

Philippians 2026 Series – Lesson 5
“The Romans 8:28 of Philippians 1:12”
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Introduction:

In our study of verses 9-11 we observed that our love is to overflow more and more in the sphere of fully applied knowledge and accurate perception (discernment). for the purpose of being able to distinguish between truth and error, Human View-Point and Divine View-Point, in order that we might be morally and ethically pure and not be a stumbling block to others, so that the fruit of righteousness that is ours through Jesus Christ might result in others giving glory and praise to God.

We observed:

When we walk according to God’s plan for our lives we produce those things for which He has designed and equipped us.

We are able to walk according to His plan by implementing the formula described in verses 9-10.

Overflowing in self-sacrificial love in an environment of fully applied knowledge and accurate perception for the purpose of being able to properly test doctrine and experiences in order to distinguish between those things (doctrine and experiences) which differ. This will enable us to be morally and ethically pure. Thus we will not become a stumbling block to others right into the Day of Christ!

When you do this right up into the Day of Christ, you are described as having been completely filled with the production which comes from conforming to the plan of God for your life. We are enabled to do this as a result of our position in Jesus Christ. The conclusion of last week’s study was

1. Our self-sacrificial love is to overflow toward others. That is loving them self-sacrificially regardless of their response and manifesting that in giving according to our ability and their need.
2. This love for them is to be in the sphere of:
 - a. Fully applied knowledge (Bible Doctrine)
 - b. Accurate discernment (a mind programed by Bible Doctrine)

That is, our sacrificial giving must be in conformity with the word of God not their

desires, but what is best for them according to Bible Doctrine and our accurate discernment

3. This knowledge and discernment will enable us to distinguish between truth and error. It will require understanding why we are here, what we are to be doing and understanding and applying Scripture through a Dispensational approach while living a Spirit Controlled life.
4. That will in turn enable us to apply true knowledge and manifest accurate discernment, prohibiting us from becoming a stumbling block to others.
5. That will result in our arrival into the Day of Christ having been filled with fruit production which conforms to the plan God has for our life.
6. We will accomplish this through the means of the proper application of doctrine and personal and a consistent relationship with Jesus Christ. As we live according to His teachings, we will produce the natural fruit of the righteousness we acquired through Jesus Christ.
7. The result will be Joy and Inner Happiness through the glory and praise of God

So, let's summarize seven important principles to which we have been exposed in our early study of Philippians:

1. If others are to be confident of our justification there must be some visible evidences such as:
 - (a). Our concern for them
 - (b). Our being fellowship-partners with them in their distress
 - (c). Our being fellowship-partners with them in their defense of the Gospel
 - (d). Our being fellowship-partners in an all-out offense against Satan
2. The second principle found in our study is given in verse eight (8) where Paul talks about his affections for the Philippian believers. The principle here is that our affections for other believers are to be patterned after the affections of the self-sacrificial Christ.
3. The third principle is found in verse nine (9) and identifies the principle of responsibility that we have to pray for other believers. Ephesians 6:18 reinforces this principle.
4. The fourth principle is also found in verse nine (9) and it is that our love is to overflow in two specific areas:
 - (a). The sphere of fully applied knowledge
 - (b). The sphere of accurate perception

5. The result of the overflow of love in fully applied knowledge and accurate perception will be the ability to test for the purpose of approval those things which differ (Human View-Point vs. Divine View-Point - doctrine and experiences).
6. There are three results of this testing:
 - (a). You will be morally and ethically pure
 - (b). You will not be a stumbling block
 - (c). You will be filled with the fruit of righteousness (You will experience the production resulting from conforming to the design of God for your life).
7. The fruit of righteousness is produced through our position in Jesus Christ and results in the glory and praise of God.

Now we come to verse 12

Text: Philippians 1:12

“But I would ye should understand, brethren, that the things [which happened] unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel;”

Corrections From The Greek Text:

“But” (deh) = Now

“I would” (bou-lo-mai) = I purpose by deliberate design of my will that..

The Greek word here does not imply a wish (the-loh) but a design of purpose. Paul is not wishing them to understand - he purposes by deliberate design to help them understand.

“ye should understand” (gi-noh-skein) = you would purpose to gain this understanding

The Greek word used here is an infinitive which denotes purpose. So, Paul is purposing by a deliberate design of his will for them to make it their purpose to gain understanding from his experience....

“that the things [which happened] unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel;”

This is a paraphrase rather than a translation. It should be corrected to read:

that my affairs have come to a greater extent to the advance of the gospel

In other words... Paul's circumstances had to a great extent advanced the gospel.

