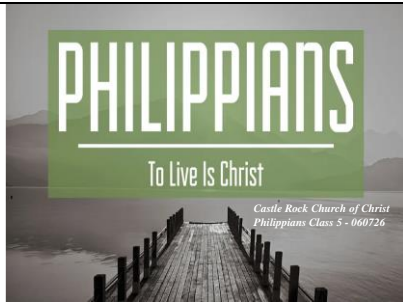


Slide 1



**Welcome to the 5<sup>th</sup> class meeting on Paul's Letter to the Philippians.**

Slide 2



Slide 3



Slide 4



Slide 5



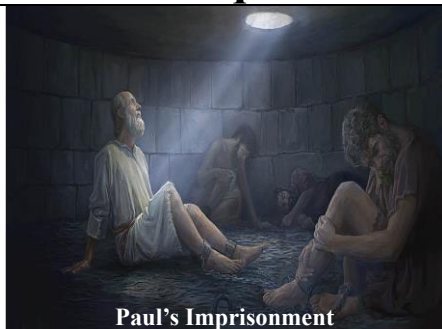
**As I've said every week, I view Philippians as the User Manual for the Church. Studying this letter will teach us what kind of people we need to be in the Body of Christ, His Church..**

**Slide 6**

Review

Let's do a quick review on where we are in the story.

**Slide 7**



The Philippians had received news that Paul was in Roman custody. Exactly where is open to question for some people. I discounted the traditional view proposed by J.B. Lightfoot that Paul was imprisoned in Rome. While many scholars today still hold to this view, others disagree with Lightfoot's analysis.

In response to the news about Paul, the Philippian church dispatched Epaphroditus to minister to Paul's needs in prison.

**Slide 8**

The text doesn't tell us about how Epaphroditus reacted when encountered Paul, but at the very least I would say Paul's answer was unexpected.

Philippians 1:12 Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that *what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel.*

## Slide 8

•Paul's Amazing Spiritual Perspective (Phil 1:12-21)  
•Temporary Confusion About Mission (Phil 1:22)  
•Living in a Manner Worthy of the Gospel (Phil 1:27)  
•Suffering in the Service of Christ (Phil 1:28-30)

- **Paul's Amazing Spiritual Perspective (Phil 1:12-21)**
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## Slide 9

Paul's Amazing Spiritual Perspective  
(Phil 1:12-21)

## Slide 10

Paul's Amazing Spiritual Perspective:  
An Unexpected Answer

Philippians 1:12 Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that *what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel.*

**Paul's Amazing Spiritual Perspective:  
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## Slide 11

- Paul's Amazing Spiritual Perspective (Phil 1:12-21)
- Paul did not allow circumstances beyond his control to dictate his attitude
  - Circumstances in Prison
    - Limits on Freedom
    - Isolation
    - Austere Surroundings
    - Cell mates

### **Paul's Amazing Spiritual Perspective (Phil 1:12-21)**

**Paul did not allow circumstances beyond his control to dictate his attitude**

- **Circumstances in Prison**
  - **Limits on Freedom**
  - **Isolation**
  - **Austere Surroundings**
  - **Cell mates**

## Slide 12

- Paul's Amazing Spiritual Perspective (Phil 1:12-21)
- Paul did not allow circumstances beyond his control to dictate his attitude
  - Circumstances in Mission – the Dishonest Preachers in the Extension Ministry Were not Something Paul Could Control
  - Paul chose to emphasize the positive that the Gospel was being preached



### **Paul's Amazing Spiritual Perspective (Phil 1:12-21)**

- **Paul did not allow circumstances beyond his control to dictate his attitude**
  - **Circumstances in Mission – the Dishonest Preachers in the Extension Ministry Were not Something Paul Could Control**
  - **Paul chose to emphasize the positive that the Gospel was being preached**

**Slide  
13**

Philippians 1:18 But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice. Yes, and I will continue to rejoice,



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**Slide  
14**

Philippians 1:19 *for I know* that through your prayers and God's provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance. <sup>20</sup> I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. <sup>21</sup> *For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.*

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**Slide  
15**

Philippians 1:21 *For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.*

- I've breezed by this verse many times and it never dawned on me to ask this question.
- What did Paul mean when he wrote this?
- Did he mean that he wanted the readers of this letter to adopt this same attitude?

