

## 50-Philippians-01- Transcript

well hello everybody and welcome from the Burlington congregation of the Church of God international I'm Adrian Davis one of the pastor's I co-pastor with Murray Palmateer and this is normally what we do on a monthly basis our Bible studies we're experimenting with a weekly format and thanks to technology we're hoping that we can support brethren in outlying areas and other congregations as well and I certainly want to give recognition to both Jeff and Wes from Tyler who have been very very supportive in us being able to set this off in broadcast want to ask for your patience as we work through this technology I might hit a few wrong buttons and things could go terribly wrong but I'm sure we'll work through it together and certainly grateful that you're joining us we're going to be studying the book of Philippians I plan to do that over the

next four weeks a chapter a week so  
we're going to start with chapter one  
and we want to make this interactive so  
from time to time I'll break probably do  
it halfway stop about halfway through  
I'll check the chat function underneath  
and then we'll just talk and then I'll  
come back and I'll finish the study and  
then we can chat again afterwards and  
you know we can continue chatting maybe  
even when I drop off some of you will  
leave and continue to chat after that  
but I think this will be a great  
opportunity for us to get together in  
the middle of the week and have a bit of  
a spiritual injection with God's Word so  
having said that why don't we begin with  
prayer our Heavenly Father we pause now  
and we come before you lord so grateful  
so grateful to you for all the things  
that you give to us father that enable  
us to take hold of salvation we thank  
you for your word and father we  
certainly thank you for technology that  
we can make use of this technology to

come together and fellow  
in the middle of the week in between the  
Sabbath's and we just pray God that you  
will bless this that the broadcast will  
go out clearly and that we will all be  
edified and be able to edify one another  
and learn from each other we thank you  
Father and we ask your blessing now as  
we open up your word so rather than I  
want to speak about or study the book of  
Philippians and I call this study a  
model for a healthy congregation because  
as you study the different epistles and  
letters what we see is a lot of problems  
a lot of challenges a lot of doctrinal  
error significant behavioral problems  
and you know fortunately for us the the  
letters that are occasioned by these  
situations help us understand God's Word  
we have access to doctrine we have  
access to guidance that we wouldn't have  
otherwise if these problems did not  
exist in the various congregations but  
the congregation of Philip I stands  
apart because if you read this letter

from the Apostle Paul to the Brethren  
and Philip I it's just clear that this  
is a congregation that was a joy to him  
it was just he longed for them and they  
support they were very supportive of him  
from the very beginning and and I think  
we can learn from this congregation how  
to be a model congregation and it's  
something that it requires all of us all  
of us together create the congregation's  
that we have and so as we go through  
this i just asked all of us to really  
think about this personally what can we  
personally take from this letter that we  
can apply in our congregation and you'll  
notice when you read the the letters to  
the early churches the Brethren lived  
somewhere they weren't floaters they  
weren't just going from congregation to  
Congregation they were in a congregation  
and they were contributing to that  
congregation to make it healthy if they  
were healthy individuals and so that's  
what we're looking at here in your  
congregation what can you do

to make it healthier and it's something that we will all work on together so let's first of all begin in the book of Acts to understand how the church at Philippi was founded and you'll see here in acts 16 beginning in verse 6 it says now when they had gone through Phrygia and the region of Galatia so this is part of Turkey and then were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in Asia so it was their intent to preach the word in Asia but the Holy Spirit prevented them from doing that and then if we look at verse 7 after they came to my zia they tried to go to business bethania but the Spirit suffered them not so again they're being prevented and we may find this even an hour work that we have certain intentions we try to do certain things or we try to work in certain places but the Spirit doesn't allow us to do that but a door opens up somewhere else and that's where the spirit wants us to work and we see that here in verse beginning at verse 8 and

