

# December 17/Day 351

## Philippians 1

Verses 1-2

- This is another Pauline epistle, meaning a letter written by Paul. It is also another prison epistle, meaning he wrote it while imprisoned in Rome.
- To whom did he write this letter?

Verses 3-11

- In verse 6, “perfect” means complete. So, he is saying God will finish what He started. How long will He take to do this?
- What was his prayer for these believers? Why? (Answered after “so that”.)
- With what are believers filled?

Verses 12-20

- What was the benefit of Paul’s imprisonment?
- What two kinds of preachers of the gospel are contrasted here? Why do each do what they do?
- In verse 18, Paul is saying that even if people preach the gospel with a wrong motivation, at least the gospel is spreading. He has not said they are false teachers, who would need to be exposed, like those he will mention later.
- What was Paul’s concern regarding being put to shame?

Verses 21-26

- What would he continue to do if the Lord let him live?
- Why was he torn between the thoughts of living and dying?

Verses 27-30

- How did he want them to conduct themselves?
- According to verse 28, what did they have?
- According to verse 29, what had been granted to them? Do we usually consider suffering from the Lord a mission granted by the Lord? Would this have anything to do with Paul’s concern about shaming himself? What would the temptation be amidst persecution?

## Philippians 2

Verses 1-11

- “Therefore” is a term of conclusion, what is he concluding? How would you know?

- Unity and uniformity are two different things. Explain unity as described in verses 2-4.
- In verse 5, “attitude” can also be translated “mind”. Did you know a believer has received the mind of Christ? How do we employ it when persecuted, or as we saw in Ephesians, in a spiritual battle?
- How is that mind of Christ described in verses 5-8?
- For what reason did God highly exalt Jesus?
- Who will bow at the name of Jesus? While the text does not say, when do you think this will happen? Has this happened?

#### Verses 12-13

- Paul has told us we do not work for our salvation. What do you think it means that we “work out” our salvation? How does verse 12 say we are to do this?

#### Verses 14-18

- Speaking of attitudes, how are we to do all things? Why? (Answered after “so that”.)
- In what kind of generation do believers live?
- To what do we need to hold fast? Why? (Answered after “so that”.)
- Why would Paul rejoice even if he is put to death?

#### Verses 19-30

- Who did Paul wish to send to check up on them?
- To whom did Paul compare Timothy? What were other men like?
- What are we told about Epaphroditus?

## Philippians 3

#### Verse 1

- What does “finally” signify?

#### Verses 2-6

- Scripture never refers to a believer as a swine or a dog. What other two ways does he describe these dogs?
- Is it plausible these are the opponents Paul mentioned before?
- Did Paul have the reason to have confidence in his flesh based on his pedigree? Did he have confidence in his flesh?
- Again, what does he say he was in regard to the Law? This was prior to his conversion.

#### Verses 7-11

- What did he count as loss and rubbish? Why?

- What would a righteousness of our own which is derived from the Law be called in our terms today?
- If righteousness does not come through keeping the law, how does it come according to verse 9?

#### Verses 12-16

- What had Paul not already attained? Again, “perfect” does not mean sinless, it means complete.
- I’m sure you’ve heard “forgetting what lies behind” quoted before, usually used in regard to the bad things we’ve done or the mistakes we have made. But look at the context, Paul is talking about his pedigree and how his keeping the law perfectly was not enough to save him. It’s the pedigree and his cause for placing confidence in the flesh that he is leaving behind. Does it help to know the context? He has to let all that go, confidence in the flesh derived from the Law, in order to press forward in faith. It’s not about past mistakes.

#### Verses 17-21

- According to verses 17 and 18, what does the “walk” or pattern/habit of life of some indicate?
- What will their end be?
- While they may claim God is their God, what is actually their god? Appetite does not necessarily refer to food, but their lust for indulgence of all kinds.

## Philippians 4

#### Verse 1

- “Therefore” what?

#### Verses 2-3

- Apparently, these two women were not getting along. What else, though, does he say about them?

#### Verses 4-7

- Remember, Paul is in prison and the people he was writing to were receiving opposition. How often did he tell them to rejoice?
- Would they have any reason to be anxious? Do you and I have any reasons to be anxious? What are we to do with it rather than dwelling on it?
- Why do you think thanksgiving is involved in this?
- What is the peace of God like?
- What will it guard? Two things.

Verses 8-9

- We will experience anxiety in this life. It is not a sin to experience anxious emotion, but what we do with it can be sinful. Dwelling on it rather than taking it to the Lord in faith can be sinful. How can renewing the mind by practicing thinking on the things mentioned in these verses help?

Verses 10-14

- In what kinds of circumstances has Paul seen himself? How has he responded?

Verses 15-20

- What does he say this church had done that no other had?
- What is he sure God will supply? Notice how he says “my God”, what is he saying in this context of their aid to him?

Verses 21-23

- How does Paul conclude his letter to the Philippian believers?

See you tomorrow.