

“Philippians is a book on the experience of Christ, and along with the experience of Christ there is the preaching of the gospel. This book tells us clearly that the preaching of the gospel is a matter of fellowship. In fellowship, the most needful thing is the harmony. You can never play good music on the piano if all the keys are not in harmony. In order to work together shoulder to shoulder there must be harmony. Someone may be an extraordinary ball player, but he is useless if he does not stay in harmony with the team; he even becomes a damage to the team.

“There is the need of real harmony, especially in preaching the gospel. The more tender and delicate something is, the more it needs harmony. We especially need harmony in the things of the spirit, because the spirit is tender and delicate. The church life, the Body life, is something in the spirit. Do not think that the preaching of the gospel is merely a kind of activity to be carried out in a rough, crude way. We cannot preach in this way. Rather, preaching the gospel is a matter in the spirit. We must have the tender harmony, not only in one spirit, but also with one mind and soul.”

(Witness Lee, Preaching the Gospel in the Way of Life, Chapt. 8, pp. 98-99)

Prayer Burdens

1. Please pray for the young people's event this Saturday. This is the first of many young people's events in which the young people from the area will come together. Already many of the young people have invited their friends to join us for this time. Please pray that Salvation would reach these friends and that the young people themselves would be encouraged to continue to be bold in the gospel.
2. On the weekend of October 6th through 9th (Canadian Thanksgiving) there will be both English and Chinese-speaking conferences held in Toronto and Montreal. Pray for the rich presence of Christ in each gathering. Pray also for the strengthening of the churches during these times.

Announcements:

General

1. **Hospitality for Thanksgiving Conference in Toronto**
For those who wish to extend hospitality to the out of town guests please contact your respective service office or Del Martin at 416-227-1503.

Meeting Schedule

1. **Thanksgiving Conference in Toronto**
The English-speaking Canadian Thanksgiving Conference for Eastern Canada will be held in Toronto starting Saturday, Oct. 7th at 4:00 PM and ending on the Lord's Day at 6:00 PM. On Saturday night, dinner will be provided for everyone attending the conference.
2. **Canadian Thanksgiving Conference in Montreal**
The Chinese-speaking Canadian Thanksgiving Conference for Eastern Canada will be held in Montreal starting on Oct. 7th at 7:00 PM and ending on Oct. 9th at 12:00 noon.

Morning Revival

1. **Oct 2 to Oct 14th Morning Revival**
The English-speaking morning revival will be on Philippians Week 4.
2. **Chinese Speaking Morning Revival**
The Chinese-speaking morning revival will be on Chapter 3 of the Life-Study of the Epistle to the Philippians (Week 3 complementary reading material). It can also be downloaded from the church's Chinese-speaking website at www.churchintoronto.net.

Book Room

1. **Simplified Chinese Recovery Version Edition**
The simplified Chinese Recovery Version of the Old Testament with footnotes (leather bound) is now available for pre-order at the pre-payment price of \$45.00 each.

The church in Toronto

Philippians Week 4

Oct 2 - 14, 2006

Living Christ to Magnify Him (2) — Fellowship for the Furtherance of the Gospel (2)

Weekly Bible Reading:

Philippians 1:12-18

Hymns:

51; 817; 871; 881

Monday

Verses for Morning Revival

Philippians 1:8, 10b-11

- 8** ...I long after you all **in the inward parts of Christ Jesus.**
- 10** ...you may be pure and without offense **unto the day of Christ,**
- 11** Being filled with the fruit of righteousness, which is **through Jesus Christ,** to the glory and praise of God.