they passing by my SIA came down to Troas and a vision appeared to Paul in the night there stood a man of Macedonia and prayed him saying come over into Macedonia and help us and after he had seen the vision immediately we endeavor to go into Macedonia assuredly gathered gathering that the Lord had called us for to preach the gospel unto them so it was clear that the Holy Spirit was preventing them from going into Galatia and even into my SIA but then it was clear and confirmed and validated by the vision that a door was opening for them to go into Philippi Macedonia or Philip on and this actually is the first time that the gospel leaves Judea and goes into Europe so this is now the beginning of really the Gentile churches the gospel going into Europe and what I want to call out here beginning in verse 14 is that the church at Philip I which was the healthiest congregation it was Paul's favorite congregation it was founded by a woman

and look at look at the qualities of  
this woman verse 14 and a certain woman  
named Lydia a seller of purple so this  
is a businesswoman and purple is a  
color even I'm wearing a bright color  
today back in the day color was very  
expensive and only wealthy people could  
afford color certainly purple and so she  
would have a very well-to-do or  
well-heeled clientele she would  
certainly be a very wealthy woman so she  
was a businesswoman a seller of purple  
of the city of Thyatira which worshipped  
God so she worshiped God she was a God  
fear she hurt us whose heart the Lord  
opened that she attended unto the things  
which were spoken of all so she heard  
the gospel she responded to it and she  
obeyed what she heard and when she was  
baptized so she repented she was  
baptized and her household so clearly  
this is a woman with some clout some  
capability she's a businesswoman she has  
a household when she decides that this

is the way that she's going to go and she's baptized she has her household baptized with her and I think sometimes brethren we can read scriptures and miss read scriptures and we end up trying to create congregations that are oppressive to women and this is not God's will and I think we just need to be very sensitive to the fact that this woman had a very strong role very bad a founding member of this congregation and God loves women women are an essential part of the body and it's just I see the misunderstanding of scriptures such as I suffer a woman not to speak we can get into that in another study and I probably will but I would just caution you hear that for a congregation to be healthy we cannot be oppressing fifty percent of the congregation so she was baptized with her household and she'd be sought us saying if you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord come into my house and abide there and this is you know Paul's a



Jewish man and then here he is being asked to abide with his party with this one with this woman in her household would have been unheard of but clearly Christianity is not the same now as Judaism this is now transcending Judaism and it's being opened up to the Gentiles and there are certain principles which are universal but one does not have to give up their culture to be a Christian and so Christianity cuts across all cultures with fundamental principles that are not compromised so here she asked him to stay in her house and abide there and she constrained us so again a very influential woman and this is the founding of the church at Philippi so let's open up the book now the letter to the Philippians and we'll go through this beginning in verse 1 it opens this letter with who with the author and you know back in the day the postman would have to unscrew the scroll to see who is the letter to and so they would begin with the signature whereas today we put

the signature at the bottom but again we don't use Scrolls when most of us are our email is electronic so I guess even in the sense with email you know who the who the letters from before you even open it so here you one scroll that you see what's from is from Paul and Timothy Paul and Timothy the servants the actual word is slaves the slaves of Jesus Christ to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philip I with the bishops and the Deacons let's just unpack this a little bit if we look at this first of all most of the letters that Paul writes he emphasizes his Apostleship he'll write him he'll say Paul an apostle of Jesus Christ and he goes further with the Corinthians where he actually writes in the letter to the Corinthians I magnify my office he was not at all who barest or aqua heard about his office he magnified it so here though writing to the Philippians he magnifies the fact that he's a slave a slave of Jesus Christ

that he does not emphasize his  
Apostleship and I think personally my  
opinion on this is he's going to get  
into some things later in the letter  
even in this chapter that have to do  
with the Philippians withstanding  
persecution and he's going to be a model  
for them of how to withstand persecution  
and by declaring himself and Timothy as  
slaves of Christ what they're saying is  
they don't have a will of their own but  
they will do the will of their master  
Jesus Christ and if that means to stand  
tall while you're being beheaded so be  
it to stand tall while you're being  
crucified so be it and and the  
Philippians are facing a bit of a  
struggle some persecution here and I  
think that he's just modeling how to  
respond to his persecution and it's to  
recognize that we have a master whose  
yoke is easy a loving master but he has  
expectations of us to be witnesses  
witnesses to the point of martyrdom of  
this gospel so he opens up by declaring

