*

absolutely! No doubt about it whatsoever, absolutely none!

1-Timothy 3:16 shows that Jesus was indeed God in the flesh: “And undeniably, great is the mystery of Godliness... [that God is performing in us, and was performed in Christ Jesus] ...God was manifested in *the* flesh... [Isn’t that something? This is talking about Jesus’ life] ...was justified in *the* Spirit...” Brought justification for all human beings, because God did not need to be justified because He did not sin. Justified in the Spirit means bringing that justification for all human beings. That justification means that you and I, all that God calls, are put in right standing with God in heaven above through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

“...was seen by angels, was proclaimed among *the* Gentiles, was believed on in *the* world, was received up in glory” (v 16). This one verse encapsulates the whole sum of the Gospel.

1-John 3:16: “By this *very act* we have known the love *of God*... [notice how this relates to John 3:16] ...because He laid down His life for us: and we ourselves are to lay down *our* lives for the brethren.” There it is again, we are to conduct our lives exactly as Christ did. That’s why we are to have the mind of Christ within us. That’s tremendous, brethren; absolutely incredible!

Let’s see how with the Spirit of Christ we can have, we can be granted, the very mind of Christ. If Christ is *in you*, and the Word of God is *in you*, and you are growing in grace and knowledge, can you have the mind of Christ? Can you have the attitude of Christ? *Yes, you can!* But it’s not something that you can reach down and pull up your own bootstraps and say, ‘AH! I will have the mind of Christ.’ *NO!* God has to give that to you. Here’s how He gives it to you. I think we need to go over these Scriptures, and to really have it in our mind

- so that we can begin to grasp
- so that we can begin to reach out
- so that we can have God with His Spirit fill us
 - ✓ with this knowledge
 - ✓ with this understanding

1-Corinthians 2:9: “But according as it is written, ‘*The eye has not seen, nor the ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.*’” We see this constantly begin preached: the love of God; and the love of God is what is going to bring us closer to God, closer to each other.

At the Democratic Convention (1992) we had a great blasphemous perversion of this Scripture. Bill Clinton said that ‘We’re going to make a new

covenant with the American people.’ I watched that and was saying, ‘Oh, man, talk about fraud and deceit. Then he ended by saying, ‘Eye has not seen, nor ear has not heard, things that *we* can do.’ If that is not nearly sitting in the seat of God, if that is not blasphemous to a great degree, I don’t know my Bible. It’s not what human beings will do, *it is what God can do for those who love Him!*

We also have the same thing in Rom. 8 where it says, ‘For we know that all things work together for those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.’

Verse 10: “But God has revealed *them* to us by His Spirit, for the Spirit searches all things—even the deep things of God.” This is how we are able to have the same mind, the same attitude of Jesus Christ.

Let’s understand this, because it’s the Holy Spirit that is teaching us these things; it is the Holy Spirit that shows us how to compare spiritual things with spiritual things, and rightly divide the Word of God, rightly put it together, rightly understand the Word of God, because there are many, many out there twisting and turning and perverting the Scriptures. And just when we think that things are not as bad as there were, WHAMO! something comes along and there’s a little twisting, perverting, changing, throwing away belief in Christ and the doctrines of the Bible.

This is why we have to have the mind of Christ, v 15: “However, the one who is spiritual discerns all things... [Why? *Because they’re viewing them with the Word of God as the guide in their mind!* That’s why we can look at something and know whether it is wrong, know whether it is good, know whether it is evil] ...but he himself is discerned by no one”—because we are judge of God; we’re not judged by another man. We’re not judged by someone coming along and condemning us and saying to do this, that or the other thing. *NO!* If we have the mind of Christ, what are we going to want to do?

- We’re going to want to keep the commandments of God!
- We’re going to want to do the things that please God!

Jesus said, ‘I always do the things that please the Father.’ If we have the mind of Christ, is that not what we’re going to want to do? *Yes, indeed!*

Verse 16: “For who has known *the* mind of the Lord? Who shall instruct Him?...” No one is going to tell God what to do? The Scriptures say, ‘Shall the thing made say to him that is making it, what are you doing?’ We have people who get violently mad because we say that God is going to give people an opportunity for salvation that He

never gave an opportunity for salvation—through what we know is the second resurrection; the celebration of the Last Great Day. They get mad and say, ‘God can’t do that.’ Who’s going to tell God what to do? Who’s going to tell God where to go? *No one!*

“...But **we have the mind of Christ**” (v 16). Not to instruct God, but we have the mind of Christ so that we know and understand the things that God freely gives to us. You can’t buy them! You can’t discover them on your own! God is the One Who has to do it.

- This is why it is so very, very important as to what God has done.
- This is why we are to have this mind in us.
- This is why we are to have this attitude in us.

Let’s see some other things concerning this and what it is we need to know and understand concerning what Jesus did.

Philippians 2:8: “And after existing as a human being with the same fleshly functions as all human beings, (and having experienced every temptation common to every human being, yet, never sinning)...” This is really important for us to know, and something to comprehend.

Let’s understand what it is that Jesus did, what it is that Jesus went through, and to know that at any time—regardless of the problem or difficulty that you may have; regardless of the sin that you may have committed—you can go to Christ in confidence. There may have to be some deep and penetrating repentance on your part, or on my part—or whomever it is that sins—to come to God to have those sins forgiven. We can have this confidence that Jesus Christ—when He was made flesh and blood—was subject to all the temptations that we are.

Hebrews 2:14: “Therefore, since the children are partakers of flesh and blood, in like manner He also took part in the same... [that is the exact same flesh as we know it] ... in order that through death He might annul him who has the power of death—that is, the devil.”

As we see on the Day of Atonement, that’s the whole key important thing, to destroy the works of the devil. The world cannot be a perfect place to live until the return of Jesus Christ and the elimination of Satan the devil, and the destruction of all of his works. He is the one who is causing all of these things. Today we need to be very careful about how this sanctimonious ‘religion’ of the world—this way of the world—is coming on, that we do not be deceived.

Verse 15: “And *that* He might deliver those who were subject to bondage all through their lives by *their* fear of death.” If this does not describe the power that the Catholic Church and other religions put over people—of burning in hell forever; through fear of death you’re going to die—and keep them in bondage. Christ has relieved us from that bondage.

Verse 16: “For surely, He is not taking upon Himself to help *the* angels; but He is taking upon Himself to help *the* seed of Abraham. For this reason, it was obligatory for *Him*... [it was necessary; God obligated Himself] ...to be made like *His* brethren in everything...” (vs 16-17). He didn’t come here as a special human being different from what we are, except that He had the Holy Spirit—the full measure—from the instant of conception. But everything else was exactly as we are.

“...that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest *in* things pertaining to God, in order to make propitiation for the sins of the people” (v 17). We can come to God at any time! We can come to Christ at any time, and know that He is able to help us.

Verse 18: “For because He Himself has suffered, having been tempted *in like manner*, He is able to help those who are being tempted.”

Hebrews 4:14: “Having therefore a great High Priest, *Who* has passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, we should **hold fast** the confession *of our faith*.” That’s what I really want to emphasize, brethren.

- Let us grow in grace!
- Let us grow in knowledge!
- Let us grow in the character of Christ!
- Let us grow in the mind of Christ!

If there are sins that we stumble into and get overtaken with, let’s go to God and repent of those and go on.

Verse 15: “For we do not have a high priest who cannot empathize with our weaknesses, but *one Who* was tempted in **all things**... [every aspect of human life] ...according to *the* likeness of *our own temptations*; yet, *He* was without sin.” That’s why God is Holy, righteous, perfect, true, loving, kind; all of those things!

Verse 16: “Therefore, we should come with boldness to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” That’s a tremendous thing! It is God’s grace: *by grace are you saved and not of yourselves; it is the gift of God!* Brethren, we’re going to have the opportunity to bring that to the whole world. That’s what the Feast of Tabernacles pictures. Isn’t that tremendous.

Philippians 2:8: “...He humbled Himself in abject abasement and became obedient unto death, even *the* death of *the* cross (which is a most excruciating form of death).” Why is that? *So that no one is going to come to God and say* ‘God, look at the terrible death that I died. God, look at this evil that was brought upon the world that I went through. You don’t know what it’s like, God, to suffer. You don’t know what it’s like, God, to be in pain.’ **Yes, He does!** Absolutely! You think about that!

If you were God would you be willing to give up being God to come and be a human being. Let’s look at it another way: being a human being, would you be willing to give yourself up and become an ant so that you could save other human beings? That’s a little facetious and ridiculous analogy to look at, but the comparison between the existence of God and human being, and the existence of a human being and an ant maybe quite comparable.

It says in the Old Testament that all the inhabitants of the earth are like grasshoppers. It also says that when you get down you feel just low like a worm. Yes, that’s a true analogy.

Verse 9: “Because of this... [because of what Jesus Christ did] ...God [the Father] has supremely exalted Him and pre-eminently crowned Him with the magnificent splendor, glory and honor, and graciously bestowed and conferred upon Him a name and title, which *is* superior to and more excellent than any other name.” Let’s understand that. This is so important!

There is still is a name of God that we don’t understand; a name of Christ that we don’t know. We know some of the names of Christ. We know some of the attributes that those things depict for us. This very name, the pre-eminent name that has been given to Jesus Christ, we will see that every knee is going to bow.

Revelation 19:11 “And I saw heaven open; and behold, a white horse; and He Who sat on it is called Faithful and True... [those are attributes of Jesus Christ] ...and in righteousness He does judge and make war.” Here is the only Holy war that is going to succeed. All of the other wars of mankind that are declared as ‘Holy’ are not.

Verse 12: “And His eyes *were* like a flame of fire, and on His head *were* many crowns; *and* He had a name written that no one knows except Him.” That is the name that we’re talking about in Philip. 2.

(go to the next track)

Let’s see how this also applies to us. We, brethren, are going to have a new name ourselves.

We're going to have a new name right by wherever it is that we're going to live in New Jerusalem that says whatever that new name is. Christ is going to give us a new name. It's going to be special, and He alone is going to give it to us. Part of what God is preparing for us, part of the building of New Jerusalem, part of our future occupancy in the Kingdom of God also includes a new name.

Revelation 2:17: "The one who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who overcomes I will give *the right* to eat of the hidden manna; and I will give him a white stone, and on the stone **a new name written, which no one knows except the one who receives it.**" That's tremendous!

Let's all more on to it, Revelation 3—here is something else. We're going to have more than one name.

- we're going to have our name
- we're going to have the name of Christ
- we're going to have the name of the Father
- we're going to have the name of the city of New Jerusalem—which comes down from God the Father

Revelation 3:12: "The one who overcomes will I make a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall not go out any more; and I will write upon him the name of My God... [we have our ¹own name and the ²name of God and the ³name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which will come down out of heaven from My God; and *I will write upon him* ⁴My new name." There we go, four parts to our new name. That is going to be a name that is less than the name of Jesus Christ.

Philippians 2:9: "Because of this, God has supremely exalted Him, and pre-eminently crowned Him with the magnificent splendor, glory and honor, and graciously bestowed and conferred upon Him a name and title which is superior to and more excellent than any other name. That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow..." (vs 9-10).

- There isn't going to be one human being that is not going to bow the knee to Jesus Christ.
- There's not going to be one angel in heaven above that is not going to bow the knee to Jesus Christ.
- There's not going to be one rebellious demon that is not going to acknowledge that Jesus Christ is the Son of God!

"...of every being in heaven, and on earth and under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is the Lord to the glory

and honor of God the Father" (vs 10-11). That is tremendous! That is absolutely incredible!

Verse 12: "In the light of this, my beloved, in exactly the same manner as you have always attentively listened and submissively obeyed, not as in my presence only but now at this time: in my absence, you should be all the more working out your own salvation with reverential fear and **awe, and trembling generation.**" That's what we need to be doing—the same as Jesus Christ, always doing those things that please the Father—just as Jesus Christ did! Not that we have a show and pretense.