Philippians 3:8-10

- 8** But moreover I also count all things to be loss on account of the excellency of **the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord,** on account of whom I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as refuse that I may gain Christ
- 9** And **be found in Him,** not having my own righteousness which is out of the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is out of God and based on faith,
- 10** **To know Him** and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,

Readings for Inspiration and Truth

The Experience of Christ is the Master Key which Opens the Book of Philippians to Us

“In reading the book of Philippians, we need to remember that the experience of Christ is the subject and main emphasis of this book. The controlling factor enabling us to understand Philippians is the experience of Christ. Every aspect of the book is governed by this subject. This is the reason we say that the experience of Christ is the master key which opens the book of Philippians to us. If we apply this key to every verse and phrase in the book, we shall see that Paul's concern here is nothing other than the experience of Christ. For example, in suffering for the gospel we may enjoy grace. To enjoy grace is to experience Christ. In Philippians 3 Paul speaks not of grace, but of the power of Christ's resurrection. However, the power of resurrection in chapter three is the very grace in chapter one. Furthermore, to enter into the fellowship of Christ's sufferings is to suffer for the gospel. This indicates that even in suffering for the sake of the gospel, we need to experience Christ. Although Paul uses many different terms in this book, **his subject is one—the experience of Christ.** Therefore, if we wish to understand Philippians, we need to read it in light of the fact that its subject is the experience of Christ.”

Tuesday

Verses for Morning Revival

Philippians 1:12-13

12 Now I want you to know, brothers, that the things concerning me have turned out rather to the advancement of the gospel,

13 So that my bonds have become manifest as being in Christ among the whole Praetorian guard and to all the rest.

1 Corinthians 9:23

23 And I do all things for the sake of the gospel that I may become a fellow partaker of it.

Readings for Inspiration and Truth

Preaching Christ for the Advancement of the Gospel

“Concerning the gospel, Paul uses in Philippians several significant terms: ‘fellowship unto the gospel’ (1:5), ‘the defense and confirmation of the gospel’ (1:7), ‘the advancement of the gospel’ (1:12), ‘the faith of the gospel’ (1:27). We all need to have a clear understanding of these aspects of the gospel and not take them for granted. Whenever we read these expressions in Philippians, there should be a deep response within us.

“Christians often speak of preaching the gospel; however, seldom do we hear believers talk of having fellowship in the gospel or unto the gospel. Even we ourselves are not very familiar with this term or accustomed to using it. The term ‘fellowship unto the gospel’ may seem like an utterance in a foreign language. This indicates that we are still under the influence of our religious background, not adequately familiar with Paul’s terminology concerning the gospel. Let us learn to use Paul’s language with respect to the gospel. Let us speak of the fellowship of the gospel, the defense of the gospel, the confirmation of the gospel, the advancement of the gospel, and the faith of the gospel.

“When many Christians preach the gospel today, they do not do so in the way of the fellowship of the gospel. They are not engaged in the defense of the gospel, and they do not exercise for the confirmation of the gospel. Their preaching may not lead to the advancement of the gospel, and they may not even have an adequate understanding of the faith of the gospel. For this reason, there are different ways of preaching Christ. Paul’s preaching of Christ included fellowship, defense, confirmation, advancement, and faith. But when the Judaistic believers preached Christ, they preached Him in an altogether different way. Instead of preaching Christ in the way of fellowship, they preached Him because of envy. Instead of preaching Christ in a way to defend the gospel, they did so because of strife. Yes, the Judaistic believers did preach Christ, but their preaching was not for the confirmation of the gospel. On the contrary, they preached Christ out of rivalry, out of faction and selfish ambition. Instead of all the positive aspects of the gospel, there were envy, strife, and rivalry. Such a preaching of the gospel did not cause the advancement of the gospel.

“In principle, today’s situation is the same as the situation in Paul’s time. Many are preaching Christ, but in this preaching we can discern envy, strife, and rivalry in place of fellowship, defense, confirmation, advancement, and faith. Therefore, we need to adopt Paul’s vocabulary concerning the gospel and in a proper way, with humility and

(Acts 3:6-7). Later when Peter went up to a housetop to keep his prayer time, he received a vision of whom he had to visit (10:19-20) and of what he had to speak to them (10:15, 28, 33-43). I can testify that when we pray, we receive a vision concerning those whom God has selected. If we pray, we will get a vision of whom we should visit and of what we should say to them.