that they are slaves do law of Jesus  
Christ the letter now is to all the  
saints in Christ Jesus which are at  
Philip hi so there's a community of  
believers at Philip I and he's writing  
to all of them and notice this with the  
bishops and the deacons and I love this  
because it shows that the community is  
healthy he's not writing to the bishop  
or in the deacons and you know I'm gonna  
tell you so that you will tell them he's  
writing to the whole community including  
the bishops in the deacons and I think  
that that shows us that a healthy  
congregation has healthy leadership but  
it also has healthy members and how the  
members interact with the leaders and  
how the leaders interact with  
members is important if we look at  
Hebrews where it says obey them that  
have the rule over you but the elders  
have the rule over you and submit  
yourselves why for they watch for your  
souls as theta must give account that  
they may do it with joy and not with

grief that is unprofitable for you so I think here we need to see the relationship between elders and members as that of a husband and a wife where the wife joyfully submits to the husband because she knows the husband wholeheartedly loves her and wants to do his best for her to present her a glorified bride and so when we have this kind of health in our congregations then we're going to have a community that is functioning well and we're going to have leaders that are not lording it over the brethren in fact they're being servants to the Brethren but the Brethren are submitting to them and that's how we have the Holy Spirit working well in the congregation so that the congregation's are a joy and not a burden to the elders and then he says here notice it's plural with the bishops and the Deacons so just as you have multiple deacons in a congregation here it's clear that there are multiple overseers in philip i and i think this model or this notion that of

hierarchy where there's you know once  
super senior powerful elder and  
everybody else is under under that  
individual that's not what we see here  
in a healthy congregation what we see is  
plurality of leadership plurality of  
eldership with a healthy do not  
supporting them and healthy members  
submitting to them as they serve the  
members grace be unto you and peace so  
grace being the the Grecian Greco  
greeting and Shalom being the Hebrew  
greeting grace and peace create grace be  
unto you and peace from God our Father  
and from the Lord Jesus Christ

===== Quiz # 1

So clearly there are two entities here that  
not three is not a Trinity there's God  
the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ and  
so there's a class of beings class of  
God beings  
and within that category of being there  
are two so far one is the father and one  
is the Sun and the Sun is leading many  
other sons all of us into glory so today

we worship Jesus Christ as our God  
because he's in the Godhead but we too  
will be born into that family and all of  
us with Christ will worship the father  
as the supreme god i thank my god upon  
every remembrance of you so again look  
at the relationship that he has with  
this congregation where as he every time  
he thinks of them he thanks God they're  
just such a wonderful community that  
give him energy and strength and  
encouragement so every time he thinks of  
them he thanks God always in every  
prayer of mine for you all making  
requests with joy and again this is a  
congregation that submits to their  
elders and so that they can oversee them  
with joy and as he prays to the Father  
he just he's just full of joy and  
gratitude for this congregation why for  
your fellowship in the gospel from the  
first day until now so the fellowship is  
their partnership so Paul is out there  
as an evangelist preaching the good news  
telling everybody what is to come facing

persecution not having enough finances to do this work and from the very beginning from the moment that Lydia helped him found this congregation in Philip I her household and the rest of the congregation and as the congregation grew they were always supportive compare that to the Corinthians where it was just a complete nightmare it was a real struggle and a burden to Paul to work with the Corinthian church he eventually got them along but it was a real burden to him and they were not supported he had to go and finance himself so that he couldn't be he wouldn't be accused of anything but here we see this congregation taking a partnership in the work of the gospel in the ministry of Paul and so their partnership in the gospel from the very beginning on till now being confident of this very thing I'm just absolutely confident because of what I see in you I'm just so confident but he which has begun a good work in you will perform it until the



