



THE MIND OF CHRIST AND THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH

Phil. 2:5, 1:12-20

“When Life Gets in the Way”



Phil. 2:5 **Let this mind be in you**, which was also in Christ Jesus:

Phil. 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;

13 So that my bonds in Christ are manifest in all the palace, and in all other *places*;

14 And many of the brethren in the Lord, waxing confident by my bonds, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

15 Some indeed preach Christ even of envy and strife; and some also of good will:



16 The one preach Christ of contention, not sincerely,
supposing to add affliction to my bonds:

17 But the other of love, knowing that I am set for the
defence of the gospel.

18 What then? notwithstanding, every way, whether in
pretence, or in truth, Christ is preached; and **I therein do
rejoice, yea, and will rejoice.**

19 For I know that this shall turn to my salvation through
your prayer, and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,

20 According to my earnest expectation and *my* hope,
that **in nothing I shall be ashamed**, but *that* with all
boldness, as always, so now also **Christ shall be magnified
in my body, whether it be by life, or by death.**

I. THE PERCEPTION OF THE CONCEPT

Phil. 2:5 **Let this mind be in you**, which was also in Christ Jesus:

A. The Imperative – “Let this mind...”

B. The Influence – “...be in you...”

C. The Imitation – “...which was also in Christ Jesus:”

Rom. 6:4 1 Cor. 11:1 Phil. 3:17



II. THE PARTNERSHIP OF THE COMMISSION

Mt. 6:10, 26:42

A. The Fellowship in the Gospel, Phil. 1:3-7

B. The Force Within the Gospel, Phil. 1:9-11

1. Love Abounding, 1:9

2. Love Approved, 1:10

3. Love Affected, 1:11

C. The Fall-out from, and for, the Gospel, Phil. 1:12-20

1. The Clarity in the Reasoning, 1:12-13

a. The Determination – Phil. 1:12

b. The Discernment – “...ye should **understand, brethren...**”

c. The Development – “...the things *which happened* unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel;

Invest – Invite

d. The Dissemination

2. The Confidence in the Response, 1:14

a. The Influence – “And many of the brethren in the Lord, waxing confident by my bonds...”

b. The Involvement – “...are much more bold to speak the word without fear.”

2 Cor. 11:23 Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I *am* more; in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft.

24 Of the Jews five times received I forty *stripes* save one.

25 Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep;

26 *In* journeyings often, *in* perils of waters, *in* perils of robbers, *in* perils by *mine* own countrymen, *in* perils by the heathen, *in* perils in the city, *in* perils in the wilderness, *in* perils in the sea, *in* perils among false brethren;

27 *In* weariness and painfulness, *in* watchings often, *in* hunger and thirst, *in* fastings often, *in* cold and nakedness.

28 Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches.

2 Cor. 6:10 **As sorrowful, yet alway rejoicing**; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.

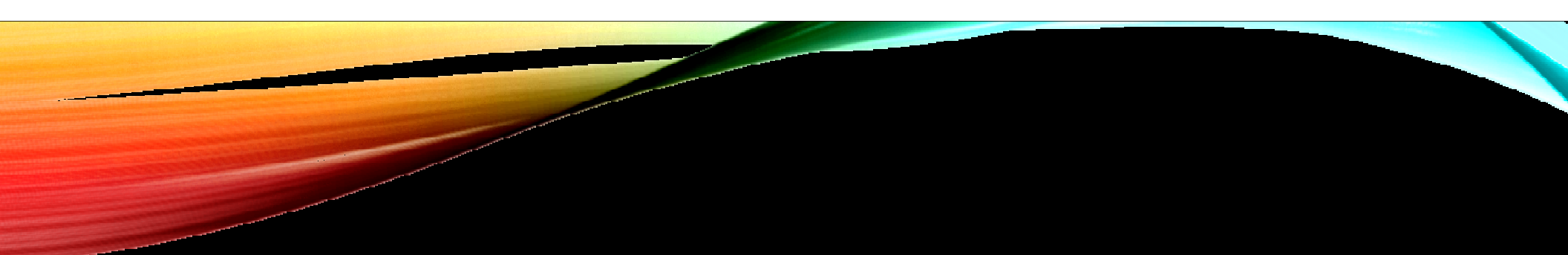
He never lost his joy regardless of how sorrowful his circumstances might have been.