**Philippians 1:21 *For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.***

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  - **What did Paul mean when he wrote this?**
  - **Did he mean that he wanted the readers of this letter to adopt this same attitude?**

## Slide 16

Philippians 1:21 *For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.*

- What did this verse mean to Paul?
- Circumstances didn't matter, because Paul knew exactly where he was headed in life and he was 100% confident he was gonna get there.
- Notice the first two words in this verse "**For me**"
- It was his choice.
- Paul was guided by this perspective and he wanted everyone else to adopt this same perspective.

**Philippians 1:21** *For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.*

- **What did this verse mean to Paul?**
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- **Notice the first two words in this verse "For me"**
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- **everyone else to adopt this same perspective.**

Slide  
17

Philippians 1:21 *For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.*

- How do I know that Paul felt this way?
- In Philippians 3:17 he writes, “*Imitate my example as I follow Christ.*”
- Paul told the Corinthians the same thing in I Corinthians 11:1 he writes “**Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.**”
- Paul’s identity and purpose in life was anchored in Jesus Christ.
- Paul’s destiny was sure and unshakable because of Jesus Christ.

Slide  
18

Temporary Confusion About Mission?  
(Phil 1:22)

**Slide  
19**

**Philippians 1:22** If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. *Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! 23 I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; 24 but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body.*

**25** Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, **26** so that through my being with you again your boasting in Christ Jesus will abound on account of me.

**Slide  
20**

**•Living in a Manner Worthy of the Gospel  
(Phil 1:27)**

**Slide  
21**

**Philippians 1:27 Whatever happens, *conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ.***

**Slide  
22**



**Slide  
23**

**Notes from Dr Black, Professor of New Testament Greek at Southeastern Seminary**

•Philippians 1:27-30 constitutes a single sentence in Greek containing a single verb, the first command in the entire letter – *Live as good citizens*

•The command - *Live as good citizens* is the most prominent point of the paragraph and is linked to an occurrence of the noun form of this same verb in Phil 3:20.

•This idea of citizenship in verse 1:27 and 3:20 becomes the conceptual foundation to Paul's whole argument - His plea for unity in the church.

**Slide  
24**

•Paul uses the Greek language to emphasize a critically important point to his argument.

•Out of 56 different English translations only six translate this word that gets to its true meaning:

- NIV & NASB – Conduct yourselves in a worth manner*
- KJV – let your conversation be as it becometh*
- NET – Only conduct yourselves in a worthy manner*
- ESV – Let your manner of life be worthy*
- RSV – Only let your manner of life be worthy*

**Slide  
25**

*•Paul is telling us to live as citizens of heaven,(NLT)*

**Slide  
26**

**Philippians 1:27b** <sup>27b</sup>Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, *I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel*

**Slide  
27**

- Many scholars believe that Paul shifts to using military language here in verse 27.
- The Roman Army was successful because of battle tactics over centuries of conquest.
- One standard tactic was using a shield wall before the enemy.
  - Each soldier would hold his shield in his left hand and his sword in his right hand.

**Slide  
28**

- The forward line would stand shoulder to shoulder so the shields would form a solid wall to the enemy
- If a soldier in line stumbled or fell, the soldier behind would step into the gap created by his fallen comrade filling the gap in the line.
- The Roman Army over the years developed this tactic with deadly accuracy.

**Slide  
29**

- Paul uses this imagery to show how each church member stands shoulder to shoulder in unity with each member
- Visualize how this could apply within the body of Christ as we face opposition from the world.

**Slide  
30**

Suffering in the Service of Christ  
(Phil 1:28-30)

**Slide  
31**

"At least some of the Philippian Christians may have also been Roman citizens who took their citizenship very seriously (most of inscriptions discovered at Philippi are in Latin instead of Greek). Paul's language in this section the Letter gives special prominence to his admonition about changes in their relationship to the Old Roman order.