day of Christ I've seen this consistency  
in you I've seen this wholeheartedness  
in you I've seen your commitment I have  
no doubt that the work that Christ has  
begun in you he will complete it right  
up to the end beginning in verse 7 even  
at it as it is meet or it's appropriate  
for me to think this of you all it's  
completely appropriate because I have  
you in my heart I just I love you as a  
community and and how we relate to each  
other and everything you've done to  
support me and and how you've been  
obedient to my guidance because I have  
you in my heart in as much as both in my  
bonds and in the defense and  
confirmation of the gospel you are all  
partakers of my grace so the Brethren at  
philip i didn't flounder whether Paul  
was in an honored position or whether he  
was treated as a common criminal in  
prison the Brethren at Philip I knew who  
he was they understood his ministry and  
they were completely committed to  
supporting him and so it's appropriate

for him to think about the Philippians  
in this way that he's absolutely  
confident of their salvation because he  
just loves them and loves the way  
that whether he's been bond or free and  
as he's been preparing his defense his  
apology for the gospel they've been  
fully participating in supporting him  
for god is my record how greatly I long  
after you all in the bowels of Jesus  
Christ so from the very depth of Christ  
I long to be with you i can now i'm in  
prison I think he was an in house arrest  
in Rome at this point so he cannot get  
to Philip I but his longing his his  
heart's desire is just to be with these  
brethren again imagine that  
imagine that there's this there's this  
apostle that people hate the accused him  
of being a false apostle they questioned  
his motives and he struggles to bring  
them along into Christ and to birth them  
into the kingdom but this congregation  
is completely supportive of him and as  
he's in these bonds he just wishes that

he could be free just to be back in this community and to experience the love and the agape that exists in this community so God is his witness how he longs to be with these brethren and verse 9 and this I pray that your love may abound yet more and more so they're already a very loving congregation and as he prays for them and gives thanks for them and has a joy as he thinks about them what he prays even more is that their love will abound he says I and this is what I pray that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment so this is very interesting he doesn't say that he prays that their knowledge may abound in love he prays that their love may abound in knowledge so so the key here is love and good doctrine the end of the commandment is agape and good doctrine results in love in fact I just want to underline how important our behavior is the expression of love with respect to doctrine if just as an example if you look at first Timothy 5

verse 8 he says this 2 Timothy if any  
provide not for his own and especially  
for those of his own house he's denied  
the faith and he's worse than an infidel  
I think if we just think about this it  
is quite profound I could have all the  
knowledge I could be an encyclopedia of  
doctrine and what Paul is saying is if  
my behavior doesn't measure up I'm  
actually worse than an infidel  
so doctrine is not academic doctrine is  
behavioral and the whole point of having  
knowledge is to abound in love but love  
must be sensible so if for example we  
have somebody in our congregation that's  
unwilling to work and as a result he's  
destitute it would not be wise for us to  
finance this person so that would be  
silly love as it with their slain self  
is a sloppy a copy we're not into sloppy  
agape he says that rather than sloppy  
agape he says here I pray that your love  
may abound yet more and more in  
knowledge and in all judgment so yes  
there's this outpouring of love and

concern for others for their welfare but there's a wisdom that's associated with it you know we don't have a blank check and just finance everybody we have to think wisely what is the best way to help and bless this person and that requires judgment that requires wisdom and so the congregation collectively must grow in agape in knowledge that's the doctrinal part we have to understand our doctrines and judgment because good doctrine leads to good judgment that you may approve the things that are excellent you know we can again we can have this sloppy agape where we're approving everything and there the thing the very things that God despises if for example somebody who's not looking after their household is worse than an infidel and we threw sloppy agape could be approving this person meanwhile from Jesus Christ perspective they've denied the faith and so we have to be able to approve things that are excellent and that comes from judgment

and from knowledge that you may be sincere and without offence until the day of Christ and again he's he understands that they're in this big atoll process and and they're growing to be born into the kingdom of God and he's absolutely confident that they're going to be successful

but it's important that they concentrate on developing agape in knowledge and in judgment so that they can approve the things that are excellent and you know footnote disapprove the things that are not excellent get rid of those things d leaven their congregation expel the leaven out of their congregation so that they can be a healthy and a wise congregational loving congregation that you may be sincere and without offense without 11 until the day of Christ and so this is a concern that he has that there could be an offense that creeps into the congregation and so they've got to protect themselves from this leaven entering the congregation being filled

