

BROKEN CHAINS
The Philippian Series #10
May 28th, 2017

TEXT: Philippians 2:12-18

CONSIDER THIS: We are getting closer! Philippians 4 is known for the glorious promises of the things Christians can experience in this present life: Joy ... the peace of God that guards hearts and minds ... contentment. When these promises become a reality in your daily life you will find that around your feet are **BROKEN CHAINS**. Not only do these broken chains free you from the tyranny of circumstances, they bring great glory to the Lord Jesus Christ for they testify of the amazing scope of His saving power and His love for His people. However, we will not consistently experience the Philippians 4 promises if we ignore Philippians 1-3. Today's passage provides essential truth which will cause us to advance on the journey to **BROKEN CHAINS**.

GOD'S WORD TEACHES US ...

I YOU HAVE ENCOUNTERED CHRIST. WOW!

- A) "Therefore" means see what was "before". In other words, what Paul writes in 2:12ff is a response to 2:1-11. Paraphrase: "Therefore, since you have had a life-changing, destiny altering, mind renewing, attitude adjusting, relationship mending encounter with **Jesus Christ, the Eternal Son of God**, this is what comes next .."
- B) You are the light of Christ to others (2:15). You are the fifth gospel.
- C) Christian, you have supernaturally encountered Jesus Christ in a way every bit as significant as:
 - Moses in Exodus 34:29-35
 - Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in Daniel 3:16-25; 28-29
 - The Samaritan Woman in John 4:28-29; 39-42
 - The Apostles in Acts 4:12-13
 - Paul in Acts 26:19-29

- The Thessalonians in I Thessalonians 1:4-8
- Grace Community Church after reading Philippians 1:6-11

Christian, the fact that you live 2,000 years after Jesus walked on earth doesn't mean your encounter with Him is any less powerful. You have encountered the Living Christ through the Living Word which indwells you through the Holy Spirit of God.

(Hebrews 4:12; Colossians 1:27; 3:16; Philippians 2:13)

II THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IS TO BE ACTIVELY LIVED

- A) "Work out your salvation" (2:12) = salvation is a gift for which we do not work (Ephesians 2:8-9). We are saved by faith alone, but the faith that saves is not alone. It changes us as we grow in Christ (Ephesians 4:15). In the context of Philippians 2, the most immediate assignment is to apply gospel principles (mercy, humility, forgiveness, love, selflessness) to our human relationships, especially the difficult ones.
- B) "God works in you" (2:13) = Don't underestimate the great things that a Sovereign God intends to do in your heart and mind.
- C) "Don't complain! Don't argue!" (2:14) When a Christian starts complaining or arguing (in the negative sense of the word), he/she sabotages the glorious promises of Philippians 4 (joy, peace, contentment). Your chains won't be broken by complaining, they will be reinforced... and your testimony will be ruined (Matthew 5:14-16).
- D) "become blameless and pure" (2:15) You are accepted as a saint by God (1:1), now live like it ... your **practice of** Christ needs to catch up to your **position in** Christ.

Philippians 4 and its glorious promises draw ever nearer,
But we must understand and obey Philippians 1:3.

Today's study is huge!

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