“Acts 4 shows that the subtle enemy of God hates our preaching and our speaking of Christ. While Peter was speaking to the people after the lame man was healed, the Sanhedrin arrested, threatened, and charged him and John not to speak anything in the name of Jesus (vv. 17-18). After Peter and John were released by the Sanhedrin, they reported to the saints what the chief priest and the elders had said to them (v. 23). Then the church prayed in one accord and ‘they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and spoke the word of God with boldness’ (vv. 24, 31).

“In an effort to stop the bold preaching of the apostles, the Sanhedrin arrested them again and threw them into prison (Acts 5:17-18). But the Lord came to the imprisoned apostles and said, “Go and stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this life” (5:20). In this verse, the words “this life” mean the life that can never be bound. The Jewish religionists bound the apostles and put them into prison to stop their speaking. Their efforts were useless, however, because the apostles had a life that could never be bound. We have to tell people about the life that can never be bound. The opposition means nothing. We must go and speak. Eventually, the Bible says that the disciples filled Jerusalem with the word of their teaching (5:28). I hope that all the college campuses will soon be filled up with our teaching.”

(*ibid.*, Chpt. 2, pp. 19-21)

Note: Bold type and/or underlining have been added for emphasis in the above verses and quotations.

Suggested Supplementary Reading

The Holy Word for Morning Revival— Philippians: Week 1, Days 5-6

Preaching the Gospel in the Way of Life, Chapters 1-2, 8

The Life-study of Philippians, Messages 3-4

Our Experience in the Church Life

Never Estimating the Result of Our Preaching

“No one can tell what the real result of our gospel preaching will be. The brothers and sisters throughout the centuries who did much work of preaching eventually learned one thing. At first, they liked to estimate, to reckon, what kind of result their work would have, but after going on with the Lord for twenty, thirty, or forty years, they eventually came to the point that they would no longer estimate. This is because the results of our work cannot be clear to us. Strictly speaking, we can never know the result of our work.”

Being in One Spirit and With One Soul with the Brothers and the Sisters

“We must learn always to be in one spirit and with one soul with the brothers and sisters. To have one soul, to be joined in soul, and to be like-souled are repeated several times in Philippians (1:27; 2:2, 20). Chapter four speaks of two sisters, Euodias and Syntyche. These two were good sisters, but they had a problem. They were not in one spirit and with one mind. Paul told them to think the same thing in the Lord (v. 2).

Acts 1:8, 12-14a

- 8** But **you shall receive power** when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, and **you shall be My witnesses** both in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and unto the uttermost part of the earth.
- 12** Then they returned to Jerusalem...
- 13** ...they went up to the upper room where they were residing...
- 14a** **These all continued steadfastly with one accord in prayer, together...**

Acts 10:9b

- 9** ...Peter went up on the housetop to pray around the sixth hour.

Acts 5:20

- 20** Go and stand...and **speak to the people all the words of this life.**

Readings for Inspiration and Truth

Fighting the Gospel Battle — with Prayer and the Word

The Example Seen in the Book of Acts

“The book of Acts tells us that after the Lord’s resurrection, He remained with the disciples for forty days (1:3). Then the Lord ascended into heaven (1:9; Luke 24:51). Before the Lord departed, He instructed them to wait in Jerusalem until they received the outpouring of the Spirit on the day of Pentecost (Acts 1:4; Luke 24:49). Following the Lord’s ascension to the heavens, the disciples were left to wait in Jerusalem for the Spirit’s outpouring without any apparent help under the constant threat of persecution. During this waiting period, all the disciples could do was pray (Acts 1:14).

“No doubt, they prayed for the baptism in the Holy Spirit, but I also believe that they offered much prayer for the preaching of the gospel. The Spirit was poured out upon them for the purpose of preaching the gospel in a prevailing way. Before they preached, they prayed. They were not involved in discussions and plans about how to preach the gospel; they just prayed for ten days. In the Bible the number ten represents fullness or completion, especially as it relates to man. The disciples fulfilled their responsibility by praying in a complete way. From the time of the Lord’s ascension to the day of Pentecost, when the Spirit was poured out, about a hundred twenty disciples prayed in one accord for ten full days (Acts 1:14-15). Then they preached the gospel on the day of Pentecost in a very prevailing way.