being filled as we as we grow in this  
love with knowledge and judgment we're  
to be filled with the fruits of  
righteousness which are by Jesus Christ  
unto the glory and praise of God so  
again this is verse 11 is what good  
doctrine leads to so the more we grow in  
knowledge the more we grow in judgment  
if it's good knowledge if it's though  
the glute than the wisdom that comes  
from above not the sensual wisdom from  
below if it's the wisdom that comes from  
above it results in being filled with  
the fruits of righteousness

you

so I could try to put myself first but I  
have gentleness I have self-control and  
that's what good doctrine leads to it  
leads to more of the Holy Spirit which  
means leads to more gentleness so when  
we see brethren at each other's throats  
even ministry involved in that this is  
not from God so we need to be careful  
that we are focusing on our interaction  
with each other the same way the

gentleman who is not working to provide for his family has is worse than an infidel we are infidels or as bad as or worse if we are attacking the very body of Christ Matthew 18 makes that clear that it's better for us that a millstone be hung around our neck and we be thrown into the depths of the sea then that we offend one of Christ's little ones so verse 11 is really important here that were being filled with love we're being filled with knowledge and judgment so that we can be full of the fruits of righteousness which come from Jesus Christ why to the glory and praise of God the more we can act with the fruits of the spirit the more we we bring glory and praise to our Father so I think what I'll do now is I'll check the chat and we'll take a little break here and let's hear from you what are your thoughts what are your comments what are your questions and then we'll finish the rest of the book and have a bit more of an opportunity to to finish the the the



chapter chapter one so I'm just going to  
read through this

okay video is working everything great  
all great from my end

okay yes so I have to I realized what I  
the mistake that I made with respect to  
the sound so I'm just going to hang on  
here for a little bit now maybe I'll  
have a drink and wait for some questions  
to come in that's great

so I'm not seeing any questions I guess  
everybody just agrees that we're all in  
one Accord I think that's great I think  
I'll just hang on another minute and  
then what I'll do is I'll finish the  
chapter and maybe there'll be some  
questions at the end but I'll just hang  
on here for a bit

okay let's uh let's continue then in  
verse 18 he says what then doesn't make  
sure that I finished no it should be  
verse 12 okay so we finished at verse 11  
will continue now in verse 12 but I  
would that you should understand  
brethren that the things which happened

unto me have fallen out rather unto the  
furtherance of the gospel so here he's  
writing to a congregation that is facing  
persecution he himself is being  
persecuted for the gospel he's in prison  
and he's encouraging them he's  
demonstrating to them how to be a slave  
of Jesus Christ how to not be  
self-willed but to be God willed and so  
he says here I wish that you would  
understand brethren that the things that  
have happened to me that that you know  
at the carnal level at the human level  
sound horrible it's unfair unjust he  
wants them to understand to see beyond  
the human beings and see the bigger picture

===== Quiz # 2

that the things which have  
happened to me have fallen out rather  
unto the furtherance of the gospel this  
this is a good thing and I see it as a  
good thing because I'm a slave of Christ  
and I'm here to do as well and I can see  
his will being carried out so that my  
bonds in Christ are obvious in the whole

Palace and in all other places so my  
bonds in Christ you know if you suffer  
as a Christian you're blessed if you  
suffer as a busybody or as a murderer  
that's on you but if you suffer as a  
Christian glory to God and here it's  
obvious to everyone in the palace and in  
another in all other places that Paul is  
suffering because of his faith in Christ  
and that is a wonderful  
thing it's furthering the gospel and  
many of the Brethren in fact in the Lord  
are now waxing confident in my bonds  
because they see my confidence because  
they see my conviction because they see  
my fearlessness and my commitment to  
preaching the gospel and how I handle  
persecution I have inspired them and  
they are now convicted of preaching this  
gospel without fear so my brethren in  
Philip I follow me as I follow Christ  
how you see me responding to persecution  
this is how you should respond and and  
that's what's going to further the  
gospel and inspire others to be fearless