Too often it is that way; where the minister has a show and pretense before His flock, and he's the 'greatest this and that and everything.' *NO! That is not the way that it should be!* Various members come up and stroke and politic the minister for their own advantages. *That's not what it should be!* We need to be:

- loving God
- serving God
- praying
- growing
- overcoming

—all of that to where then the Spirit of God *in us* motivates us to do these things. Not that we have to be beaten into it, *because God isn't going to beat us into it!* Not that we can do it of our own accord, **but Christ in us!**

Let's see how tremendous this is. Let's see exactly what it is that we need to be doing to grow in this grace and knowledge. This is powerful, brethren. This is absolutely tremendous what God has given for us to do, and to make it possible that we can be born into the Kingdom of God, that we can rule and reign with Jesus Christ forever and ever!

2-Peter 1:1: "Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who have obtained *the same precious faith as ours by the righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ: Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, according as His Divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and Godliness...*" (vs 1-3). Through the Spirit of God, through the Word of God, God has given us everything. This pertains

- to Godliness
- to growing
- to overcoming
- to developing that
 - ✓ Christian love
 - ✓ Christian character
 - ✓ Christian faith

“...through the knowledge of Him Who called us by *His own* glory and virtue...” (v 3). There is that crown of glory that is waiting for every one of us. Just as Jesus has been crowned and given a name—greater than any name—so likewise, we have glory and virtue that has been given to us; that we have a goal to look forward to.

Verse 4: “Through which He has given to us the greatest and *most* precious promises, that through these you may become partakers of *the* Divine nature...”

- Not only just the mind of God, *but now the Divine nature!*
- Not just the thoughts of God, *but the nature of God!*

If it’s going to be the nature of God, then we are going to be the sons of God, raised in glory at the resurrection—which is tremendous and wonderful. We need to always keep that in mind!

“...having escaped the corruption *that is* in the world through lust...” (v 4)—because of God’s calling we can escape that corruption.

- There is God’s Spirit *to lead us!*
- There is God’s Spirit *to guide us!*
- There is God’s Spirit *to give us conviction!*
- There is God’s Spirit with His Word!

to give us

- stability
- understanding
- grace
- knowledge

Besides this, v 5: “And for this very reason also, having applied all diligence besides... [this is what we need to do: work out our own salvation with fear and trembling] ...add...” Grow, increase, multiply—remember the parable of the talents; the parable of the seed that was sown and those that brought forth 100-fold, 60-fold and 30-fold. All of that fits right in here.

“...to your faith, virtue... [the kind of Godly character and understanding] ...and to virtue, knowledge” (v 5). I don’t think there’s any way that we can ever grow to the full knowledge of God in our lifetime. We have to do the best we can and keep striving for it, but there is so much there because God is eternal. God’s plan is spiritual and we are to grow in that knowledge.

Verse 6: “And to knowledge, self-control...” That’s why we have the trials and tribulations we go through. The tribulations and trials bring experience, and experience brings hope, and hope makes not ashamed the love of God that is shed abroad in our hearts.

“...and to self-control, endurance... [which implies that there are going to be times when it’s not easy] ...and to endurance, Godliness... [the very mind and character of God] ...and to Godliness, brotherly love; and to brotherly love, the love *of God*” (vs 6-7).

There are the steps of growing and overcoming. This is what we are to be constantly being about all the time. That’s just the way it is. We are serving and helping, and with the tithes and offerings that you give we are able to reach out and help many people who are trying to obey without someone around. They’re trying to obey God because they love Him, because they want to serve Him, because they want the salvation of God.

Philippians 2:12: “In the light of this, my beloved, in exactly the same manner as you have always attentively listened and submissively obeyed. not as in my presence only but now at this time: in my absence, you should be all the more working out your own salvation with reverential fear and awe, and trembling generation. Because God is the One who is performing the inner work with power and energy within you, both to will and desire, and to function and work according to His good pleasure and purpose.” (vs 12-13).

God is the One Who does this! Isn’t that tremendous? That is absolutely magnificent, brethren! That God could take us and do these things.

Verse 14: “Be habitually doing and performing everything without murmuring, complaining, and criticizing, and without vain reasoning and surmising.” We could add in there: no gossip, no picking and all of this sort of thing. Not to create a situation—as we have seen in the past—where the ministers put the brethren in fear so they can hide their own sins. That’s not what it’s talking about here at all.

Verse 15: “In order that you may be blameless, without defect, even without any mixture of vice or deceit; but be sincere children of God, even in this tormented and perverted, depraved and corrupt generation; among whom you shine as beacons of light in the world.” Isn’t that true? This world is becoming more and more like Sodom and Egypt. Let’s see where it talks about Lot, because we’re living in that time right now.

The most perverse, wretched and evil things are coming upon this world because of that. And it’s difficult, brethren to live in this world. I’m just beginning to understand what it’s going to be like when we come down to the time of the *mark of the beast*. That’s going to be difficult, because there is this society that has been created, inspired by Satan

the devil. We have to live in the world but not be part of the world, and when the *mark of the beast* comes, it's going to cut us off from the physical things of this world.

If there's any time that we're going to have faith in God, and trust in Christ, that is going to be it. They are developing the things now that are so incredible that you won't be able to buy and sell. That's going to make this society and living here even worse than ever before. Worse than just living in this depraved society, living in Sodom and Gomorrah as it were.

2-Peter 2:4: "For if God did not spare *the* angels who sinned, but, having cast *them* into Tartarus, delivered *them* into chains of darkness to be kept for *the* judgment; and *if* God did not spare *the* ancient world, but saved Noah, *the* eighth, a preacher of righteousness, when He brought *the* Flood upon the world of *the* ungodly" (vs 4-5).

The world was so bad before the Flood. Think how bad it had to be to destroy everything! Can you imagine what it was like for Noah living in that generation, preaching the Word of God? No one believed him, only he and his family were saved, plus the animals that God brought to the ark.

Verse 6: "And having reduced *the* cities of Sodom and Gomorrah to ashes, condemned *them* with a catastrophic *destruction*, making *them* an example for *those* who would be ungodly in the future." In other words, an example of what is going to happen to them. God's got another example of what's happening to them; it is called AIDS! It is a deadly disease, absolutely kills with no cure. Now we have strain two and three, and before we know it, there's going to be four, five, six, seven and eight. We're going to have the curse brought upon this whole world and plague, because people want to sin; people want their lust, their evil and their perversion! ***Out of this society, brethren, we have been called! And it's difficult!***

Verse 7: "And *if* He personally rescued righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the lawless ones *living* in licentious conduct; (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, through seeing and hearing *their* lawless activities, *was* tormented day by day *in* his righteous soul)" (vs 7-8). I can relate to that more than ever before, and you can, too. It seems like many times it is from day-to-day that we survive in this world and go and fall over the finish line on the Sabbath Day and say, 'Thank You, God, for the Sabbath.' The world is so evil and wicked in which we live.

Verse 9—there's hope: "*The* Lord knows *how* to rescue *the* Godly out of temptation, and to reserve *the* unrighteous to *the* day of judgment to be

punished." Yes, God knows how to do that, and He is going to do that.

Let's see what God wants us to be. How do we stand before God? This is the whole important thing for us to understand concerning the righteousness of God.

Colossians 1:21: "For you *were* once alienated and enemies in *your* minds... [the hostile mind, the carnal mind, the deceitful mind] ...by wicked works; but now He has reconciled *you* in the body of His flesh through death, to present you..." (vs 21-22).

Here's how we are before the throne of God, when Jesus intervenes and intercedes for you. When you go to God and pray and say, 'Oh, God, forgive me.' When you go to God and know—through study, prayer, thoughts, meditation, living—here's how you are before God through Jesus Christ Think on this for a minute!

That He might present you "...Holy and unblamable and unimpeachable before Him" (v 22). That is the perfection of Jesus Christ that God the Father gives to you as a gift of righteousness. I want us to understand that. There is a condition for it. It doesn't mean that you go out and do anything you want to do. We all understand that.

Verse 23: "If indeed you continue in the faith grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the Gospel, which you have heard, *and* which was proclaimed in all the creation that *is* under heaven; of which I, Paul, became a servant." We have to continue in that faith, continue in that love, working out our own salvation with fear and trembling, to look forward to the day of salvation.

Philippians 2:13: "Because God is the One who is performing the inner work with power and energy within you, both to will and desire, and to function and work according to His good pleasure and purpose. Be habitually doing and performing everything without murmuring, complaining, and criticizing, and without vain reasoning and surmising; in order that you may be blameless, without defect, even without any mixture of vice or deceit; but be sincere children of God, even in this tormented and perverted, depraved and corrupt generation; among whom you shine as beacons of light in the world, displaying in your lives the word and message of life..." (vs 13-16)—which then we can expand and continually look forward to.

"...expanding into joy and exultation for me in the Day of Christ, that I have not strenuously run an empty-handed race, neither

have I been wearied with a fruitless, exhausting labor” (v 16).

Imagine how it would be for a minister—or anyone—to just put out their whole lives for their flock, their church—to help them, to teach them—then find out that when he’s not around they don’t have enough strength or stability on their own to hold fast. That’s what Paul is saying. That’s what he’s bringing out here. Brethren, I can feel the same way. For those I know it’s not going to happen; you’re going to make it. I want to do all I can to help you make it.

Verse 17: “But on the other hand, if I expend my life and energy in being poured out upon the sacrifice and sacred ministration of your faith, I am rejoicing and conjointly rejoicing with you all.” That’s tremendous! That makes it worthwhile. That is what gets right down to what is the purpose of a minister in the first place. It is not a badge of honor. It is not a position of authority, but it is a position of service, help, to feed, to bring to understanding of God’s Word so that you can be in the resurrection; that I can be in the resurrection.

The Apostle Paul said, ‘After I have preached to others, I have to be careful that I myself am not a castaway.’ That applies to me just as well as anybody else. As you need my prayers, brethren, I need your prayers. We all together go forward in this way.

Verse 18: “And in the same manner you are rejoicing and collectively rejoicing with me. But I am hoping in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you as soon as possible, that I also may be of good courage and strengthened in soul, when I know the things concerning your situation. Because I do not have anyone who is consistently like-minded (of the same mind and spirit), who will genuinely and sincerely take to heart and care for the things concerning your welfare” (vs 18-20). This really sums up what the ministry ought to be doing. Timothy is a tremendous example of how a minister should perform his duties and live his life before God.

Verse 21 is so true today; see how the Word of God is living: “For the majority of people are selfishly seeking their own things, which please themselves (that is they are doing their own thing), and not the things of Christ Jesus. But you know and are aware of his [Timothy’s] time-tested character temperament and that as a child toward his father, devotedly enslaved himself with me for the glad tidings of the Gospel” (vs 21-22). That’s exactly how every minister needs to calculate and figure his life. That he is a *slave of Christ*—a bond-slave of God. He’s not his own to do his own thing, but he is to preach the Gospel and serve the brethren.

Verse 23: “I truly hope to send him immediately as soon as I shall see how

things concerning me transpire. But I am persuaded and convinced in the Lord that I also may soon be able personally to come to you” (vs 23-24). We don’t know if Paul was able to do that. We do know that after he was let out of his first imprisonment, every indication is that he did take the trip to Spain, and every indication is that it took over two years. That is perhaps the time when Peter wrote the First Epistle of Peter to the people in the same area that Paul was, because Paul was on that journey into Spain. Later on we know from certain historical records that he went on into England. Then he came back and was imprisoned the second time when he wrote 1st and 2nd Timothy. He was crucified shortly after that.

Verse 24: “But I am persuaded and convinced in the Lord that I also may soon be able personally to come to you. On the other hand, I think it is necessary and proper to send to you Epaphroditus, who is a brother and fellow worker and laborer, even my fellow soldier; but your messenger, and the one who is ministering to my needs. **Since he has such a strong love and affection for you**, he was deeply depressed because you had heard that he was sick. Now then, he was very sick, actually hovering near the edge of death, but God showed gracious favor and saving mercy towards him; and in reality it was not towards him only, but also towards me, that I might not have sorrow heaped upon sorrow. Because of these circumstances, I have more eagerly sent him to you; so that, upon seeing him again, you may be happy and rejoice; but that I might be the less sorrowful” (vs 25-28).

Verse 29: “Receive and accept him therefore in the Lord with all joy and gladness, and always hold this kind of minister and servant in honor and esteem; because for the sake of the work of Christ he completely disregarded his own life, and he went to the brink of death, that he might compensate for your deficiency of service toward me” (vs 29-30).

