

September Teaching Theme: Philippians

讲员 Speaker: Dr. Hamilton

题目 Topic: A Window into the Heart of Apostle Paul

经文 Scripture: Philippians 1

Monthly Theme: This month, we are going through a 4 part series on the letter to the Philippians. The church in Philippi was one of Paul's early Christian communities founded on his second missionary journey around 50 AD, which we read about in Acts 16. Philippi was a Roman colony known for its patriotic nationalism and was strategically populated by Emperor Octavian (Caesar Augustus) with retired military veterans, ensuring the region's allegiance to the Empire. In this context, Paul faced resistance preaching the Gospel - that Jesus is the true King of the whole world, not Caesar. As a result, the Christian community in this region continually faced persecution even after Paul left. Fast-forward 10-12 years, and Paul finds himself under Roman imprisonment for the proclamation of this Gospel. The church in Philippi sent Epaphroditus to help provide and care for Paul, and this letter is what Paul sent back with Epaphroditus to the church community. All of this context is crucial for us to understand the nuances of this letter. Contained within this short letter is a profound posture and mindset for the people of God to follow.

十月 **October:** 新約書信: 腓立比書 **New Testament Epistle: Philippians**

October 3rd - 腓立比書 1 Philippians 1

October 10th - 腓立比書 2 Philippians 2

October 17th - 腓立比書 3 Philippians 3

October 24th - 腓立比書 4 Philippians 4

October 31st – 諸聖節 All Saints Day (雲彩般的見證人 The Cloud of Witnesses – 希伯來書 Hebrews 11-12:3)

Resources:

[Sermon Video](#)

[Sermon Slides](#)

[Bible Project: Philippians Overview](#) (English - 9:13)

[Bible Project: Philippians Overview](#) (Chinese - 8:44)

Discussion Questions (Pastor William R. Horne):

- (1) Read Philippians 1 together. What observations do you make, and what stands out to you? How would you summarize the letter thus far?
- (2) Paul's Praise: Re-read Philippians 1:3-8. What things is Paul thankful for? What does it mean to you that "he [God] who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion"?
- (3) Paul's Prayer: Re-read Philippians 1:9-11. What things does Paul pray for, and for what purposes? How should Paul's prayer shape our prayers?
- (4) Paul's Poise: Re-read Philippians 1:12-21. How would you describe Paul's posture and attitude in his current circumstance? In what ways can we walk with a similar attitude in our life?

- (5) Paul's Problem: Re-read Philippians 1:21-26. What is Paul's dilemma? What is Paul's mindset when facing death?
- (6) Paul's Plea: Re-read Philippians 1:27-30. What do you believe it looks like to "conduct yourself in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ"? (We will explore this more in Philippians 2).

Important Notes (Pastor William R. Horne):

Notes on Q1: Pay attention to the context of the letter, written above under monthly theme.

Notes on Q2: As Dr. Hamilton pointed out, Paul's praise/thankfulness can be seen in four categories (1) good memories (1:3), (2) the privilege of praying (1:4), (3) Gospel partnership (sharing) (1:5), (4) what God will yet do in their lives (1:6).

Notes on Q3: Paul prays (1) for their love to abound yet more and more; that (2) this be accompanied by full knowledge and moral insight, SO THAT (3) they might approve those things that really matter, SO THAT (4) they might be pure and blameless when Christ returns, as (5) they are now full of the fruit of righteousness/justice, fruit that is (6) effected by Christ Jesus and (7) for the glory and praise of God.

Item 1, 2, 3, and 5 give the *what* of Paul's prayer for the Philippian Church; item 4 gives the *why*, while item 6 offers the *means* to the (ultimate) *end* expressed in item 7. (Gorden Fee).

Notes on Q4: Paul's attitude here in Philippians is the living out of Romans 8:28, "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who [i] have been called according to his purpose." (NIV). Paul is rejoicing that (1) God is still working to advance His Kingdom (the Gospel - the Good News of King Jesus) through Paul's imprisonment; (2) God is even using those who "preach Christ" with faulty motives; and that in Christ, Paul will experience deliverance whether he lives or dies. Paul doesn't deny his suffering or the hard reality but has his mindset on the bigger picture. He stands firm in the faith, despite suffering. He sees the good God is working out, even amid his situation of suffering. **The Christian mindset does not dismiss the reality of suffering while simultaneously looking to the ways God is forming us and walking with us in the valleys.**

Notes on Q5: Paul's dilemma is, does he hope for death, as that would be gain for him to depart to be with Christ and escape suffering, or does he hope to live, so that he can go on to do more fruitful work? Ultimately, he is driven towards "remaining in the body" to continue the fruitful work God has started in him. The mindset of Paul is both profound and freeing. "For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain." The people of God can embrace true life now in Christ and have been freed from the power of death. If death has no power over you, who/what can stop you? "If God is for us, who can be against us?" As Martin Luther King Jr said, **"We must come to recognize that there are some things so eternally true, that they are worth dying for and if a man has not discovered something he will die for, he isn't fit to live."**

Notes on Q6: Philippians 1:27 is the grounding for Paul's logic to come in Philippians 2, which we will explore this Sunday. Right, now give your thoughts given the context so far. First, we can see that it is evident in chapter 1 that a life "worthy of the Gospel" is a mindset of ultimate joy amid suffering.