to not be fearful greater is He that is  
in me then he that is in the world and  
many of the Brethren in the Lord are now  
waxing confident in my bombs and are  
much more bold to speak the word without  
fear and brethren these things are  
written for our edification we are going  
into a time that the weather is changing  
it was sunny skies and not a cloud in  
the sky and it was just wonderful to  
feel the nice Sun on your skin and a  
nice cool breeze that's over a very  
harsh winter is now coming and there's  
no turning back our whole democratic way  
of life is collapsing all all the way  
around us we need to speak the gospel to  
speak the truth without fear and our  
agenda is not self preservation our  
agenda has to be to preach the gospel  
and that as we're evaluating  
circumstances we're not saying this is a  
good circumstance because I feel good  
and this is a bad circumstance because I  
feel bad we're saying this is a good  
circumstance because it's furthering the

gospel and this is not a good  
circumstance because I'm not able to  
further the gospel are our mind is that  
price level and we're thinking like  
Christ and we've got to just get this  
gospel message out there  
fearlessly so so now as a result of  
Paul's example many of the Brethren are  
are bolder now and they're now preaching  
the word without fear now bit of a  
proviso verse 15 some indeed preach  
Christ even of envy and strife so  
they've got the Gospel message they're  
preaching the true gospel but their  
intention is wrong they're doing it out  
of envy and strife but some of goodwill  
the one preach Christ of contention not  
sincerely supposing to add affliction to  
my bonds so so because Paul is is unable  
to move freely they can move freely and  
they think that they're competing with  
all and they're trying to outdo Paul and  
maybe visit Paul's congregations and try  
to outdo him so they want to add  
affliction to his bonds but there's

another group that is preaching Christ out of love knowing that he is set for the defense of the gospel so they know that he's going to have his day in court he's going to have his opportunity to defend himself for the sake of the gospel but while he's preparing his defense they're out helping him sort of being an extension of his ministry preaching the gospel lot of love and sincerity so Paul then says here in verse 18 what what then notwithstanding every way whether in pretense or in truth Christ is preached so again all that's on Paul's mind is we've got to get the gospel message out there so as long as they're preaching the true gospel the fact that they're preaching it from a wrong intention God will still make this you know human is a master of making lemonade out of lemons so we've got people with wrong intention their competitive their carnal there there are self-oriented but they are preaching the true gospel and then we have people who

are true and sincere and they're  
preaching the true gospel and Paul is  
looking at this insane great as long as  
Christ is being preached then  
this is this is a good development and I  
therein do rejoice yes and I will  
rejoice this is a wonderful thing it's  
not troubling me at all this is all  
God's handiwork everything is just  
working the Holy Spirit is working and  
Christ is being preached for I know that  
this shall turn to my salvation through  
your prayer so I know that I am fighting  
a good fight I am doing the will of god  
and all of this is going to work out as  
a blessing for me and it's going to turn  
to my salvation with it with your  
prayerful support which I know I can  
depend on I'm praying for you and you're  
praying for me and the supply of the  
spirit of Jesus Christ so he's got two  
things he's got the Brethren praying for  
him and he's got the Holy Spirit that  
Jesus Christ is supplying and that's  
what's giving him this confidence in

this joy according to my earnest  
expectation and my hope and in nothing I  
shall be ashamed so you know I'm being  
treated like a common criminal I'm being  
my name is being my reputation is being  
dragged through the mud I'm not ashamed  
I stand in the glory of this gospel I  
stand in the glory of Christ and the  
father I'm not ashamed and so my earnest  
expectation according so so um I know  
that this shall turn to my salvation  
through your prayer and supply of the  
spirit of Jesus Christ according to my  
earnest expectation this earnest  
expectation that the Greek is this this  
strong desire you get the you know we  
used to have a dog and before she was  
trained she would really pull on the  
leash she wants to go somewhere and I'm  
pulling her back and she's really  
pulling on the leash because she wants  
to go where she wants to go that's that  
that's the the sense of this phrase that  
Paul is using that he has this earnest  
expectation he's leaning into it his his



