

The Mind of Christ in Philippians – Part I

Chapter 1: Rejoicing in Tribulation

“For I know that this shall turn to my salvation through your prayer, and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ...” – Philippians 1:19

1. Introduction

- a. Short series: the mind of Christ in Philippians – for more detail, check out the 2015 study
- b. Benefits of short studies: tempo/agility, gathering themes/context/thrust, familiarity, introduction
- c. Methodology of study: Pick one topic in a particular letter and see what you find
- d. Overarching question: “What does each chapter teach us of the mind of Christ?”
- e. Why? Redemption of mind & conversation from fulness of reprobation to righteousness
- f. Fruit (Rom 1:28-29; Cf. Phil 1:11) – this is what Paul was after & we should follow (4:17).

2. Background & Context – “*Having the same conflict which ye saw in me...*” (Phil 1:30; Col 4:3-4)

- a. (Phil 1:5, 4:15; 1Co9:17) Christ entrusted the gospel of Christ to Paul *from the beginning*
- b. (Ac 13:2,4; 16:9-12) HG called him to preach this gospel in Macedonia (Philippi)
- c. (Ac 16:13-40) Upon arrival, Paul silences a female diviner, conflict ensues, his jail ministry is born
- d. (Ac 17:5-7) This ministry was effectual in turning the world upside down – they saw & partook of it
- e. Paul was Christ-bound for Rome (Ac 23:11), appeals to Caesar (Ac 25:11) & arrives (Ac 28:16)
- f. They saw him bound for the MoC in Philippi, heard of it in Rome & sent care (Phil 4:15-18)
- g. This letter is his response to their communication though Epaphroditus w/ his affliction (4:12,22)

3. Chapter 1 Overview – The Mind of Christ: Rejoicing in tribulation (To live is Christ)

- a. Framing Ch. 1: Paul desires unity of joy (4) & abundant rejoicing (26) amidst mutual conflict (30)
- b. Outline: Jesus Christ’s fellowship (1-5) day (6-7), fruits (8-11), bonds (12-14), preaching (15-18), life (19-21), mind (22-26), faith (27), sufferings (28-30) = the faith & fellowship of his suff. (Phil 3:10).
- c. Notice the conflicting language: defense (7), love by judgment (9), furtherance by bondage (14), strife (15), contention (16), pretension (18), life by death (20-21), salvation in adversity (28), faith & suffering (29) – perfectly pictured in a joyful letter from prison.

4. (v. 1-11) – Fellowship in the gospel – Confidence in the good work of God to the end.

- a. (1-4) Paul’s prayer → orients their heart/mind to God in peace through Christ (4:6-7)
- b. (5-7) For fellowship in the gospel. From the first day until now, they are united
 - i. (6) *confidence*. God is faithful & finishes what he starts (1 Co 1:6-9; 1 Th 5:23-24)
 - ii. (7) *my grace*. The dispensation (Eph 3:6), his sufferings (Col 1:24), consolation (2 Co 1:7)
- c. (8-11) For fruit in the gospel. Walking worthy in unity ‘til the day of Christ (Col 1:6, 9-11)
 - i. (8) *long for you*. Sincerity of heart before God in Christ Jesus (2 Co 9:14)
 - ii. (9) *love*. Abounds through know./judgment in truth (1 Co 2:15; Eph 4:15; 2 Co 12:15)
 - iii. (10) *approve excellence*. Requires sincere love of truth to please Christ (Phil 3:8)
 - iv. (11) *being filled*. Fruit from a heart yielded to the grace of Christ (Rom 6:16-23)
- d. Conclusion: Pray for continuation in what unites (gospel), who works (God) & how (mind of Christ).

5. (v. 12-18) Furtherance of the gospel – Confidence by the preaching of Christ.

- a. (12) *unbound*. Though Paul was bound, the gospel was not (2 Tim 2:8-10)
- b. (13) *bonds manifest*. All knew Paul was bound for Christ (Col 4:3-4; Phil 4:22)
- c. (14) *brethren...waxing confident*. Fearless motivation stirred by Paul's chains
- d. (15-18) some preach Christ. How do these brethren in the Lord preach Christ?
 - i. (16-18) In pretense, contention, envy & strife (to oppose, weaken, afflict)
 - ii. (17-18) In truth, sincerity, good will & love (to defend, confirm, partake)
- e. (18) What then? Christ is preached, the gospel is furthered – Paul rejoices in this
- f. Conclusion: It's not about us; it's about Christ. Paul was sidelined & the game continued. Though some preached w/o the mind of Christ, Paul rejoiced in the advancing of truth (1 Co 13:6).

6. (v. 19-21) Supply of the Spirit – Confidence that to live is Christ, to die is gain.

- a. (19) *this shall turn to my salvation*. Prayer & the Spirit's supply strengthen the inner man through tribulation – bringing comfort, consolation & salvation (2 Co 1:4-12; 4:15; Phil 4:19; Eph 3:16)
- b. (20) *According to my earnest expectation*. Unashamed hope – Christ glorified in his body (Col 1:27)
- c. (21) *to live is Christ...to die is gain*. This is the rule: He is our life, glory & end (Col 3:3-4)
- d. Conclusion: Verse 21 answers what the chief end of man is – our death, life & glory in Christ.

7. (v. 22-26) Furtherance of others – Confidence that life is for the sake of others.

- a. (22) *if I live in the flesh, this is the fruit*. The life of Christ in him, magnified (2 Co 4:10-11)
- b. (23) *I am in a straight*. Between two goods: depart for Christ (2 Co 5:8), remain for you
- c. (24) *to abide...is more needful for you*. This is why Christ came & why we remain (Rom 15:3)
- d. (25) *I shall abide...for your furtherance*. To sacrifice, serve & help their joy (2 Co 1:24)
- e. (26) *your rejoicing*. Reunion brings more rejoicing in Christ (1 Th 2:20-21; 3:9-10)
- f. Conclusion: Verse 25 directs our heart to the chief end of others – their rejoicing in Christ is best.

8. (v. 27-30) Conversation becoming – Confidence to stand, strive & suffer for Christ.

- a. (27) *conversation...as it becometh the gospel*. What is a life lived worthy of the gospel look like?
 - i. *standing fast*. Fixed in unity of purpose, pursuit, judgment (Eph 4:1-4; 1 Co 15:58)
 - ii. *striving together*. Collective efforts to advance, defend & confirm the faith (Rom 15:30)
- b. (28) *in nothing terrified*. Adversity brings doubts, fears, weakness, dissolution – stand together
- c. (29) *unto you it is given*. Faith/suffering for Christ are givens (1 Co 15:33; 1 Th 3:1-8; 2 Co 7:4-6)
- d. (30) *Having the same conflict*. The servant isn't greater than his Lord or apostle (Jn 15:20; Ac 9:16)
- e. Conclusion: Christians aren't excused from suffering; it's given w/ promise – faint not (2 Co 4:16)