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**Slide  
32**

Thus, it is out of their cultural background that the Philippian readers are challenged to live as those who now have a vastly more significant citizenship.

***Thus, it is out of their cultural background that the Philippian readers are challenged to live as those who now have a vastly more significant citizenship.***

<p><b>Slide 33</b></p>	<p><i>Paul reminds the Philippians of the new matrix of their existence in Christ that provides them <u>with their identity as a new and different community</u> in the midst of the Roman colony.</i></p> <p><b><i>Paul reminds the Philippians of the new matrix of their existence in Christ that provides them <u>with their identity as a new and different community</u> in the midst of the Roman colony.</i></b></p>
<p><b>Slide 34</b></p>	<p><i>They are now citizens of a new order of being whose reality will endure while Rome's will crumble. Their role while living in the midst of this old Roman order is to live as best they can as worthy citizens of the new order.</i></p> <p><b><i>They are now citizens of a new order of being whose reality will endure while Rome's will crumble. Their role while living in the midst of this old Roman order is to live as best they can as worthy citizens of the new order.</i></b></p>
<p><b>Slide 35</b></p>	<p><i>Philippians 1:28 <sup>28</sup> without being <i>frightened in any way by those who oppose you</i>. This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved—and that by God. <sup>29</sup> <i>For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him,</i> <sup>30</sup> <i>since you are going through the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have.</i></i></p> <p><b><i>Philippians 1:28 <sup>28</sup> without being <i>frightened in any way by those who oppose you</i>. This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved—and that by God. <sup>29</sup> <i>For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him,</i> <sup>30</sup> <i>since you are going through the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have.</i></i></b></p>
<p><b>Slide 36</b></p>	<p><i>*Think about how your allegiances to the old order must change as you adopted the behavior and practices of the Christian life (the new order). *As you learn these new practices &amp; attitudes in the Christian life, they will come in direct conflict with the demands old order.</i></p> <p><b><i>Think about how your allegiances to the old order must change as you adopted the behavior and practices of the Christian life (the new order).</i></b></p> <p><b><i>As you learn these new practices &amp; attitudes in the Christian life, they will come in direct conflict with the demands old order.</i></b></p>

<p><b>Slide 37</b></p>	<p>Philippians 1:28 without being <i>frightened in any way by those who oppose you.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•After Paul left Philippi at the end of Acts 16, the congregation was composed of new Christians who were just beginning in the faith.</li><li>•The members were with faced variety of negative reaction from friends and culture when they refused to participate in pagan practices.</li></ul> <p><b>Philippians 1:28</b> without being <i>frightened in any way by those who oppose you.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>After Paul left Philippi at the end of Acts 16, the congregation was composed of new Christians who were just beginning in the faith.</b></li><li>• <b>The members faced variety of negative reaction from friends and culture when they refused to participate in pagan practices.</b></li></ul>
<p><b>Slide 38</b></p>	<p>Philippians 1:28 without being <i>frightened in any way by those who oppose you.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Some life changes may have been overlooked, but non-participation in Emperor Cult brought them increasing amounts of punishments because it was considered a civic duty.</li><li>•The worship involved taking a pinch of incense between two fingers and throwing into the flame on an altar.</li><li>•In Asia Minor where the emperor cult was strongest, in later decades refusal brought the death penalty.</li></ul> <p><b>Philippians 1:28</b> without being <i>frightened in any way by those who oppose you.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Some life changes may have been overlooked, but non-participation in Emperor Cult brought them increasing amounts of punishments because it was considered a civic duty.</b></li><li>• <b>The worship involved taking a pinch of incense between two fingers and throwing into the flame on an altar.</b></li><li>• <b>In Asia Minor where the emperor cult was strongest, in later decades refusal brought the death penalty.</b></li></ul>
<p><b>Slide 39</b></p>	<p>End</p>