Sermon Summary (Elder Yin):

通向使徒保罗内心的窗口

韩教授 10/3/21

经文：“基督耶稣的仆人保罗和提摩太写信给凡住腓立比、在基督耶稣里的众圣徒，和诸位监督，诸位执事。愿恩惠、平安从 神我们的父并主耶稣基督归与你们！我每逢想念你们，就感谢我的 神；每逢为你们众人祈求的时候，常是欢欢喜喜地祈求。因为从头一天直到如今，你们是同心合意地兴旺福音。我深信那在你们心里动了善工的，必成全这工，直到耶稣基督的日子。我为你们众人有这样的意念，原是应当的；因你们常在我心里，无论我是在捆锁之中，是辩明证实福音的时候，你们都与我一同得恩。我体会基督耶稣的心肠，切切地想念你们众人；这是 神可以给我作见证的。我所祷告的，就是要你们的爱心在知识和各样见识上多而又多，使你们能分别是非，作诚实无过的人，直到基督的日子；并靠着耶稣基督结满了仁义的果子，叫荣耀称赞归与 神。弟兄们，我愿意你们知道，我所遭遇的事更是叫福音兴旺，以致我受的捆锁在御营全军和其余的人中，已经显明是为基督的缘故。并且那在主里的弟兄多半因我受的捆锁就笃信不疑，越发放胆传 神的道，无所惧怕。有的传基督是出于嫉妒纷争，也有的是出于好意。这一等是出于爱心，知道我是为辩明福音设立的；那一等传基督是出于结党，并不诚实，意思要加增我捆锁的苦楚。这有何妨呢？或是假意，或是真心，无论怎样，基督究竟被传开了。为此，我就欢喜，并且还要欢喜；因为我知道，这事借着你们的祈祷和耶稣基督之灵的帮助，终必叫我得救。照着我所切慕、所盼望的，没有一事叫我羞愧。只要凡事放胆，无论是生是死，总叫基督在我身上照常显大。因我活着就是基督，我死了就有益处。”

腓立比书 1:1-21

非利比书，保罗开始提到圣徒，永远是复数。也是对我们每个人讲的。

五个主要真理

1, 保罗的赞美 Praise

- a, 美好的记忆：每逢相念你们，就感谢我的神。你我生命中是否有这样的人。感恩神而不是人。
 - b, 祷告的特权，1：4，16次出现喜乐。祷告的喜乐，保罗这样忙，还是祷告。
 - c, 分享福音1:5从头一天直到如今，你们是同心合意的兴旺福音，保罗视弟兄姐妹在传福音中的伙伴。
 - d, 神仍在他们生活中做工
- 腓1:6, 在你们心里动了善工的必成全这工，直到耶稣基督的日子。神开始的工作祂定完全。

2, 保罗的祷告 Pray

我把你们放在我的祷告之中。你们的爱心多而又多。丰丰满满的爱。旧约中丰盛的爱出现8次。出34:6:耶和华有丰盛的慈爱。爱谁？爱神，爱失去的灵魂。拉丁文是溢出，满溢的爱。

3, 保罗的镇定 Poise

a, Poise 面对困境，站稳。看到好的一面，在所有的坏事中。持守信心在苦难中。
保罗的困境：他没有抱怨。知道所遭遇的事能让福音兴旺

在困难中看到在主里面的益处而喜乐。

b, 有人对他批评，有人借传福音宣扬自己，把保罗包括在内。
保罗态度，不管怎样，福音被传开了。

帖前5:18, 凡事谢恩，因为这是神在基督耶稣里向你们所定的旨意。

4, 保罗的难处 problem

腓1:23, 在狱中，两难之间，情愿离世与基督同在，因为这是好得无比。

离开世界不是死亡。离开去别处，也许更好的地方。死和离开不同。彼后1:15
梁长老，离开，庆祝。保罗口气中没有恐惧。离开还是继续，都是为了神。两难。

5, 保罗的请求 plea

腓1:27. 无论什么事发生，行事为人与基督的福音相称，让圣徒们知道神和祂的福音是何等的美，吸引人。