Brethren, there are ministers who do that. They are to have the honor, love and respect because they are laying their lives out for the brethren. I’m sure there are many of them in these little, small congregations—the Church is being scattered (has been and will continue to be)—that the trial that comes upon us is also the trial that comes upon these different ministers to also see if they will have that same kind of care, love, concern toward the flock that God has given them charge over, to oversee, serve, help, teach and love the brethren.

Those ministers that were with Paul certainly had that kind of attitude. Brethren, that’s the kind of attitude that every minister needs to have.

We hope that we can exemplify that toward you also.

Scriptures in Philippians from *The Epistle of the Apostle Paul to the Philippians, An Inspirational Bible Study; A New Expanded Amplified Translation* by Fred R. Coulter

All Scriptures from *The Holy Bible in Its Original Order, A Faithful Version* by Fred R. Coulter

Scriptural References:

- 1) Philippians 2:1-8
- 2) John 1:1-4, 14
- 3) John 3:16-17, 31
- 4) John 8:23, 58
- 5) John 16:27-28
- 6) John 17:1-5
- 7) 1 Timothy 3:16
- 8) 2 John 3:16
- 9) 1 Corinthians 2:9-10, 15-16
- 10) Philippians 2:8
- 11) Hebrews 2:14-18
- 12) Hebrews 4:14-16
- 13) Philippians 2:8-9
- 14) Revelation 19:11-12
- 15) Revelation 2:17
- 16) Revelation 3:12
- 17) Philippians 2:9-12
- 18) 2 Peter 1:1-7
- 19) Philippians 2:12-15
- 20) 2 Peter 2:4-9
- 21) Colossians 1:21-23
- 22) Philippians 2:13-30

Scriptures referenced, not quoted: Romans 8

Also referenced: Sermon Series: *Who is Jesus?*

Epistle to the Philippians IV Chapter Three

Fred R. Coulter

Let's remind ourselves that our fellowship is with God the Father and Jesus Christ through His Spirit. That makes everything work right. That's what does it, not that we are anything, but *God and Christ are everything*.

I hope this is going to be uplifting and edifying today so that we can truly understand and experience the Word of God and grow in grace and knowledge.

Philippians 3:1: "Finally, my brethren, be rejoicing in the Lord. And truly it is not an irksome or laborious task for me to write the same things to you; and for you it is really a margin of safety, making sure you are secure":

- secure in the faith
- secure in God's way

Then we come to a point here in chapter 3 that is very profound. Once we have the love of God, once we're in relationship with the love of God—and brethren with each other—all of us collectively, then there are those who creep in unawares. We haven't experienced that! We've had all kinds of things in the way of doctrine come to us, and I personally have had so many things mailed to me concerning different doctrinal beliefs and so forth that it's really amazing and in some ways quite incredible. The Apostle Paul had the same experience. Then he begins here with this warning:

Verse 2: "Watch out and be on guard against those dogs..." This is right in the Word of God. It's an appropriate time to label the enemy for what they are. The Apostle Paul is doing it here.

"...those religious corrupters; watch out for and be on guard against those depraved, wretched workers of evil; watch out for them, be on guard against the concision" (v 2)—actually is a play on words for those who were requiring circumcision. Concision means *to absolutely cutoff and amputate*.

Today we are experiencing more and more of the problems of Judaism coming into the true religion of God. I've given sermons concerning the times right after the beginning of the Church and right toward the end and the synagogue of Satan. Paul had to fight against the synagogue of Satan. They were coming around saying that you are not complete in Christ. You need to be circumcised; you need to have sacred names; you need to offer sacrifices; you need to do all of these things. He says *to watch out and be on guard* against them.

Let's see how it was bothering the New Testament Church at that time, different ones coming around with new doctrines. I've received a study paper where everything that we've covered concerning the nature of Christ, the power of God is all being denied by this Judaizing group called *To Restore All Things*. It's really a Judaism attempt to restore all Christianity back to Judaism. Not Old Testament theology, but Judaism. We need to understand that Judaism is a perversion—a Babylonian perversion—of the Old Testament 'religion' of Moses. That's what we need to understand. And though we have the Holy Scriptures to lead us unto salvation through Jesus Christ, there are those who come along with a perverse reasoning, with these different requirement to try and perfect us *in the flesh!*

Titus 1:9: "Holding steadfastly to the faithful Word, according to the teachings of *Jesus Christ...*" That's what a minister is supposed to do; that's what we're all supposed to do: *hold fast that faithful Word* as we've been

- taught of God's Word
- taught of God's way
- taught of God's Truth

"...so that he may be able both to encourage with sound doctrine... [sound teaching] ...and to convict those who are gainsayers. For there are many rebellious and vain talkers and deceivers, especially those from *the circumcision party*" (vs 9-10). Those who were going around preaching another Christ, another gospel, a mixing of the requirements of the Old Covenant with the requirements of the New Covenant and actually denying Christ.

There are those people who say that because we keep the Holy Days that we are doing the same thing. No, we're not doing the same thing at all, under any circumstances whatsoever.

These are the ones who are corrupting, these are the ones who are deceiving, these are the ones who are of the circumcision, v 11: "Whose mouths must be stopped..." This is why we have to have doctrinal studies and go through every one of these things in very laborious painful study as it were to really know the Truth.

"...who are subverting whole households, teaching things which *they* ought not, for the sake of selfish gain" (v 11). In other words, they're just out there for their own money, their own advantage.

We find that the Apostle John had exactly the same problem. Those people came around claiming that they were of God, but they were denying Christ, denying God the Father, saying that they needed to ‘teach you new things.’

I had quite a little conversation with a ‘sacred namer’; absolutely insistent that there was no way for anyone to be saved unless you use the sacred names of the Old Testament. Of course, that’s absolutely wrong! In the New Testament we are taught that it is the Father and Jesus Christ. And *every knee is going to bow to the name of Jesus Christ!*

1-John 2:18: “Little children, it is *the* last time; and just as you have heard that the antichrist is coming...” We’re dealing in exactly the same kind of environment today. There are more *antichrists* around than ever before who deny Christ, who deny God the Father, who deny the Word of God.

“...even now many antichrists have risen up, by which we know that it is *the* last time” (v 18). Not only were they experiencing this, but it is also a prophecy of what we’re going to go through.

Verse 19: “They went out from among us, but they were not of us...” That’s how this all started. They all came in contact with the Church. They all came in contact with the Word of God. Then they created *their own* church, *their own* religion, and this branched off into the various forms of Catholicism, Orthodoxy, and later the Protestants came out of Catholicism and the Church of God was kind of way out in the wilderness; existing, keeping the commandments, keeping the Feast days, loving God and having the faith of Christ. Then there were those of Judaism who would try to come in and corrupt Christianity and restore all things to a Judaism approach. These are the antichrists! That’s what it says here.

Verse 19: “They went out from among us, but they were not of us because if they were of us they would have remained with us; nevertheless, *they left* that they might be exposed *to show* that *they* all were not of us. But you have *the* anointing from the Holy One, and **you have knowledge of all things pertaining to salvation**” (vs 19-20).

We don’t need these Judaizers to come along and preach to us and teach us the errors of Babylonian Judaism. That’s just exactly what it is! We are going to be confronted with this more and more. I can see it happening more and more. I guarantee you there is going to be more flack, there is going to be more resistance. I don’t even know what the unleashing of false doctrine is going to come. “But you have *the* anointing from the Holy One, and

you have knowledge of all things pertaining to salvation.”

Even as John said, ‘If any come to you and bring not this doctrine, don’t even wish them God speed.’ Why? *Because they are not there to help, to love, to serve and grow in grace and knowledge.* They are there to subvert, to take away, to develop *their own* movement and organization **rather than serving and loving God.**

Verse 21: “I did not write to you because you do not know the Truth, but because you know it, and *you understand* that not one lie comes from the Truth.” The Word of God is

- true
- holy
- righteous
- good
- perfect

We know that, brethren!

Verse 22: “Who is the liar if it is not the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ?...” He truly was the Son of God, He was God, He was God manifested in the flesh. ***The one who denies that is the antichrist!***

“...He is the antichrist—the one who denies the Father and the Son” (v 22). We need to realize and understand that.

- Catholicism is antichrist!
- Judaism is antichrist!
- Muslimism is antichrist!
- Buddhism is antichrist!
- Hinduism is antichrist!
- parts of Protestantism—which reject Christ—is antichrist!
- Why should we want to bring any of these things into the Church of God?
- Why should we want to bring any of those things into our fellowship?
- Why should we want to bring any of those things into our worship and love of God?
 - ✓ to pervert
 - ✓ to destroy
 - ✓ to divide and conquer, setting one against the other

That’s what the Apostle John is talking about here.

Verse 23: “Anyone who denies the Son does not have the Father either. Therefore, let what you have heard from *the* beginning dwell in you; if what you have heard from *the* beginning is dwelling in you, then you will be dwelling in the Son and in the Father” (vs 23-24). That’s the whole purpose of what we are doing, brethren. We are in the Father and we are in

the Son, that we have the Father; we have the Son.

Verse 25: “And this is the promise that He has promised us: eternal life. These things I have written to you concerning those who are leading you astray.... [to deceive you; come in and trick you] ...But you yourselves have **dwelling in you** the anointing ... [of the Holy Spirit] ...that you received from Him...” (vs 25-27). The Holy Spirit is living and remaining in you. Jesus said, ‘If a man be keeping My words, He is loving Me and My Father will come unto to him and WE will make Our abode with him’—in your very heart, mind, soul and being. Brethren, that is what is so important, and we need to constantly have that in mind, heart, soul and being to go forward on that every day!

“...and you do not have need of anyone to indoctrinate you ...” (v 27)—to teach you. You don’t need any other man coming in and revealing *new* truth, which is *old heresy!* That’s what this whole New Age religion is. That’s what this whole movement is to Judaize the New Testament, to Judaize the Church.

There are even some people claiming that the New Testament was never written in Greek, but it was written in Hebrew. That is an out and out lie to Judaize the followers of Christ. They are of the concision. They are, as Paul says, ‘the religious corrupters and dogs.’ It can’t be said any more strongly, brethren. We don’t need anyone coming and teaching us

“...for the same anointing instructs you in all *spiritual* things... [because you can’t learn without the Spirit of God, without the Word of God] ...and is true, and is not a lie; and *if you do* exactly as it *has* taught you, you will be dwelling in Him. And now, little children, dwell in Him, so that when He is manifested we may have boldness, and not be put to shame before Him at His coming. If you know that He is righteous, you *also* know that everyone who practices righteousness has been begotten by Him” (vs 27-29).

It’s really important that we need to realize that there was this terrible situation going on in the New Testament Church. Remember, ***there is nothing new under the sun!*** So, we’re going to go through these things in various cycles time and time again.

- Satan is there to try and pervert!
- Satan is there to try and destroy!
- Satan is there to try and corrupt and deceive!

There are some important things that we need to know in the book of Galatians—very powerful Scriptures. Right now we know that the Worldwide Church of God is becoming more and more Protestant and following more and more of the

doctrines of Protestantism, leaving the Truth of God, leaving the understanding that they have to be accepted of the world. In fact then, when that happens, they are preaching another gospel! Paul was very emphatic about that very thing here:

Galatians 1:1: “Paul, *an* apostle, not *sent* from men nor *made* by man, but by Jesus Christ...” Every minister has his faith, loyalty and allegiance to Jesus Christ! That’s one of the things that has made it very hard to work with other people, because so many are out there serving their own, doing their own, whatever.

There are some ministers who are dedicated to this very thing that we are, and we should be able to work with them in the future, and we hope that we can. But in the meantime, we have to stand for what is true, for what is right, and know what we believe and why we believe what we believe.

“...and God *the* Father, Who raised Him from *the* dead; and all the brethren who are with me, to the churches of Galatia: Grace and peace *be* to you from God *the* Father and our Lord Jesus Christ, **Who gave Himself for our sins...**” (vs 1-4). Notice how Paul always goes back to the very basic thing of the purpose as to why Jesus Christ came, gave Himself as the perfect sacrifice, and is our offering and our High Priest before God the Father right now.