whole he's wholeheartedly striving for  
this end result and and he's not going  
to be ashamed of anything because he's  
got his mind on the end result the same  
way that Christ for the joy that was set  
before him suffered the shame of the  
cross while here Paul is willing to  
for the shame of being treated like a  
criminal because he's focused on the end  
result and and this is the kind of  
thinking that we have to have as we step  
into our future so he says here nothing  
will I be ashamed but that with all  
boldness with all boldness this is I  
just love this this is not somebody  
who's timid this is not somebody who's  
afraid of death or torture he just his  
whole mind is on the end result his home  
mind is on the glory of Jesus Christ and  
the father so that with all boldness as  
always never flinching so now also  
Christ shall be magnified in my body  
whether it be by life or by death so  
here I am I'm on trial why for preaching  
the gospel I'm on trial for believing

that Jesus Christ is God I'm on trial  
for believing that not only was he  
crucified and killed but that he rose  
from the dead three days and three  
nights later and I'm declaring this  
boldly and now I find myself in prison  
facing the death penalty and you know  
what I rejoice because whether I die I  
will bring glory as a martyr that's the  
in fact that's what I was called to be  
witnesses for Christ so whether I die as  
a martyr or I live and I'm returned to  
the Brethren and return to my work of  
you know if I live and they say make  
sure you dont preach any more about this  
Jesus I sorry we ought to obey God  
rather than men so if I live I'm going  
out and I'm preaching this gospel so so  
whether I die or I live which verse was  
I in now sir so he was saying here in  
verse 20 with boldness whether it be by  
life or by death my whole focus my  
agenda is to glorify Christ and both  
will for to me to live is Christ if I if  
I live the only thing on my mind is

Christ and preaching Christ and bringing  
others to Christ and being a witness for  
Christ and to die  
actually to die is gain because I  
understand the promise that Christ is  
making to me and so I'm good either way  
I'm waiting for the sentence to come  
down I'm going to make my defense  
they're going to read out the sentence I  
might be set free or I might be put to  
death it's all good but if I live in the  
flesh this is the fruit of my labor so  
so if I live in the flesh then I'm  
gonna be working this this constantly  
working as an evangelist and apostle for  
Christ's yet what I shall choose I don't  
know I mean it's good to be alive it's  
good to have fruit it's good to do this  
work but you know what if they kill me  
now that's good too because to die is  
gain so I'm really in this kind of  
awkward position and then and this I  
have this piece and as the Brethren  
interact with me they see my calmness  
and they see the piece that the Holy

Spirit is given me they see the joy that I have and they see the confidence and conviction that I have in the kingdom of God and so as the Brethren interact with me it strengthens them it strengthens them but you know if I live I get to work more and I get to see the fruit of my labor but it's okay for me to die as well because I understand I understand that there's a resurrection and the first resurrection is the better resurrection so I am in a strait between the two I'm really like I could go either way and I'm blessed by the way having a desire to depart you know this is where you know so many people want to believe in heaven and oh it's good to go to heaven but they don't want to die and the minute death comes to them they panic and they're doing everything they can to stay alive and all kinds of surgeries and all kinds of things just stay alive well if you really believed in heaven you wouldn't be afraid of death and here we have somebody that

really believes in the resurrection and  
it's quite happy to go to the grave  
knowing that it's a temporary sleep and  
he's back with  
so he's kind of stuck between the two  
choices having a desire to die and to be  
with Christ which is far better that's  
like now my salvation is assured  
nevertheless to stay in the flesh is  
more necessary for you so I see the need  
for the things that I Paul understand i  
mean i was taught directly from Christ I  
had visions of things in heaven that  
it's it's unlawful for a man to  
communicate so I know things and as a  
result of the things I know and the  
maturity that I Paul have in the spirit  
I can really strengthen the  
congregations and so I really want to  
get back to Philip I and help you get to  
that next level of maturity and that's  
necessary so so I see the need and why  
God might keep me alive verse 25 and  
having this confidence that God shall  
keep me alive I know that I shall abide

