



Lesson 43 – Written from Rome Part II

Based on Philippians

- 1) What was Paul's wish for all the churches he came into contact with?

Colossians 1:9 For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be _____ with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding;

Colossians 1:11 _____ with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with _____;

Paul's letter to the Philippians, like the one to the Colossians, was written while he was a prisoner at Rome. The church at Philippi had sent gifts to Paul by the hand of Epaphroditus.

- 2) Who was Epaphroditus?

Philippians 2:25 Yet I supposed it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother, and companion in labour, and _____, but your messenger, and he that ministered to my wants.

- 3) What happened while he was in Rome?

Philippians 2:27 For indeed he was sick nigh unto _____: but God had mercy on him; and not on him only, but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow.

Hearing of the sickness of Epaphroditus, the believers at Philippi were filled with anxiety regarding him, and he decided to return to them.

- 4) What request did Paul make?

Philippians 2:29-30 _____ him therefore in the Lord with all gladness; and hold such in reputation: Because for the work of Christ he was nigh unto death, not _____ his life, to supply your lack of service toward me.

By Epaphroditus, Paul sent the Philippian believers a letter, in which he thanked them for their gifts to him. Of all the churches, that of Philippi had been the most liberal in supplying Paul's wants.

- 5) What was Paul grateful for?

Philippians 4:15-16 Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning _____ and _____, but ye only. For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity.

Philippians 4:17-18 Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account. But I have all, and _____: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things which were sent from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, _____ to God.

- 6) How did Paul's letter begin?

Philippians 1:2-5 Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank my God upon every _____ of you, Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy, For your _____ in the gospel from the first day until now;



Philippians 1:6-7 Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will _____ it until the day of Jesus Christ: Even as it is meet for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart; inasmuch as both in my bonds, and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel, ye all are _____ of my grace.

Philippians 1:8-9 For God is my record, how greatly I _____ after you all in the bowels of Jesus Christ. And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in _____ and in all judgment;

Philippians 1:10-11 That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without _____ till the day of Christ; Being filled with the _____ of _____, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God.

The grace of God sustained Paul in his imprisonment, enabling him to rejoice in tribulation. With faith and assurance, he wrote to his Philippian brethren that his imprisonment had resulted in the furtherance of the gospel.

7) What statement of faith did he make?

Philippians 1:12-14 But I would ye should understand, brethren, that the things which happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the _____ of the gospel; So that my bonds in Christ are manifest in all the _____, and in all other places; And many of the brethren in the Lord, waxing confident by my bonds, are much more _____ to speak the word without fear.

There is a lesson for us in this experience of Paul's, for it reveals God's way of working. The Lord can bring victory out of that which may seem to us discomfiture and defeat. We are in danger of forgetting God, of looking at the things which are seen, instead of beholding by the eye of faith the things which are unseen. When misfortune or calamity comes, we are ready to charge God with neglect or cruelty. If He sees fit to cut off our usefulness in some line, we mourn, not stopping to think that thus God may be working for our good. We need to learn that chastisement is a part of His great plan and that under the rod of affliction the Christian may sometimes do more for the Master than when engaged in active service.

8) What did he remind the believers there about Jesus?

Philippians 2:6-8 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of _____, and took upon him the form of a _____, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became _____ unto death, even the death of the cross.

9) What should we do?

Philippians 2:12-13 Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own _____ with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to _____ and to _____ of his good pleasure.

These words were recorded for the help of every striving soul. Paul holds up the standard of perfection and shows how it may be reached.



The work of gaining salvation is one of copartnership, a joint operation. There is to be co-operation between God and the repentant sinner. This is necessary for the formation of right principles in the character. Man is to make earnest efforts to overcome that which hinders him from attaining to perfection. But he is wholly dependent upon God for success. Human effort of itself is not sufficient. Without the aid of divine power, it avails nothing. God works and man works. Resistance of temptation must come from man, who must draw his power from God. On the one side there is infinite wisdom, compassion, and power: on the other, weakness, sinfulness, absolute helplessness.

10) What did the Psalmist say about God's power in our lives?

Psalm 110:3 Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power...

God wishes us to have the mastery over ourselves. But He cannot help us without our consent and co-operation. The divine Spirit works through the powers and faculties given to man. Of ourselves, we are not able to bring the purposes and desires and inclinations into harmony with the will of God; but if we are "willing to be made willing," the Saviour will accomplish this for us.

11) What did Paul say about this?

2 Corinthians 10:5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every _____ to the obedience of Christ;

He who would build up a strong, symmetrical character, he who would be a well-balanced Christian, must give all and do all for Christ; for the Redeemer will not accept divided service. Daily he must learn the meaning of self-surrender. He must study the word of God, learn its meaning and obey its precepts. Thus, he may reach the standard of Christian excellence. Day by day God works with him, perfecting the character that is to stand in the time of final test. And day by day the believer is working out before men and angels a sublime experiment, showing what the gospel can do for fallen human beings.

12) What did Paul think about the past and the future?

Philippians 3:13-14 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are _____, and reaching forth unto those things which are _____, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Paul never lost sight of one great purpose—to press toward the prize of his calling. One aim he kept steadfastly before him—to be faithful to the One who at the gate of Damascus had revealed Himself to him. From this aim nothing had power to turn him aside. To exalt the cross of Calvary—this was the all-absorbing motive that inspired his words and acts.

The great purpose that constrained Paul to press forward in the face of hardship and difficulty should lead every Christian worker to consecrate himself wholly to God's service. Worldly attractions will be presented to draw his attentions from the Saviour, but he is to press on toward the goal, showing to the world, to angels, and to men that the hope of seeing the face of God is worth all the effort and sacrifice that the attainment of this hope demands.



13) Were Paul's spirits crushed because he was a prisoner?

Philippians 4:4 _____ in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice.

Philippians 4:6-7 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by _____ and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the _____ of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

14) What sage advice are we wise to follow?

Philippians 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are _____, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are _____, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, _____ on these things.

15) If you are following God, where do your necessities come from?

Philippians 4:19 But my God shall _____ all your need according to his _____ in glory by Christ Jesus.

16) What was Paul's final wish for you?

Philippians 4:23 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

**Can you see there's no reason to
lose hope?**

**Would you like to be positive of
God's success?**

**When is the time put away negative
thinking?**