“...in order that He might deliver us from the present evil world...” (v 4). That’s why we’re not to go back and live in it. Though we live in it, *we are not of it*; our life is not living in the world, *our life is living for Christ* and for *God the Father!*

“...according to the will of our God and Father; to Whom *be* the glory into the ages of eternity. Amen. **I am astonished** that you are so quickly being turned away from Him Who called you into *the* grace of Christ, to a different gospel” (vs 4-6). Who are people being removed from? *From God the Father!* God is the One Who calls us! Jesus says, ‘No man can come to Me except the Father draw him.’

When we get all of these false doctrines coming in, we are being drawn away, by another gospel, from God the Father.

Verse 7: “Which *in reality* is not another *Gospel...*” There can’t be any other gospel; there is only one *true, faithful, righteous* Gospel; there cannot be another!

“...but **there are some who are troubling you and are desiring to pervert the Gospel of Christ**” (v 7). Oh yes, they twist it! They turn it! It sounds good! It is smooth and pleasing, in some cases. But that is not the Gospel of Christ.

Verse 8: “But if we, or even an angel from

heaven, should preach a gospel to you *that* is contrary to what we have preached, LET HIM BE ACCURSED!” That means *cut off, anathema from God!* That’s pretty strong language. This is how he starts the book of Galatians. Pretty powerful!

In Gal. 2 he had to publicly correct Peter because Peter was getting carried away with the Circumcision Party and separating himself from the Gentiles when they sat down to have a meal; thinking that would make them more righteous before God. *Nonsense!*

Verse 9: “As we have said before, I also now say again. If anyone is preaching a gospel contrary to what you have received, LET HIM BE ACCURSED! Now then, am I striving to please men, or God? Or am I motivated to please men? For **if I am yet pleasing men, I would not be a servant of Christ**” (vs 9-10).

This become very important in relationship to Philipp. 3. Beware of the concision, those religious corrupters.

Verse 11: “But I certify to you, brethren, that the Gospel that was preached by me is not according to man... [not after man; it didn’t originate with men!] ...because neither did I receive it from man, nor was I taught *it by man*; rather, *it was by the revelation of Jesus Christ*. For you heard of my former conduct when I was in Judaism, how I was excessively persecuting the Church of God and was destroying it; and I was advancing in Judaism *far beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more abundantly zealous for the traditions of my fathers*” (vs 11-14).

This shows that Paul says, ‘Look, I have knowledge and experience of what I am preaching and teaching. I know the difference between the Gospel of Jesus Christ and this false gospel of circumcision, and this false gospel of Judaism.’ Judaism is a Babylonian perversion of the Old Testament Scriptures. I cannot say that anymore strongly! I cannot make it anymore clear than that!

Our justification before God, through Jesus Christ, *is by faith and not by works!* Yes, we are to have our works of righteousness through Jesus Christ. But we cannot do a work by any law that is going to compel God to give us salvation. The circumcision that we’re talking about is not in the flesh. Paul says that if you be circumcised as a requirement for salvation, that Christ does you no good.

Galatians 5:5: “For we through *the Spirit* are waiting for *the hope of righteousness by faith*; because in Christ Jesus neither is circumcision of any force, nor uncircumcision; rather, *it is the inner working of faith through love*” (vs 5-6).

Nothing in the flesh profits to the spirit. Let’s understand that. Jesus said, **‘The flesh profits nothing!’** Someone is going to say, ‘Well then, we can go out and eat unclean meat.’ **NO!** That’s not what it’s talking about whatsoever. It means that ***we cannot be spiritually perfected by the physical things that we do***: whether circumcision or not circumcision. But we are not going to be able to attain to the Kingdom of God by breaking the laws of God and the commandments of God—*no way possible!*

But there’s another law-breaking that we don’t understand. That law-breaking is taking the laws of Judaism to substitute for the laws and commandments of God. That law-obedience to the *commandments of men* is not obedience to the commandments of God. That’s what Paul is saying here.

Verse 6: “Because in Christ Jesus neither is circumcision of any force, nor uncircumcision; rather, ***it is the inner working of faith through love.***” Faith and love are going to lead you to keep the commandments of God, because this is the love of God: *that we keep His commandments, and His commandments are not burdensome!* That’s what John wrote.

Verse 7: “You were running well. Who hindered you, *persuading you* not to obey the Truth?” See where these doctrines lead? Sooner or later they lead down the road to take away from the Truth!

- The *Truth* of the justification of God—that He gives you as His gift—before His very throne, to be Holy and unblamable and unprovable in His sight.
- The *Truth* about the keeping of the commandments of God.
- The *Truth* about the circumcision of the heart and mind.

As we will see, *that is the true circumcision!*

Verse 8: “This persuasion *is not coming* from Him who calls you. **A little leaven leavens the whole lump**” (vs 8-9). This kind of sin takes away from the unleavenedness of our spirit, mind and attitude, which is in Christ Jesus!

Verse 10: “I am persuaded concerning you in *the Lord* that you will be otherwise minded...” What have we learned? *Let this mind be in you, which was in Christ Jesus!* Be not “...otherwise minded...”

“...and he who troubles you shall bear the judgment, whoever he may be. But I, brethren, if I still proclaim circumcision... [as a requirement for salvation, as a requirement for the gift of eternal life] ...why am I yet being persecuted? Then the offense

of the cross has been taken away” (vs 10-11). You can’t accept Jesus Christ and continue in your old Judaism!

Just like today, a person who is a Catholic must come out of Catholicism. A person who is a Protestant must come out of Protestantism. Likewise, a person who was involved in Judaism—as was Paul; clear up over his head in it—must come out of Judaism. That’s what Paul is saying here, very clearly. If he preached Judaism along with Christ, then there was no stumbling block or offense of the cross.

Verse 12: “I would *that* they would even make themselves eunuchs—those who are throwing you into confusion.... [that’s what concision means] ...For you have been called unto freedom, brethren; only do not *use* this freedom for an occasion to the flesh; rather, serve one another with love” (vs 12-13). There we come full cycle to the whole Gospel of Jesus Christ as taught by the Apostle Paul.

Verse 14: For the whole law is fulfilled in this *commandment*... [this is the basis of the whole meaning of the Law]: ...‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ But if you bite and devour one another, watch out *lest* you be consumed by one another. Now *this* I say, walk by *the* Spirit, and you will not fulfill the lust of the flesh” (vs 14-16).

Let’s look at the requirement that God gave, even in the Old Testament, concerning circumcision. The circumcision in the flesh was only a token of the covenant. That did not change the heart and the mind. That’s the whole important purpose of the New Covenant.

Here’s actually a prophecy of it—Deut. 10. Here is what conversion is to do; here is what yielding to God is to do, exactly the same Gospel preached right here in the Old Testament. Now you know why Paul told Timothy that ‘you have the Scriptures, you have known them from a child, that through Christ they are able to make you wise unto salvation.’ Here is part of those Scriptures. Notice how this fits right into New Testament teaching. When the New Testament came along, it was also part of the teaching that had the prophecy of it, foundation of it in the Old Testament.

Deuteronomy 10:12: “And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all His ways, and to love Him, and to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul.” Is that not New Testament doctrine, brethren? *Absolutely!*

Verse 13: “To keep the commandments of the LORD, and His statutes which I command you today **for your good?** Behold, the heaven and the

heaven of heavens *belong* to the LORD your God, the earth also, with all that is in it. Only the LORD had a delight in your fathers to love them, and He chose their seed after them, you above all people, as *it is today*” (vs 13-15).

Who had delight into choosing you and me? *God the Father, through Christ!* Brethren, that is really something to let sink in. If there’s any one thing that you could say would be the theme of the Feast of Tabernacles, that is it.

- It is God the Father Who has done the work!
- It is Christ Who saves us!
- It is by His Spirit!
- It is by His love!
- It is by the very mind of Christ!

What does that do for us? Here’s a prophecy of the requirement of the *spiritual circumcision* in Christ:

Verse 16: “Therefore, circumcise **the foreskin of your heart**, and be no longer stiff-necked”—that is carnal-minded and hostile against God.

It tell you one thing, until the begetting of the Holy Spirit takes place in the mind of an individual, there is no way to get rid of the hostility of the carnal mind. *The carnal mind is not subject to the Law of God and neither indeed can be!* Here’s a prophecy of the circumcision in Christ.

Verse 17: “For the LORD your God *is* God of gods, and Lord of lords, a great God, the mighty and awesome God Who does not respect persons nor take a bribe.” There is nothing physical that you can do to compel God to give you salvation! That’s the whole lesson of circumcision. People, on the other hand, will say, ‘we don’t need to keep the commandments of God; it’s all done and finished in Christ.’ Wrong! *Wrong! Wrong!* When you have the circumcision of Christ in your heart and mind:

- you’re going to want to keep the commandments of God
- you’re going to want to love God
- you’re going to want to serve Him

That’s the whole thing that no law in the world can compel you to do, except you choose to do that. Through the circumcision of Christ it is accomplished.

Verse 18: “He executes justice for the fatherless and widow, and loves the stranger in giving him food and clothing.” Showing the prophecy of the future calling of all Gentiles into the Church.

Verse 19: “Therefore, love the stranger, for

you were strangers in the land of Egypt.” We’re going to see that all have sinned—Jew and Gentile (Rom. 2^[transcriber’s correction])—one is no better than the other. Here’s a prophecy of it right here.

Verse 20: “You shall fear the LORD your God. You shall serve Him, and you shall hold fast to Him, and swear by His name. He *is* your praise, and He *is* your God, Who has done for you these great and awesome things which your eyes have seen. Your fathers went down into Egypt with seventy persons. And now the LORD your God has made you as the stars of the heavens for multitude” (vs 20-22).

Same thing when God called the 12 apostles. That was the beginning of what was to be the Church. Now look at the multitude that has come since then. At the resurrection we’re going to find out how many that’s going to be. I think we’re all going to be very surprised. Happy to be there, but surprised!

Colossian 2 talks about that circumcision that is in Christ; that circumcision that is of the heart, of the mind, which takes away the hostility, the carnality, and is replaced with the love and faith of God.

Colossians 2:6: “Therefore, as you have received Christ Jesus the Lord, be walking in Him; being rooted and built up in Him, and being confirmed in the faith, exactly as you were taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving. **Be on guard so that no one takes you captive...** [same kind of lesson taught Philip. 3] **...through philosophy...** [through religion of men to explain the existence of things as they are, and to try and establish a religion out of observation] ...and vain deceit, according to the traditions of men, according to the elements of the world, and not according to Christ. For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and you are complete in Him...” (vs 6-10)—in Christ you are complete:

- everything that Christ is
- everything that Christ has done
- everything that Christ has taught us
- everything in example as to what He did

We’re to follow in His steps, which then is the completeness of everything. Paul is saying that you don’t need this outside philosophy. You don’t need this outside tradition of men to make you complete in Christ.

You are complete in Christ! “...Who is the Head of all principality and power in Whom you have also been circumcised with *the* circumcision not made by hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ” (vs 10-11).

That’s important to really know and understand.

(go to the next track)

Now let’s see how this circumcision of the heart and mind takes place, v 12: “Having been buried with Him in baptism... [we’re going to see how important that is and what it does for us] ...by which you have also been raised with *Him* through the inner working of God, Who raised Him from the dead.” Let’s see how complete and how important and thorough that this circumcision really is.

A very profound and important thing concerning this kind of circumcision is actually a destruction of the old self, the whole old way of living. A complete change of heart, mind and attitude through the receiving of the Holy Spirit of God.

Romans 6:1: “What then shall we say? Shall we continue in sin, so that grace may abound? **MAY IT NEVER BE!** We who died to sin...” (vs 1-2). That is the circumcision of the heart and mind, that you are no more stiff-necked, rebellious and carnal-minded against God; you are dead to sin.

“...how shall we live any longer therein? Or are you ignorant that we, as many as were baptized into Christ Jesus, were baptized into His death?” (vs 2-3). We’re conjoined in His death. Buried together so that, in fact, the old person has been crucified with Christ! *‘I am crucified with Christ, yet nevertheless, I live, and the life I now live, I live by the faith of the Son of God, Who gave Himself for me!’ That is the circumcision in Christ!*

Verse 4: “Therefore, we were buried with Him through the baptism into the death; so that, just as Christ was raised from *the* dead by the glory of the Father, in the same way, we also should walk in newness of life”—as a new person, as a new being, rejuvenated by the Spirit of God.