3. The Contention and Results, 1:15-17

Phil. 1:15 Some indeed preach Christ even of envy and strife; and some also of good will:

16 The one preach Christ of contention, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my bonds:

17 But the other of love, knowing that I am set for the defence of the gospel.

- 
- While I am simply serving the Lord, other “Christians” are attacking me.
 - Some preachers have questionable character, but they are preaching truth.
 - Nonetheless, such preachers are glad Paul is in jail.
 - Some preachers resent Paul’s reputation and are envious want to discredit Paul.

Original Word: φθόνος

Transliteration: phthonos

Definition: envy, a grudge, spite.

(Figuratively) **the miserable trait of being glad when someone experiences misfortune or pain.**

Phthónos ("the feeling of *ill-will*") refers to the **jealous envy that negatively "energizes" someone with an embittered mind...**"displeasure at another's good; . . . without longing to raise oneself to the level of him whom he envies, but **only to depress the envied to his own level"** (R. Trench, 90).
<http://biblehub.com/greek/5355.htm>

- Verse 16 indicates that contention is motivated in order to hurt Paul.

Phil. 1:16 The one preach Christ of contention, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my bonds:



Prov. 13:10 **Only by pride cometh contention:** but with the well advised *is* wisdom.

Prov. 18:6 **A fool's lips enter into contention,** and his mouth calleth for strokes.

Prov. 22:10 **Cast out the scorner, and contention shall go out;** yea, **strife** and reproach shall cease.

Original Word: ἐριθεία

Transliteration: eritheia

Definition: (the seeking of followers and adherents by means of gifts, the seeking of followers, hence) ambition, rivalry, self-seeking; a feud, faction.

Eritheía (from *eritheuō*, "work for hire") – **properly, work done merely for hire (as a mercenary), referring therefore to carnal ambition (selfish rivalry).**

Ancient Greek uses *eritheía* ("mercenary self-seeking") of **acting for one's own gain, regardless of the discord (strife) it causes** - *eritheía* ("selfish ambition") **places self-interest ahead of what *the Lord* declares right, or what is good for others.**

<http://biblehub.com/greek/2052.htm>

Jas. 3:13 Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? **let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom.**

14 But if ye have **bitter envying and strife in your hearts**, glory not, and lie not against the truth.

15 This wisdom descendeth not from above, but *is* earthly, sensual, devilish.

16 For **where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.**

17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, *and* easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.

18 And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.

- Paul's detractors were more concerned about rubbing him the wrong way than they were concerned about souls, the church, glorifying God, etc.

Phil. 1:16b "...supposing to add affliction to my bonds:"

Original Word: θλίψις

Transliteration: thlipsis

Short Definition: persecution, **affliction**, distress, friction

thlípsis – properly, *pressure* (what constricts or **rubs together**), used of a narrow place that "hems someone in"; *tribulation*, especially *internal pressure* that causes someone to feel confined (restricted, "without options").

- Note verse 17:

Phil. 1:17 But the other of love, knowing that I am set for the defence of the gospel.

- Paul mentions the crowd that loves him for who he is.
- Paul's crowd has seen, and is convinced that Paul is "set," like a soldier on duty.
- Paul was always ready to defend what he believed.

Original Word: ἀπολογία
Transliteration: apologia
Short Definition: a verbal defense

An "apology" in *classical* times had nothing to do with saying, "I'm sorry," but rather was a *reasoned argument (defense)* that presented evidence (supplied *compelling proof*).

<http://biblehub.com/greek/627.htm>

2 Tim. 4:16 At my first **answer** no man stood with me, but all *men* forsook me: *I pray* God that it may not be laid to their charge.