“In the Scripture reading verses at the beginning of this chapter, two things are mainly covered—praying and preaching the word. On the day of Pentecost, the Spirit came upon the disciples after much prayer and they were filled with the Spirit to speak the word of God. They prayed and they spoke. Even after the day of Pentecost, the disciples continued to pray and preach the word.

“Acts 3:1 says that Peter and John went to pray at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. The ninth hour is equivalent to 3 p.m. In Acts 10 Peter went to pray at the sixth hour, which is equivalent to noontime, prior to his receiving of the vision to go to the house of Cornelius (v. 9). These verses show that Peter and John still kept the practice of praying during the Jewish hour of prayer. According to the New Testament, we should drop the Sabbath and other Jewish rituals (Col. 2:14-17), but we should not drop the prayer hour. The Lord honored the prayer of Peter and John. When Peter and John went to the temple at the hour of prayer, the Lord honored their going with a miracle

love, share this with other believers who are open to us. Perhaps the Lord will give many of the young people an opportunity to share with their parents what Paul meant by fellowship unto the gospel and by the defense and confirmation of the gospel.”

We Need to Use the Vocabulary of the Bible in Our Conversation

“The Bible is deep and profound, and we should not be content with a superficial understanding of it. In seeking to know the Bible, we care for the pure Word, not for the centuries of tradition or for the opinions of church councils. We need to learn to dig into the depths of the Word, pursuing the right meaning of the different words, terms, and expressions. Then we need to use the vocabulary of the Bible in our conversation. We do not care for tradition or for man’s systematic theology. We care only for God’s holy Word.”

(ibid., pp. 34-35)

Wednesday

Verses for Morning Revival

Philippians 1:14

- 14** And most of the brothers, being confident in the Lord because of my bonds, are more exceedingly bold to speak the word of God without fear.

1 Thessalonians 2:2

- 2** But having suffered previously and having been outrageously treated, even as you know, in Philippi, we were bold in our God to speak to you the gospel of God in much struggle.

Philippians 2:15-16a

- 15** ...you may be blameless and guileless, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverted generation, among whom you shine as luminaries in the world,
- 16** Holding forth the word of life...

Readings for Inspiration and Truth

Mark 7:5-9

“And the Pharisees and the scribes questioned Him, Why do Your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat bread with common hands? And He said to them, Well has Isaiah prophesied concerning you hypocrites, as it is written, ‘This people honors Me with their lips, but their heart stays far away from Me; but in vain do they worship Me, teaching as teachings the commandments of men.’ While leaving the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men. And He said to them, You nicely set aside the commandment of God that you may keep your tradition.”

Healthy Preaching — Based Upon a True Understanding of the Word of God

“If we become familiar with Paul’s terminology regarding the gospel, we shall see that many of the different teachings of the gospel today are very shallow. There have been certain preachers and teachers who have discovered some of the treasures in God’s Word. But many of those who followed them neglected these riches, often placing more value on a certain traditional theological background than on a true understanding of the Word of God. We in the Lord’s recovery should not be satisfied with a shallow preaching of the gospel; we must come back to the Bible and dig into the riches contained in it. We thank the Lord that, in His mercy, we in the recovery are enjoying these riches.

"Much of today's preaching is not healthy. In this preaching something is presented to the people, but it is not healthy food. Rather, it is sweet and sugarcoated, pleasant tasting, but lacking in nourishment. We must be able to discern between such preaching and the preaching of Christ according to God's economy."

A Proper Example — the Raising up of the Churches in South America

"If we have the fellowship unto the gospel, the defense and confirmation of the gospel, and the advancement of the gospel, our preaching of the gospel will be healthy. The proper preaching of the gospel is safeguarded by these matters. The raising up of churches in South America illustrates this principle. In 1959 some brothers moved to Brazil with a burden for the spread of the Lord's recovery. During the first ten years these brothers faced much suffering. But during the next eleven years more than fifty churches were raised up in different countries. A certain brother who has taken the lead in this matter is not a gifted speaker. But because his preaching is in the fellowship unto the gospel, with the advancement of the gospel, and for the defense and confirmation of the gospel, the Lord has used him in raising up these churches. We praise the Lord for what He has done in South America through the proper, healthy preaching of the gospel! May we all learn to discern the different ways of preaching Christ. In particular, may we discern between healthy preaching and that which is unhealthy."