Verse 5: “For if we have been conjoined together in the likeness of His death... [the circumcision that is in Christ] ...so also shall we be *in the likeness* of *His* resurrection. Knowing this, that our old man was co-crucified with *Him* in order that the body of sin might be destroyed, so that we might no longer be enslaved to sin” (vs 5-6). That’s very clear! That’s very powerful! That’s also very positive, too!

Verse 7: “Because the one who has died *to sin* has been justified from sin.” If you have died in Christ you are freed from that sin. Why? *Because Christ has paid the penalty!* You accept that payment and now you walk in newness of life, attitude and heart. That is the circumcision of the heart.

Let’s see this circumcision of the heart,

Romans 2:25: “For on the one hand, circumcision profits if you are observing *the* law; on the other hand, if you are a transgressor of *the* law, your circumcision has become uncircumcision.”

If you're circumcised in the flesh and you are not keeping the laws and commandments of God, your circumcision doesn't mean a thing! It's the same as though you have never been circumcised.

Verse 26: “Therefore, if the uncircumcised... [in the flesh] ...is keeping the requirements of the law...” Here we are *keeping* the law in a right way. Both are required to keep the law, the circumcised and the uncircumcised. What he's saying is that the circumcision in the flesh is not going to be counted *spiritually* if you are not obeying God!

“...shall not his uncircumcision be reckoned for circumcision? And shall not the uncircumcised, who by nature is fulfilling the law, judge you...” (vs 26-27). If there's anything that would set a Jew on fire, that is it! To say that the Gentiles, the uncircumcised—they consider them ‘goyim’ dogs; wretched people—they're going to judge you. Now you know why the Jews hated Paul. They said, ‘Christ we can understand, Paul we'll never forgive.’ To this day that's how they are.

“...who, with *the* letter and circumcision, are a transgressor of *the* law? For he is not a Jew who is *one* outwardly, neither is that circumcision which is external in *the* flesh; rather, he is a Jew who is *one* inwardly, and circumcision is of *the* heart, in *the* spirit and not in *the* letter; whose praise is not from men but from God” (vs 27-29). That is the circumcision that we have, brethren.

That's why Paul said in Philippians 3—maybe you will understand it a little more since we've gone through this and realize even more what it is.

Philippians 3:2: “Watch out and be on guard against those dogs, those religious corrupters; watch out for and be on guard against those depraved, wretched workers of evil; watch out for the be on guard against the concision because we are the true circumcision, **having our hearts spiritually circumcised**; we are the ones who are truly serving and worshipping God in the Spirit, even boasting and rejoicing in Christ Jesus; and we are not trusting or putting any confidence in the fleshly things or accomplishments” (vs 2-4).

Isn't it interesting that the Jews today still say that they are the ‘chosen people.’ When the fact is, they are—until they accept Christ—the rejected people! *We are the true circumcision of God!* We don't have any confidence in the flesh.

Verse 4: “Although I might also have confidence, trust and reliance in fleshly things (the accomplishments and achievements of the physical life and world.) If anyone thinks or imagines that he has good cause for confidence, trust and reliance in flesh (through the power of his own being to produce his worldly accomplishments and achievements). I can claim far greater ones!”

There are a lot of people out there teaching the power of positive thinking, you can be anything you want to be, you can do anything you want to do, and all of that sort of thing. They rely on the flesh, rely on their own physical achievements, and have self-esteem! I tell you what, Job didn't have very much self-esteem after God got done with him.

It is true, we're to love our neighbors as ourselves. We're to have enough love of ourselves because we love God, but not to be boasting and bragging on all of the things that we have done.

I remember a church leader that said, ‘Now, brethren, we have preached the Gospel in all the world! We're on so many radio stations, so many television stations, we have produced so many magazines and so many booklets, and so many articles.’ Bragging and boasting on physical accomplishments and achievements. Where is it today? Where is that accomplishment? *Nothing! Because when sin enters in on anything that we do, it is nothing!* That's what Paul is talking about here.

Verse 5: “Concerning circumcision in the flesh, on the eighth day... [done right and properly] ...concerning race, Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews! Concerning law and law-keeping, a Pharisee.” He was the greatest, climbing and going in advancement in Judaism to be a leading rabbi! That's what Paul was headed for. Paul studied at the feet of Gamaliel. Paul was ready to go ahead and take over the seat of Gamaliel. That's where Paul was headed. That's what kind of Pharisee he was.

Verse 6: Concerning zeal...” Someone comes and says, ‘Oh, I love the Lord; I have zeal in my heart for the Lord.’

“...persecuting and ravaging the Church (actually instigating the death of some); concerning a righteousness, which is derived from a rigid law structure (Judaism), having become blameless and without error or defect” (v 6). Wasn't that said of Job? God said to Satan, ‘You see Job, My servant, who is perfect’—in the flesh, but not in the spirit. This is what Paul is talking about here.

Verse 7: “But all of those things, which were a gain or an aggrandizement to me as a person, to my self-image—I have reckoned,

considered and viewed all those things as a total loss (a vain, empty waste—hallow achievements) on account of Christ.” They don’t mean a thing!

Verse 8: “In addition to that, truly in every instance I am still reckoning, considering and viewing everyone of those things as a total loss...” What are we willing to count as loss for Christ? Is there anything that we’re not willing give up? You know what Jesus said, ‘Anyone who comes to Me and hates not his father, mother, brethren, sisters, land, yea, his own life also, he cannot be My disciple. Whichever one of you who does not take up his cross and follow after Me, cannot be My disciple.’

We see the same thing in Paul; he said, “...I am still reckoning, considering and viewing everyone of those things as a total loss (a vain, empty waste; hollow achievements) when compared to and on account of the excellence and preeminence, the superiority and high character of the knowledge of Christ Jesus, my Lord and Master; through whom I have suffered loss, and have completely forfeited every one of those things, and I am reckoning, considering and looking upon them as the dregs of refuse and putrefying dung, I order that I may win Christ” (v 8).

The Greek for *dung* is ‘skubalon.’ It means *a pile of manure*. Total waste; fit for destruction! The home of worms and maggots. That’s how he viewed his whole entire past life, and that’s how we must also view our lives, brethren, *that we my win Christ!*

Verse 9: “And that I may be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which originates and is solely derived from a rigid law structure (Judaism); but instead that I be found having the righteousness (that right standing with God) originating and emanating from God, rooted in the faith.” That’s where it is all at. Brethren, this is so tremendous!

In part 5 of this series, we will really amplify the positive part concerning the resurrection from the dead and attaining and growing in Christian character.

Look at what was in his heart and mind and burning in his brain, v 10: “Even to know, understand and discern Him (Christ). and the miraculous power, majesty and omnipotence of His resurrection, and the participation, fellowship and partnership of His suffering and passion (of His crucifixion)...”

Paul was saying, ‘I can even count anything unless I know that I have participated even in the sufferings of Christ.

“...being conformed to (so wholly spiritually identified with, as to be assimilated into)

His very own death” (v 10). That’s how much Paul wanted Jesus Christ. That’s how much we need to want Jesus Christ and the very plan of God.

Verse 11: “If by any possible means I may attain and arrive at the resurrection of the dead.” Brethren, what is the great and wonderful thing that we are going to have an opportunity to do? *We are going to rule and reign with Jesus Christ to bring this world the Truth of God!* And to provide, through the crucifixion, sacrifice and resurrection of Jesus, this same salvation for all humankind. That’s why Paul said that he was doing everything possible to attain to that.

Verse 12: “Not that at this time I have already attained, or that I have it within my grasp, or that I have already been perfected (that perfect growth in Christian character and enlightenment)... [he didn’t count that] ...but I am pursuing, pressing forward and striving for that achievement, that I also may obtain and lay hold of that perfection for the resurrection: and for this same cause and reason I also was laid hold of by Christ Jesus.”

Verse 13: “Brethren, I am not regarding or considering myself as having achieved, or having laid hold on, or having completely within my grasp (the assurance of the resurrection); but this one thing, the primary thing, I am doing; forgetting those things which are behind, in the past; I am stretching out, reaching forward to the things which are ahead, I am pursuing, struggling to attain and straining to achieve the goal and prize, that crown of victory of the high, eminent calling of God in Christ Jesus” (vs 13-14).

Scriptures in Philippians from *The Epistle of the Apostle Paul to the Philippians, An Inspirational Bible Study; A New Expanded Amplified Translation* by Fred R. Coulter

All Scriptures from *The Holy Bible in Its Original Order, A Faithful Version* by Fred R. Coulter

Scriptural References:

- 1) Philippians 3:1-8
- 2) Titus 1:9-11
- 3) 1 John 2:18-29
- 4) Galatians 1:1-14
- 5) Galatians 5:5-16
- 6) Deuteronomy 10:12-22
- 7) Colossians 2:6-12
- 8) Romans 6:1-7
- 9) Romans 2:25-29
- 10) Philippians 3:2-14

Scriptures referenced, not quoted: Galatians 2

Also referenced: Sermon Series: *Who is Jesus?*

Epistle to the Philippians V Chapters Three and Four

Fred R. Coulter

Let's continue on in our study in the book of Philippians. Let's review just a little bit what we covered in part four, and then cover some of the things concerning what kind of righteousness it is that we are to have.

Philippians 3:8: "In addition to that, truly in every instance I am still reckoning, considering and viewing every one of those things as a total loss (a vain empty waste-hollow achievements) when compared to and on account of the excellence and preeminence, the superiority and high character of the knowledge of Christ Jesus, my Lord and Master..." This needs to be the attitude that we need to have, brethren, in everything that we are doing.

The whole book of Philippians is really talking about having the mind of Christ.

"...through whom I have suffered loss, and have completely forfeited every one of those things, and I am reckoning, considering and looking upon them as the dregs of refuse and putrefying dung, in order that I may win Christ" (v 8). We need to have the same attitude that there is not going to be one thing that's going to stand between us and God. Not one thing that is going to cause us to not make it into the Kingdom of God.

Verse 9: "And that I may be found in Him, not having my own righteousness..." There is a righteousness of law-keeping under the Old Covenant. There is a righteousness of law-keeping that comes out of Judaism.

"...which originates and is solely derived from a rigid law structure (Judaism); but instead that I be found having the righteousness (that right standing with God) originating and emanating from God, rooted in the faith." (v 9).

Let's look at little bit concerning this righteousness that we are to have. We're going to see what kind of righteousness that it really requires, and what kind of righteousness God gives to us.

Matthew 5: "Do not think... [don't let it enter your mind] ...that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish, but to fulfill." There were certain things that Jesus Christ fulfilled concerning Himself. There are certain things that have been fulfilled because of the Church. There are certain things that are yet to be fulfilled, because the plan of God is not complete.

Verse 18: "For truly I say to you, until the

heaven and the earth shall pass away, one jot or one tittle shall in no way pass from the Law until everything has been fulfilled"—till the whole plan of God is completed. So, we can conclude that the plan of God not yet being fulfilled, that the Law and the Prophets have not been terminated.

With that there is some discussion as to what we should do and not do, and there are various opinions within various denominations of the Church of God. That's not what we're going to focus on here, but we're going to focus on:

Verse 19: "Therefore, whoever shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, shall be called least in the Kingdom of Heaven..." Those people who say:

- we should do this, *but not this*
- we should keep the Sabbath and Passover, *but not the Holy Days*
- we should keep the commandments of God, *but it makes no difference whether we eat unclean meats or not*

Listen to what this says: "**...whoever shall break one of these least commandments...** [Which commandment is the least?] ...and shall teach men so, shall be called least in the Kingdom of Heaven, but whoever shall **practice and teach them**, this one shall be called great in the Kingdom of Heaven. For I say to you, **unless your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees**, there is no way *that* you shall enter into the Kingdom of Heaven" (vs 19-20).

That's pretty righteous—isn't it? What did the Apostle Paul say? *The righteousness that is of the law—through Judaism; the scribes and Pharisees—all that law-keeping is counted as dung!* Why? *Because it was his righteousness!*

How can your righteousness and my righteousness exceed that kind of righteousness. Without exceeding that kind of righteousness, we're not going to enter into the Kingdom of God. That's very clear!