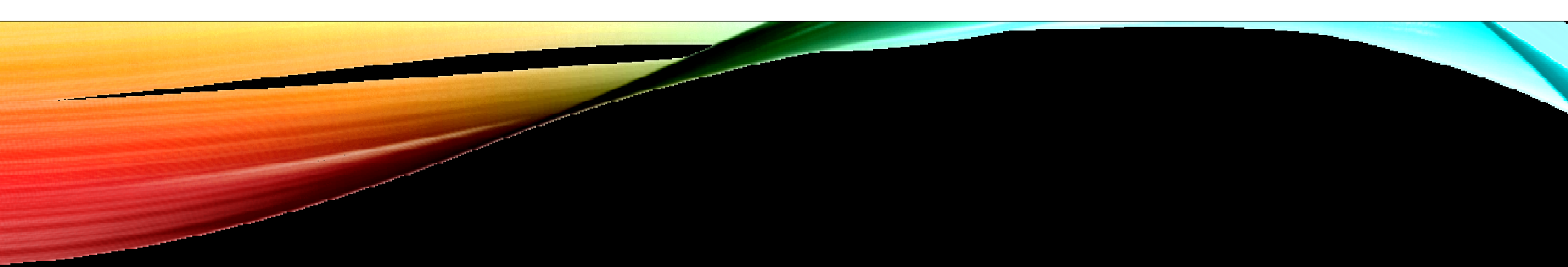
1 Pet. 3:15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and **be ready always to give an answer to every man** that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:



- We cannot truly defend what we do not know, nor truly believe.

2 Tim. 1:12 For the which cause I also suffer these things:
nevertheless I am not ashamed: for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him against that day.

4. The Consolation and Rejoicing, 1:18-20

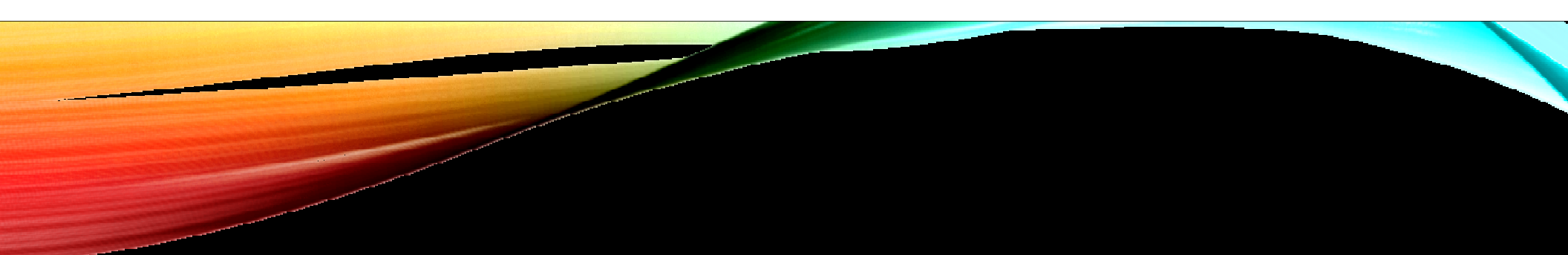


Phil. 1:18 What then? notwithstanding, every way, whether in pretence, or in truth, Christ is preached; and **I therein do rejoice, yea, and will rejoice.**

19 For I know that this shall turn to my salvation through your prayer, and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,

20 According to my earnest expectation and *my* hope, that **in nothing I shall be ashamed**, but *that* with all boldness, as always, so now also **Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death.**

- Paul's focus is upon the preaching of Christ, and that motivates him to rejoice.

- 
- Rejoicing smothers the negativity of the soul that comes from envious and belligerent “Christians” who try to hurt others.
 - Life and death are secondary, when a believer’s heart is centered on magnifying the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - We are glorifying Christ when we are getting out the Gospel!

Jn. 15:8 Herein is **my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.**

Conclusion

2 Tim. 4:16 At my first **answer** no man stood with me, but all men forsook me: *I pray God* that it may not be laid to their charge.

17 Notwithstanding **the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me**; that by me the preaching might be fully known, and **that all the Gentiles might hear**: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion.

18 And **the Lord shall deliver me** from every evil work, **and will preserve me** unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Phil. 4:13 I can do all things **through Christ** which strengtheneth me.



2 Tim. 4:6 For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.

7 **I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:**

8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a **crown of righteousness**, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but **unto all them also that love his appearing.**