A Paul writes this he is in prison and cannot go about preaching and teaching, yet he

wants the Philippian believers to gain the understanding that his situation has caused a great advance of the gospel.

Why did Paul want them to gain that understanding? He wanted them to understand the principle of Romans 8:28

“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to [His] purpose.”

“All Things Work Together For The Good”

Point 1: Knowledge must precede peace and contentment:

- (a). Knowledge of God’s Promises
- (b). Knowledge of God’s Character
- (c). Knowledge of God’s Plan

Point 2: It is important to note that while not all things are good, that God promises to cause all things to work together for good:

“work together” (sun-erg-ei) = work as a fellow laborer

“good” (ag-a-thon) = good of intrinsic value

So, while all things are not good in themselves God causes all thing to work as fellow laborers for that which is good of intrinsic value

Point 3: Because God has promised this, you are to follow the instructions of James 1:2-4

2 *“My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;*

3 *Knowing [this], that the trying of your faith worketh patience.*

4 *But let patience have [her] perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.”*

Let’s summarize these instructions:

(a). *“Count it all joy when you fall into various trials”*

“count it” (he-ge-sas-the) = using the principles, lead or review in your mind the promises and the trials of the past.

In the midst of a trial you are to *review* *begot your mind* all the times God has brought His people through with His sufficient grace

“all joy” (charan) = delight resulting from the understanding of grace

“when you fall into divers temptations” = trials or testings

(b). *“Knowing that the trying of your faith worketh patience”*

The translators blew this one big time. They translated a Greek word dokimon here as *trying*...

“trying” (do-ki-mi-on) = that which has been approved through testing

So, this should read, *knowing that faith which has been approved through testing worketh patience.*

“worketh” (ka-ter-gadz-eh-tai) = brings out as a result

“patience” (hupo-mo-nen) = an ability to abide or endure

(c). *“But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.”*

The Greek text says, *“And endurance, let it have complete work, in order that you may be complete and entire lacking endurance in nothing.”*

So, the instructions of James 1:2-4 are:

- (1). Lead before your mind and review all the times God has delivered His people and be delighted with God’s grace.
- (2). Keep on knowing that, that faith which has been approved through testing brings out endurance as a result.
- (3). Allow endurance to have its complete work so you can be complete and entire lacking endurance in nothing.

OK, Now are are ready for Point 4

Point 4: Give God Thanks In The Midst of The Trial:

I Thessalonians 5:18

“In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.”

These four points of doctrine provide peace and contentment in any circumstance!!

Now, let's look again at verse 12

Verse 12:

“But I would ye should understand, brethren, that the things [which happened] unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel;”

You see - All these things that had happened to Paul resulted in the advance of the gospel!

One thing that resulted from his imprisonment was this letter along with Ephesians, Colossians, and Philemon. These epistles continue to advance the gospel 1940 years after his imprisonment.

In the study of the verses which follow we will observe other examples of the advance of the gospel because of Paul's imprisonment.

From Human View-Point Paul's being place in Prison at the height of His world wide ministry would be considered tragic. However, from the Divine View-Point his circumstances advanced the gospel!

Our objective in this verse is to discover the principle of Romans 8:28 in relationship to Paul's situation and its application to us in our circumstances as well.

“And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to them who love God to them who are the called according to His purpose.”

Our purpose is to understand the mechanics by which we are able to experience the peace and contentment Romans 8:28 is designed to provide.

So, let's look at the expanded translation of Philippians 1:12

“Now, I purpose by deliberate design of my will, that you would make it your own purpose to gain understanding that my affairs have come to a greater extent to the advance of the gospel.”

You see - All these things that had happened to Paul resulted in the advancement of the gospel!

One thing that resulted from his imprisonment was this Book of Philippians along with Ephesians, Colossians, and Philemon. These epistles continue to advance the gospel almost two millennium after Paul's imprisonment.

In the study of the verses which follow we will observe other examples of the advance of the gospel because of Paul's imprisonment:

- 1. A witness among the Roman Praetorium**
- 2. Boldness now on the part of others**
- 3. Even through others who are envious of Paul who are preaching for attention for themselves...**

From Human View-Point Paul's being placed in prison at the height of his world wide ministry would be considered a major tragedy and a victory by Satan, However, from the Divine View-Point his circumstances actually advanced the gospel!

Your circumstances are also part of God's Divine Design and you need to rejoice in them as did Paul rejoice in his.

But it all begins at Salvation:

For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God...

The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life...

With the heart man believes unto righteousness...

But with the mouth confession is made unto salvation...

For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved!

“... and your joy no man taketh from you...”
(Luke 16:22)