Is that kind of righteousness something that we can do? *A certain amount of it we can do!* We can keep the commandments—that's required. But that doesn't earn us salvation, because we need a greater righteousness than that.

Let's see what kind of righteousness it is that is given to us. Actually *imputed* to us! Actually *accredited* to us! Let's see what the Apostle Paul

talked about concerning this kind of righteousness. When we come before God, when we stand before God, this is the kind of righteousness that God gives to us. In fact, as we will understand, it is the very righteousness of Jesus Christ.

- It is imputed to us!
- We can't earn it!
- We don't deserve it!
- *Only God can give it!*
- ***We have to walk in that righteousness!***

Let's see how this is accomplished.

Romans 4:21: "For he was fully persuaded that what He [God] has promised, He [God] is also able to do. As a result, it was also imputed to him for righteousness" (vs 21-22)—right standing with God because he believed God.

- We need to believe and keep His commandments!
- We need to believe that He has called us!
- We need to believe in His Holy Spirit!
- We need to believe in the righteousness that is required for salvation!

This is the kind of righteousness that we have! That kind of righteousness, which alone can come from God!

Romans 5:17: "For if by the offense of the one man death reigned by the one... [we all die in Adam] ...how much more shall those who receive the abundance of grace and the **gift of righteousness** reign in life by the One, Jesus Christ."

Because we can't keep the law perfectly, because we have sin within our very being, we have to be given this gift of righteousness and this gift of faith. The abundant grace makes all of this possible for us so that we can truly be in that right standing with God, that we can truly have the righteousness of God, which is the righteousness of Jesus Christ, *given to us by the gift of God!* Which then, requires:

- total dedication to God
- total submission to God
- total burial of the old self
- total crucifixion of your flesh—
symbolically in Christ

That brings us the righteousness that comes from God! *That gift of righteousness!*

Verse 18: "So then, even as by the one transgression condemnation *came* unto all men, in the same way also, by the one act of righteousness... [the free gift] ...*shall* justification of life *come* unto all men." This is the kind of righteousness that is greater and truer than the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees. This is the kind of

righteousness that is going to see us into the Kingdom of God.

Verse 19: "For even as by the disobedience of the one man, many were made sinners, in the same way also, by the obedience of the one *Man* shall many be made righteous." Why? *Because of the Spirit of Christ in us, leading us to keep the commandments of God:*

- giving us the begetting of the Holy Spirit
- putting us in right standing with God the Father in heaven above as blameless
- unimpeachable and irrefragable in His sight

That's what it is right there, brethren.

Verse 20: "Moreover, the law entered, so that transgression might abound..." In other words, the severity of the law to show sin was given so that we might understand the severity of sin.

"...but where sin abounded, the grace of God did super abound" (v 20). Grace is able to cover that and completely take care of everything.

Verse 21: "So that even as sin has reigned unto death, so also might the grace of God reign through righteousness unto eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Romans 6:1: "What then shall we say? Shall we continue in sin, so that grace may abound? **MAY IT NEVER BE!...**" (vs 1-2). That's the righteousness of God! That is the righteousness of Christ in which we are to follow and to do and to live our lives.

Verse 11: "In the same way also, you should indeed reckon yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God through Christ Jesus our Lord. Therefore, do not let sin rule in your mortal body by obeying it in the lusts thereof. Likewise, do not yield your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin; rather, yield yourselves to God as those who are alive from *the* dead, and your members *as* instruments of righteousness to God" (vs 11-13).

That's the kind of righteousness that we are to have. That is obeying and following in the spirit of the Law, not the letter of the Law. Let's see how this righteousness is given to us. Actually understand what Christ did to make that righteousness be upon us, to be given to us.

2-Corinthians 5:21: "For He [God the Father] made Him Who [Jesus Christ] knew no sin *to be* sin for us, so that we might become *the* righteousness of God in Him." This is the righteousness that Paul is talking about, that he was

striving for, that he was attaining for. Therefore, looking back at his righteousness by Judaism, righteousness by law, it cannot be compared with the righteousness of Christ, which then gives us the attitude and heart of mind to keep these laws and commandments of God in the spirit with the attitude of Christ, with the love of God.

The truth of the matter is that there is no law that can bring eternal life. *There is no law*—as long as we as human beings have the law of sin and death within us—that can truly make us righteous by our own separate individual actions. That has to **be the gift of God, the gift of righteousness.**

Philippians 3:10: “Even to know, understand and discern Him (Christ) and the miraculous power, majesty and omnipotence of His resurrection, and the participation, fellowship and partnership of His suffering and passion (of His crucifixion), being conformed to (so wholly spiritually identified with, as to be assimilated into) His very own death.”

I tell you what, the Apostle Paul wants to be in the Kingdom of God. He said later that, yes, there was a ‘crown of righteousness laid up for him.’ He’s going to be there!

Verse 11: “If by any possible means I may attain and arrive at the resurrection of the dead. Not that at this time I have already attained, or that I have it within my grasp, or that I have already been perfected (that perfect growth in Christian character and enlightenment); but I am pursuing, pressing forward and striving for that achievement... [that’s what we need to be doing, also; in that very way, pursuing that] ...that I also may obtain and lay hold of that perfection for the resurrection: and for this same cause and reason I also was laid hold of by Christ Jesus” (vs 11-12).

Then Paul gives us the kind of attitude we need to go forward with, keeping this goal, keeping this vision, keeping this ever before us!

Verse 13: “Brethren, I am not regarding or considering myself as having achieved, or having laid hold on, or having completely within my grasp (the assurance of the resurrection); but this one thing, the primary thing, I am doing; forgetting those things which are behind, in the past; I am stretching out, reaching forward to the things which are ahead, I am pursuing, struggling to attain and straining to achieve the goal and prize, that crown of victory of the high, eminent calling of God in Christ Jesus” (vs 13-14). That’s what our whole lives need to be focused in on continuously!

- that’s why we have the Feast of Tabernacles

- that’s why we have the Sabbath
- that’s why we have the other Holy Days of God

so that we can continually keep that in our mind and heart.

Here’s a promise, v 15: “For this cause, as many as are perfect (spiritually mature, growing toward that perfect Christian character mature, growing toward that perfect... [that’s referring to us, which means spiritually mature] ...Christian Character and Godly enlightenment) should be of this mind and attitude of mind is oriented differently, **God will also reveal this to you.**” That’s a tremendous promise—isn’t it, brethren? Regardless of your attitude and state of mind, *God will reveal this to you!*

Verse 16: “Nevertheless, according to the level of the spiritual achievements we have attained, let us be walking according to the same rule of conduct, and be measuring our lives by this means (not by confidence in physical things), and be setting our minds on the same prize (that crown of glory). Brethren, be followers and imitators together of me, and attentively take note of those who are conducting their lives in this manner, who are walking according to this rule of conduct, so that you have us for your example and pattern of living” (vs 16-17).

That’s what we need to constantly be striving for, brethren, in everything we do. We can have that attitude. If you had a bad day yesterday, you get up in the morning, it’s a new day. Don’t pollute today—the present time—with the problems of yesterday. Don’t carry that over on into your attitude and what you are doing day-by-day. Put all of those things behind you on a daily basis.

Verse 18: “(Because many are walking and conducting their lives contrary to this way...” As we saw, that was ripping the Church apart.

Paul said: “...of whom I have repeatedly warned you; and now even weeping with tears, I am telling you, they are the enemies and adversaries of the cross of Christ.” (v 18). The only thing we can hope for, for those individuals, is that somehow they can repent; somehow they can come to their own senses and before God repent so that they are no longer the enemies of Christ.

I know the things that people have done to me, some of them are that way. They are *the enemies of Christ*, gone back into this world. I feel the same way toward them as the Apostle Paul felt toward those in his day. We know what the end is going to be.

Verse 19: “Their end and ultimate destiny is eternal destruction and ruin...” Even God doesn’t delight in the death of the wicked; nor does He delight in the suffering and misery that people go through because of their sins. God will take care of it in due time. That’s why in situations like this, we are to pray and ask God to intervene and help them if, perchance, give them repentance.

“...their god is their belly, selfish and turned inward; their glory is in their shame, their dishonorable and abominable conduct; they are the ones who are constantly being mentally consumed in physical, earthly things and sinful conduct).

Now it comes back to us. Especially in this, and we see this in many of the writings of the Apostle Paul: he shows God’s way, then he shows man’s way. You can take many of the Epistles of Paul and go ‘A/B’ all the way through. Now he’s referring back to us:

Verse 20: “Because for us the commonwealth of our inheritance exists in heaven, from which we are also waiting for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. Who (at His coming) will transform...” (vs 20-21). We know that it’s going to be instantaneous, in the ‘twinkling of an eye at the last trump.’ It says that our physical bodies are

- sown in corruption; raised in incorruption
- sown in weakness; raised in power

That’s tremendous, brethren. The resurrection!

“...—by instantaneous, spiritual metamorphosis—our vile, abject and base bodies of humiliation, to become exactly like His body of effulgent power and glory, according to the inner-working of His own dynamic power and energy...” (v 21). We’re going to be given the same kind of body, the same kind of glory—a lesser degree, of course—than what Jesus Christ has.

Absolutely amazing! I don’t think we can read this enough what God is doing for us, 1-John 3:1: “Behold! What *glorious* love the Father has given to us, that we should be called the children of God! For this very reason, the world does not know us because it did not know Him. Beloved, now we are the children of God, and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be; but we know that when He is manifested, **we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him exactly as He is**” (vs 1-2).

He is going to give us a *spiritual* body just like His! *That is tremendous! That is powerful!* That is the all-consuming thing that we need to keep looking toward and focusing on. That is the hope!

Verse 3: “And everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, even as He is pure.” This is the

hope that God is giving us. This is the power that God is showing us. This is what God wants to do with us, and for us. This is His whole plan. This is what we really need to be continuously focusing in on, and I will try and do so in every way, brethren, for us, that we can make it into the Kingdom of God.

Ephesians 3:14: “For this cause I bow my knees... [in worshipful adoration and humble submission] ...to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.” Same attitude, same mind, same spiritual projection that Paul has in Philippians.

Verse 15: “Of Whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He may grant you... [gratuitously bestow and gracious endow you] ...according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power by His Spirit in the inner man; that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith [and trusting belief]” (vs 15-17). That is tremendous, brethren! That is so overwhelming.

Just think of the joy and happiness that that’s going to be when we have that spirit body. Just think of the joy and happiness that we’re going to have when we’re able to rule and reign with Jesus Christ. That is so great; that is so marvelous; that is beyond our comprehension. If we can kind of get closer to it, through the understanding of God’s Word—which we’re trying to do here—and bring us closer to Christ, so much more the better.

Verse 18: “*And* that being rooted and grounded... [stabilized, planted and established] ...in love... [that Godly Divine love; so that] ...you may be fully able to comprehend with all the saints what *is* the breadth and length and depth and height, and to know the love of Christ, which surpasses *human* knowledge; so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God” (vs 18-19). To have the same body as Jesus Christ has; that our vile, miserable, wretched body of this flesh will be made like unto His glorious body unto the praise, honor and glory of God the Father. That’s something!

“...that you may be filled with all the fullness of God...” so that with His Holy Spirit, spiritually sashaying every fiber of your being. That in the end, at the resurrection you will be a son of God, composed of spirit as God is composed of spirit; for you shall see Him as He is. For you be like Him; truly a son of God.

Philippians 3:21: “Who (at His coming) will transform—by instantaneous, spiritual metamorphosis—our vile, abject and base bodies of humiliation, to become exactly like His body of effulgent power and glory, according to the inner-working of His own dynamic power and energy whereby He is able and has the complete

power and capacity to subdue, conquer and subjugate everything in the universe to Himself.”

That is wonderful, brethren. We really need to keep that in mind. We will see the whole completion of God’s plan summarized in a very few verses, which has to do the overall aspect of the Kingdom of God.

Revelation 21:6: “And He said to me, ‘It is done.... [the completion of God’s plan] ...I am Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the one who thirsts, I will give freely of the fountain of the water of life.’” God wants us to have eternal life.