(Life-study of Philippians, Msg. 4, p. 35-36, 37-38)

Thursday

Verses for Morning Revival

Philippians 1:15-18

- 15** Some preach Christ even because of envy and strife, and some also because of good will,
- 16** These out of love, knowing that I am set for the defense of the gospel.
- 17** But the others announce Christ out of selfish ambition, not purely, thinking to raise up affliction in my bonds.
- 18** What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truthfulness, Christ is announced; and in this I rejoice; yes, and I will rejoice;

Readings for Inspiration and Truth

The Apostle Paul's Rejoicing in Both Kinds of Preaching of Christ

"In 1:18 Paul declares, 'What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is announced, and in this I rejoice, yes, and I will rejoice.' Paul's heart was so broadened by grace that he even rejoiced in his opposing ones' preaching of Christ in pretense. What an upright spirit is this! This is the outworking of the life, nature, and mind of Christ who lived in him. His experience of Christ was an enjoyment. Such a life rejoices no matter what the circumstances may be.

The Preaching of Christ in Both Ways Turning Out To Salvation for the Apostle Paul

"In 1:19 Paul continues, 'For I know that for me this shall turn out to salvation through your petition and the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ.' Paul realized that both ways of preaching Christ would turn out to salvation. Salvation in verse 19 means to be sustained and strengthened to magnify Christ and to live Him. The circumstances in which Paul found himself forced him to experience Christ and enjoy Him in a fuller way through the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ. In Paul's

experience God's salvation was carried out to the uttermost. The experience of such a salvation is altogether related to the enjoyment of Christ and the experience of Christ.

"Paul's circumstances also encouraged him to live Christ and to magnify Christ. Paul utilized the situations caused by the different preachings of the gospel to experience Christ, to live Christ, and to magnify Christ. Our situation is the same today. On the one hand, we cannot agree with certain ways in which Christ is preached; on the other hand, we must learn to be happy with the fact that Christ is being proclaimed. If this is our attitude, then the abnormal situation brought about by the different preachings of Christ will become an incentive for us to enjoy Christ, to live Him, and to magnify Him, as Paul did."

(ibid., pp. 37-38)

Friday

Verses for Morning Revival

Ephesians 6:10, 17-18a

- 10** Finally, be empowered in the Lord and in the might of His strength.
- 17** And receive...the sword of the Spirit, which Spirit is the word of God,
- 18** By means of all prayer and petition, praying at every time in spirit and watching unto this in all perseverance and petition...

Readings for Inspiration and Truth

Fighting the Gospel Battle — Preaching with the Spirit and the Word

"In the Lord's recovery, we have been opposed because of our stress on the Spirit. This opposition is related to religious traditions, especially traditions based upon the creeds. In the past some of us may have read and even recited the creeds. Fifty years ago, however, we dropped the creeds because they are incomplete. They cannot contain the entire divine revelation....

"We have been opposed because we have dropped the creeds and the traditions of men to take the entire Word of the Bible. Martin Luther was also greatly opposed by the Roman Catholic Church because he refused to go along with their traditions and councils. He stood for what the Bible said about justification by faith. We also must come back to the Word because the creeds are incomplete in their presentation of the divine revelation.

"When the young people go to the campuses, they must know how to fight the battle because there is still strong opposition to the truth concerning the Spirit. If the opposers challenge you with the creeds, bring them to the Bible. You may say to them, 'Do you know that Revelation 1:4 mentions not just one Spirit, but seven Spirits?' Check with them, 'Do the creeds say anything about the life-giving Spirit in 1 Corinthians 15:45?' This is not just our teaching or interpretation. The Bible plainly says that the last Adam became a life-giving Spirit. If the opposers believe in the Bible, the truth will vindicate you, and the pure Word will convince many of them."

(Witness Lee, Preaching the Gospel on the College Campuses, Chpt. 1, pp. 7-8)

Saturday

Verses for Morning Revival