Verse 7: “The one who overcomes shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be My son.” That’s the fulfillment of Philippians 3:21.

Philippians 4:1: “For this reason, my brethren, beloved and dear, and longed for with love and desire, my joy and happiness—yes, even the jewels of my crown (in Christ). Stand fast and remain solidly secure in the Lord, my beloved ones.”

What a wonderful and tremendous attitude and approach that Paul is writing with here. Here he is in prison. He doesn’t even know whether he’s going to live or die. He writes these beautiful and wonderful words to us. Let’s see about these crowns and jewels that God is making up for us, that God is creating, that God is thinking about, because of our talking about God and knowing about God.

Malachi 3:16—this is actually going to happen: “Then those fearing the LORD spoke together, *each* man to his neighbor....” What do you speak about? *The things that we have here!*

- speak about the Word of God
- speak about growing and overcoming
- speak about praying for each other
- speak about helping each other over infirmities and weaknesses
- speak about God’s tremendous and wonderful plan

That’s the whole purpose of all the fellowship that we have with the Feast of Tabernacles.

“...And the LORD listened and heard. And a book of remembrance was written before Him for those who feared the LORD, and for those who thought upon His name. ‘And they shall be Mine,’ says the LORD of hosts, ‘in the day that I will make up My own special jewels....’” (vs 16-17). God is also making a crown for us. God is also making jewels for us. As Paul said, ‘That you will be jewels in My crown’—that we all will be jewels in the crown of Jesus Christ.

“...And I will spare them as a man spares

his own son who serves him.’ Then you shall return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between the one who serves God, and the one who does not serve Him” (vs 17-18). That’s a tremendous reference here in the first verse of Philippians 4.

Philippians 4:2: “Euodias I exhort and encourage: be of the same mind and attitude in the Lord.” That’s a nice easy way to correct a problem—isn’t it? Oh that it would be, that we would all be so sensitive to God that with God’s Word we could be corrected so easily. Wouldn’t that be nice?

Verse 3: “And I ask and beseech you also, true and sincere associate, my yoke-fellow, give aid and assistance to those women who cooperated and vigorously labored together with me in the glad tidings of the Gospel, and also Clement, and all the rest of my fellow workers and laborers, whose names are written and recorded in the Book of Life.” Obviously then, Paul was referring back to what we just read in Malachi 3.

Here’s a tremendous part of Christian growth and overcoming and understanding. This is the attitude that we need to have.

Verse 4: “Always be rejoicing at all times; be full of joy and gladness in the Lord. Again I will say, and continue to say, ‘Be rejoicing; and be full of joy and gladness.’” If the Apostle Paul can have this attitude while being in jail, you know we really need to take a strong hard look at our own selves and our own lives so that we can begin to have this in our lives.

I know and you know that anger and bitterness and all this sort of thing never generates the righteousness of God; never generates the happiness and joy of the Holy Spirit. Those things we need to put aside. Those things we need to be done with and focus in on the happiness, joy, love and understanding, *which alone with the Spirit of God can give.*

Then he shows here how that in everything how we need to behave ourselves, v 5: “Let your gentleness, kindness and consideration be known and evidenced to all. The Lord is near at hand... [he thought he was coming right then] ...(always ready to intervene on your behalf).” God knows—doesn’t He?

- *God can!*
- *God will!*
- He has the *power!*
- He has the *means!*
- He has the *Spirit!*
- He has the *love!*

He has all of those things ready to intervene on our behalf.

Verse 5: “Let your gentleness, kindness and considerateness be known and evidenced to all...”—within the church. I think that as far as our little congregation is concerned, that we come as close to this as anything that I have ever seen in all the years that I’ve been in the Church of God, and been a minister of God.

“...The Lord is near at hand (always ready to intervene on your behalf). **Don't be anxious, worried or overly concerned about anything...**” (vs 5-6). We live in a world where there is a lot of worry, a lot of care, a lot of fear. When you stop and think about it, how many of these worries and fears that you had really took place and became the worst that you ever thought of? *Probably not any of them!* This shows why we don’t need to worry.

- God is there!
- God will help!
- Christ will intervene!
- God will take care of us!

There are times when these things happen and occur to us that we’re just not prepared for. But God is watching out to take care of us.

I know that when I wrecked my car, I wasn’t expecting to. I was just trying to adjust the visor so I wouldn’t get the sun in my eyes and lo and behold the next thing I knew I was rolling over and my car was totaled out. There wasn’t anything I could do. There wasn’t anything I could say that I did. I know when I got out, I said, ‘O God, thank You for saving my stupidity!’ God even will even rescue us from our own stupidity.

That’s why we don’t need to worry about anything. When you get all anxious and worried and twitter-patting and fretting around, what you need to do is have *faith in God; have faith in Christ!* Here’s how to do it:

“...but in you do and every aspect of life, through prayer and entreaty with supplication and earnest beseeching, coupled with thanksgiving and gratitude from your heart, let your requests, petitions and causes be known to God” (v 6). God is there to intervene; God is there to help:

- regardless of how small
- regardless of how great
- regardless of how worrisome it may be
 - ✓ whether in the face of life, or in the face of death
 - ✓ whether in the face of joy, or in the face of sorrow

God is there to help in every way!

Let’s see the consistency of the writings of the Apostle Paul. Seeing the writings of the Apostle Paul I am amazed, though I’ve been a minister for many years, how everything just conforms to the writings of the Apostle Paul and how he was preaching consistently the same thing, the same attitude, the same encouragement.

1-Thessalonians 5:8: “But we who are of *the* day... [that’s us] ...should be sober, having put on *the breastplate of faith and love...* [notice how it comes back to faith, hope and love; constantly about the love of God] ...and *for* a helmet *the hope of salvation.*” There we have it: *faith, love and hope!*

Verse 9: “Because God has not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, Who died for us, so that whether we *remain alive until He comes* or we *fall asleep before that day...* [whether we live or die] ...together we may live *forever* with Him. Therefore, encourage one another, and edify one another, even as you are already doing” (vs 9-11). That’s what the whole thing concerning the Feast is all about.

Verse 12: “Now we beseech you, brethren, to acknowledge those who are laboring among you, and are overseeing you, and are instructing you in *the* Lord, and to greatly respect them in love for the sake of their work. Be at peace among yourselves. Now we encourage you, brethren, *to* admonish those who are irresponsible, console the fainthearted, support the weak, be patient toward everyone. See that no one renders evil for evil to anyone; but always be pursuing what is good, both toward one another and toward all *men*” (vs 12-15).

See how that fits right in with what we’ve been covering in Philippians and what we covered in Ephesians. You can take all the Epistles of Paul and line them up and study all these things, and it’s amazing how constant and consistent that Paul was in everything.

(go to the next track)

Let’s see how the follows right along in the same pattern and format that Paul wrote to the Philippians.

Verse 16: “**Rejoice always! Pray unceasingly**” (vs 16-17). Brethren, that is certainly something we need to really understand, know and do. This doesn’t mean to be praying every instant of every moment of every day. This means pray without interrupting every day. In other words, pray every day; constantly be praying and looking to God on a daily basis.

Don’t pray one day and then wait another 60 days and pray, and wait another 90 days and pray. NO! It means to *pray without ceasing!* Don’t be

giving up on prayer. That's the whole key, heart and core, of growing and overcoming. You and I know and have experienced that if we're not praying, if we're not yielding to God, then we bring many things upon ourselves that we really ought not be bringing upon ourselves, because we're not doing what we should.

Verse 18: "Give thanks in everything, for this *is the* will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.... [that you then have eternal life] ...Quench not the Spirit. Despise not prophecies.... [inspired preaching] ...Prove all things. Hold fast to *that which* is good. Abstain from every form of wickedness. Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you wholly; and may your entire spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ" (vs 18-23).

Again, there he was waiting for the return of Christ and thought that it would be just around the corner, so to speak.

Verse 24: "Faithful *is He* Who calls you, Who will also perform *it*. Brethren, pray for us" (vs 24-25). Brethren, let's do like it says here in Philippians and let's do what the Apostle Paul is admonishing us here, that 'in everything let our requests be made known to God.'

Philippians 4:7: "And the peace, harmony and tranquility of God, which surpasses and supercedes every aspect of human understanding... [There's nothing greater than this; there is nothing more important than this] ...**shall guard and watch over your hearts and minds, and protect your innermost being, even motivating your thoughts and attitudes of mind through Christ Jesus.**"

Let's see a couple of other Scriptures here that shows the kind of heart, mind and attitude that we need to have, as motivated by God's Holy Spirit.

1-Timothy 6:11—this is what Paul was admonishing Timothy, a minister of God to do; but this applies to every one of us as we grow in spiritual character, knowledge and understanding: "**But you, O man of God, flee these things...**" We're to abstain from all appearance of evil—right? Notice how this follows right along. I don't know what it would be to just coordinate all the writings of the Apostle Paul. It's just been amazing going through this series, to see how this really comes together.

"...and pursue **righteousness, Godliness, faith, love, endurance and meekness...** [after we have all of that, then he says]: ...**Fight the good fight of the faith!**..." (vs 11-12). There is a fight to faith; there is a war *to war*.

- We need the Spirit of the Lord, which is

the Word of God, to fight our battles!

- We need the helmet of salvation!
- We need the breastplate of righteousness!
- We need to be girded about with the Truth!
- We need to fight against Satan the devil!

That's what he's talking about here.

"...Take hold of eternal life to which you were also called, and did profess a good profession in the presence of many witnesses. I charge you in the sight of God, Who gives life to every *living* thing, and Jesus Christ, Who *in* testifying before Pontius Pilate gave the exemplary profession of *faith*, that you keep this commandment without fault *and* without rebuke until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ" (vs 12-14). *This is the whole goal that we need to continuously be doing!*

Here's how we are to do this; this is why we constantly have to go to God; constantly let the Word of God

- work in us
- stir us up
- lead us
- motivate us

with the power of God's Holy Spirit! When that spiritual fuel tank as it were gets down low, do this right here:

2-Timothy 1:6: "For this reason, I admonish you to stir up the gift of God that is in you by the laying on of my hands. For God has not given us a spirit of fear, **but of power, and of love, and of sound-mindedness**" (vs 6-7). That's what the whole book of Philippians is teaching us to do.

Here are some important things for us to realize and understand. We will notice how, when we go through several of these, we'll go back to the Psalms, the Proverbs and see exactly how all of these things are put together. That it is truly the Word of God all molded together.

Philippians 4:8: "Finally, brethren, as far as the other things are concerned, whatever things are true and honest, whatever things are honorable and right, whatever things are pure and Holy, whatever things are lovely and sweet, whatever things are of good report and commendable; if there be any virtue and character, if there be any reason of praise or ground of commendation, **consider and fill your minds with these things.**"

That's what's going to bring the peace of God. Not to fill our minds with trash; not to fill our minds with the things of this world; not to be hostile and bitter and all of those things that come with human nature. Let's see how we can do this right

here in the Proverbs just as a way of showing that the teachings of the Apostle Paul truly came from the Scriptures of the Bible, yes, even from those of the Old Testament.

Proverbs 3:1: “My son... [Are we not all to be the sons of God?] ...**do not forget my law**... [yet, people do that] ...but let your heart keep my commandments.” What is the whole New Covenant? *To have the laws and commandments of God inscribed into our heart and mind and inward parts!*

Verse 2: “For they shall add length of days, and long life... [God is not just offering length for this physical life, *He’s offering us eternal life!*] ...and peace, to you. Do not let mercy and truth forsake you... [never give yourself over to the evil; never give yourself over to the anger] ...bind them around your neck; write them upon the tablet of your heart... [As a man thinks in his heart, so he is. That’s exactly what we need to do.] ...and so you shall find favor and good understanding in the sight of God and man. Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not to your own understanding” (vs 2-5).

You and I know that when we lean to our own understanding that’s when we get into trouble; that’s when we have problems.

- We forget to pray!
- We forget to study!

or

- We avoid it and know that we should and don’t

Then we’re not trusting in God and we lean to our own understanding and VOILA! we’ve got a problem on our hands.

Verse 6: “In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.” Notice how much this is the same teaching that the Apostle Paul has in the book of Philippians. Isn’t it amazing! Absolutely amazing! What are you going to do to those people who say, ‘Well, we don’t need to follow the Old Testament, just the New Testament.’ What do you think the New Testament is based upon?

Proverbs 16:3—here’s an absolute promise; and this is what the Apostle Paul is talking about. He’s says:

- think on these things
- think on the things that are right
- think on the things that are honorable
- think on the things that are good and true

Proverbs 16:3: “Commit your works unto the LORD, **and your thoughts shall be established.**”

- There’s how to overcome a carnal mind!
- There’s how to put evil out of your mind!
- There’s how to put temptations away from you!

This also applies to us living in this generation, Psalm 37:1: “Do not fret yourself because of evildoers, and do not be envious against the workers of iniquity, for they shall soon be cut down like the grass... [God will take care of them in the long run.] ...and wither as the green herb. Trust in the LORD, and do good; dwell in the land, and cherish faithfulness. Delight yourself in the LORD, and He shall give you the desires of your heart” (vs 1-4).

- Do you want to be in the Kingdom of God? *Yes, you do!*
- Do you want to be there at the first resurrection? *Yes, you do!*
- Do I want to? *Absolutely!*
- Do we want all of us to be there and as many as possible in Christ? *Absolutely!*

God will give us the desire of our heart. That’s really something! When we put away lust, when we put away the things that we think and do and want to do, *and go God’s way*, it’s a whole lot better.

Verse 5: “Commit your way unto the LORD; trust also in Him, and He will bring it to pass. And He shall bring forth your righteousness like the light, and your judgment like the noonday. Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for Him; do not fret yourself because of him who prospers in his way; because of him who carries out wicked schemes. cease from anger, and forsake wrath; do not fret yourself, it leads only to evil, for evildoers shall be cut off, but those who wait upon the LORD, they shall inherit the earth” (vs 5-9).

Let’s see how these same kinds of attitudes, these same kinds of things that the Apostle Paul is writing are found throughout the entire Bible. Why? *Because it’s of the mind of God! It’s of the mind of Christ! It is of the Spirit of God to teach us His way!*

Philippians 4:9: “And what you have learned and understood, and received and heard, even seen and observed in me (in my conduct of life in Christ), these things be doing and practicing; that is, always be occupying yourselves with these character traits and attitudes of Christ: **and the God of peace, harmony and tranquility shall be with you.**” That sounds just like it came from Psa. 37 and Prov. 3.

Let’s notice how this carries on again in Romans 16. We will see the encouragement and admonition of the Apostle Paul and for his great and tremendous loving power and uplifting inspiration to constantly point us toward God; to constantly point

us toward the goal of attaining the Kingdom of God.

Romans 16:25: “Now to Him who has the power to establish you...” That’s the thing to understand and realize.

- It is God Who is going to establish us!
- It is through the power of His Holy Spirit that we overcome!
- It is through His goodness and Word and Truth that we go ahead!

“...according to my Gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to *the* revelation of *the* mystery that in past ages has been kept secret” (v 25).

What a tremendous thing it is that we have the understanding of the mystery of God; that we are going to be the sons of God; that we are going to be like Him. There are a many false doctrines out there in the world, which pretend to show people how to have salvation. But this is the mystery of God, *which has been kept secret since the world began, until Christ came.*

Verse 26: “But now *is* made manifest, and by *the* prophetic Scriptures, according to the commandment of the eternal God, has been made known to all the nations unto *the* obedience of faith.” See how that fits right in with Philippians? I’ve gotten a lot out of the book of Philippians and I hope that you have, too.

Philippians 4:10: “But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, beyond measure, that now at length you have revived and rekindled your thoughtfulness on my behalf...” This is the only church that communicated with the Apostle Paul that sent offerings, that sent money. There are some people who ‘pooh-pooh’ tithing. Let them go ahead and discount tithing if they want to. If you say we’re to serve in the spirit and not in the letter, then whatever you give ought to be above and beyond tithing. These people were the only ones who did.

Paul admitted that he should have taken things from the Corinthians, but he wanted to show them that it wouldn’t be any charge to them. What happened? *The Church at Corinth was the worst possible church around!*

Just like human beings when you don’t have your treasure and your heart in the same place, it’s going to go just miserable. That’s what happened to the Church at Corinth. Here’s the little church at Philippi that took care of the things sent to Paul. They didn’t have opportunity for a time because they didn’t know where he was. But as soon as they knew, they sent it to him. He says concerning that:

“...for although you may have been thinking

of me in the meantime, you were lacking the opportunity to express your care towards me. Not that I am speaking out of anxious concern for my personal needs; because I have learned by experience, that in whatever circumstances I may be, to be content and satisfied (not complaining or griping about my condition)” (vs 10-11).

We have to learn that same lesson, brethren. Whatever our circumstances, whatever it may be, to be satisfied therewith at the moment or time. Maybe we can do something with God’s blessing and intervention to be able to change those circumstances, fine, no problem with that.

Verse 12: “But I know from experience how to be abased and brought low in humiliation, and know from experience how to abound, being blessed with abundance; so then, in every place and in all circumstances I have learned to accept and endure both extremes; to be full and satiated, to hunger and to go without; even to abound to the fullest, and to be deficient and destitute.” *The Apostle Paul knew! He understood!*

Let’s see how the Apostle Paul looked upon the physical things around him; what he was looking to; how he was able to endure that. Think about our own circumstances. I think about mine, and I know that if I don’t have my own pillow I don’t sleep well and I get upset. Guess what the Apostle Paul would tell me. ‘Now, Fred, that’s really not very smart. You’ve got to learn to get along whatever your circumstances are.’ This is what the Apostle Paul constantly knew and taught:

2-Corinthians 4:14: “Knowing that He Who raised the Lord Jesus *from the dead* shall also raise us through Jesus, and shall present *us* with you. For all things *are* for your sakes, so that the abounding grace may cause the thanksgiving of many to overflow unto the glory of God” (vs 14-15).

The whole riches of the abundance of God through grace are what he was focusing on. If he had the physical things, fine. If he didn’t have the physical things, that’s the way it may be. We just accept it for what it is, and thank God for what we have.

Verse 16: “For this reason, we do not lose heart; but if our outward man is being brought to decay, yet, the inward *man* is being renewed day-by-day.” How did Paul look at these times of depravation when he was without?

Verse 17: “For the momentary lightness of our tribulation is working out for us an immeasurably greater *and* everlasting fullness of glory.” God is going to know! God understands! When he makes up those jewels for your crown

they're going to be there because of this loving and kind attitude.

Verse 18: "While we consider not the things *that are* seen, but the things *that are* not seen. For the things *that are* seen *are* temporary; but the things *that are* not seen *are* eternal."

That's how he was able here, as we find in Philippi. 4, to abound and be abased and enjoy the best, to endure the worst, to always think of the love of God and Christ continuously.

Philippians 4:13: "**I can do all things in every circumstance through Christ...** [regardless of what it is, *God is with us*] ...who strengthens and energizes me with His own dynamic power." That's what we need to look to, brethren, in everything!

Let's see how even David understood this. It is the Spirit of Christ in us that constantly makes this possible. That constantly gives us:

- this love
- this kind of attitude
- this kind of thinking
- this kind of looking forward to
 - ✓ to enjoy
 - ✓ to endure
 - ✓ to grow
 - ✓ to change
 - ✓ to overcome
 - ✓ to do all things in every circumstance through Christ *in us*

Psalms 145:1: "I will extol You, my God, O King; and I will bless Your name forever and ever. Every day I will bless You; and I will praise Your name forever and ever. Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; and His greatness is unsearchable" (vs 1-3).

That's a tremendous and wonderful thing! Just think of the attitude toward God! Just think of your attitude that you can have in growing in grace and knowledge and all of these sort of things.

Verse 8: The LORD is gracious and full of compassion; slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. The LORD is good to all, and His tender mercies are over all His works" (vs 8-9). See how closely this fits in with what Paul was writing and our attitude, circumstances and the things that we have, or the things that we don't have, to be able to accept everything that comes along but never be satisfied with anything that any one given moment, because there's eternal life in calling of God we're working for.

Verse 10: "All Your works shall praise You, O LORD; and Your saints shall bless You. They

shall speak of the glory of Your kingdom and talk of Your power, to make known to the sons of men His mighty acts, and the glorious majesty of His kingdom. Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and Your dominion endures throughout all generations" (vs 10-13).

Tremendous, brethren! Absolutely wonderful!

Verse 17: "The LORD is righteous in all His ways and loving in all His works. The LORD is near unto all who call upon Him, unto all who call upon Him in Truth. He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him..." (vs 17-19).

Was this not being fulfilled in Paul's life, by the very people of the Church in Philippi to provide those things for him; that he can have an opportunity to preach the Gospel? *Yes, it is!*

"...He also will hear their cry, and will save them. The LORD watches over all who love Him, but all the wicked He will destroy. My mouth shall speak the praise of the LORD, and let all flesh bless His Holy name forever and ever" (vs 19-21).

This is what we are going to teach people to do all during the Millennium. Just think of the tremendous things that we can bring to this whole world. The world is going to be covered with the knowledge of God as the oceans now cover the world. That is one of the most wonderful things we can think of, one of the greatest and best thoughts that we can have with the love of God.

Philippians 4:14: "Moreover, you have performed well, in actively sympathizing with me in my suffering and tribulation (by your help and gift). And you also know, O Philippians, that in the beginning of the preaching of the glad tidings of the Gospel (to Greece). When I departed from Macedonia, not a single church had fellowship and communication with me..." (vs 14-15).

The Apostle Paul was truly a lonely, rejected man, *even by his own churches!* That's something to really think upon what the Apostle Paul endured.

"...nor concern towards me, with regard to an account of giving and sharing, or of collecting and distributing (the things necessary to assist in the preaching of the Gospel), except you; you were the only ones. Because even in Thessalonica you sent both once, and twice, for my necessities. Not that I am seeking or striving for a gift... [he's not asking and begging for money] ...rather, I am seeking and striving for the spiritual fruit (that spiritually mature Christian character)... [that's what he wants] ...that may abound to overflowing in your behalf and on your account" (vs 15-17).

What he's really saying is that if you take care of the spiritual things in love and understanding then you're going to be helping the ministry that is helping and serving you.

Verse 18: "But I have everything (all things physically and spiritually), and abound, over and above all expectation; I am fully satiated, having received from Epaphroditus the things from you, even as an odor of a sweet-smelling savor, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing and wholly gratifying to God. But my God will fill to the full all your needs and desires, with those rich benefits, those abundant blessings which flow from God, according to His richness and opulent abundance in the magnificent splendor and glory in Christ Jesus" (vs 18-19).

In other words, the gift of eternal life with a spirit body, spirit mind, living in the Kingdom of God forever and ever is the ultimate blessing and reward that God is going to give.

Verse 20: "But to our God and Father belongs the magnificent splendor and radiant glory throughout the ages of eternity. AMEN." A mighty and powerful epistle that the Apostle Paul wrote to the Philippians.

Verse 21: "Salute and greet every saint, those Holy consecrated ones in Christ Jesus. The brethren with me salute and greet you. All the saints salute and greet you, especially those of Caesar's household. The grace, Divine favor and blessing (God's generous gift) of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen" (vs 21-23).

This was written to the Philippians from Rome! Quite a wonderful and tremendous epistle, brethren!

Quite a wonderful time to study and to take these six days of the Feast of Tabernacles to study every aspect of the whole book of Philippians for:

- that love
- that Truth
- that encouragement
- for the uplifting of God's ways

As the Feast of Tabernacles pictures the fullness and abundance of God for all mankind in the Millennium, so the book of Philippians pictures the fullness and richness of the Spirit of God toward us who believe.

Scriptures in Philippians from *The Epistle of the Apostle Paul to the Philippians, An Inspirational Bible Study; A New Expanded Amplified Translation* by Fred R. Coulter

All Scriptures from *The Holy Bible in Its Original Order, A Faithful Version* by Fred R. Coulter

Scriptural References:

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- 2) Matthew 5:17-20
- 3) Romans 4:21-22
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- 6) 2 Corinthians 5:21
- 7) Philippians 3:10-21
- 8) 1 John 3:1-3
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- 20) Proverbs 3:1-6
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Also referenced: Sermon Series: *Epistle to the Ephesians*

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