that I will live and continue with you  
all for your furtherance and joy of  
faith my role is to be helper a helper  
of your joy and so I have this  
conference based on as I read the  
situation and he was actually right that  
they would let him free that because of  
your need for me I will be released so  
that I can help you get to that next  
level of maturity in Christ verse 26  
that you're rejoicing may be more  
abundant so he wants them to grow in  
love more and more wants them to grow  
enjoy more and more so that your  
rejoicing maybe if i'm free i can come  
to you i can serve you in such a way  
that you're rejoicing maybe more  
abundant in jesus christ for me by my  
coming to you again one thing verse 27  
only let your conduct again good  
doctrine leads the Good Conduct this is  
the one this is my one request let your  
conduct be as it becomes the gospel so  
the gospel is not just something you  
learn academically and now you can run

around saying you know things that other people no no the reason we have the gospel is to change our behavior to be lights in this dark world to be the salt of the earth and the more we understand the gospel the more it transforms our behavior to the glory of God so let your this is my one request let your conduct be as it becomes the gospel so good doctrine leads to good behavior the gospel is good doctrine behavioral behave appropriately that whether I come and see you or else I'm absent there may be reasons why I can't get to you right away but whether I come if I come I want to come and I want to see a healthy congregation but if I can't come I want to hear about a healthy congregation so whether I come and see you or else I'm absent I may hear of your affairs that you stand fast in one spirit that you're not a fractured congregation you're not at each other's throats you're a model congregation

=====Quiz #3

and so whether I'm able to

come to you or not what I want to hear  
is that your behavior fits the gospel  
and that means that you're united in one  
spirit one spirit of agape love with one  
mind striving together for the faith of  
the gospel and this is what a model  
congregation does they strive together  
and I think sometimes you can that we  
can have congregations where people are  
sincere and they're really making an  
effort in Christ but they're striving  
individually they have a personal  
relationship with god god is my father i  
pray to my father and i just happen to  
be under the same roof with you at the  
moment so you know once a week on  
sabbath

I share the same roof with you but I'm  
in my walk with God and I'm very  
righteous in my walk that's not a model  
congregation a model congregation is a  
congregation where you are striving  
together you are you're pulling together  
and that's what is that that's what he  
wants to hear that they're pulling



together in one spirit with with the  
mind of Christ and we'll talk about this  
next week for the faith of the gospel  
that that this faith is something that  
we develop over time together striving  
really leaning in with earnest  
expectation and as a result of that  
notice verse 28 and in nothing terrified  
by your adversaries kind of brings to  
mind Jesus Christ commandment love one  
another a new commandment I give unto  
you love one another and that as you  
love one another all men will know that  
you're my disciples doesn't necessarily  
mean that they'll agree with you agree  
with us doesn't necessarily mean they'll  
join us they may even kill us but they  
will know that we are his disciples when  
they see the love that we have for one  
another and so Paul is saying here in  
verse 27 that as we stand fast in one  
spirit as we strive together with one  
mind as we build the unity of the faith  
and our behavior becomes the gospel as a  
result of that agape working in the

congregation we will be we will not be  
terrified that perfect love casts out  
fear and so as we learn to love one  
another our fear disappears and we're  
not afraid of death because we know that  
we've passed from death into life how do  
we know because we love the Brethren and  
so it's this love of the Brethren that  
gives us the confidence of our place in  
the kingdom if we don't love the  
Brethren and we say we love God we're  
liars we're lot worse than infidels our  
behavior does not become the gospel and  
so by being in a community  
and learning to love one another and  
support one another and strive together  
we grow in this faith and in this  
knowledge in this judgment and in this  
very deep agape love and this perfect  
love that we're developing in our  
community it casts out fear so now is  
the weather changes and as we face  
stormy weather and as the persecutors  
common they hate the fact that we  
declare Christ they hate that we worship

Christ they come at us trying to  
terrorize us and we're fearless perfect  
love casts out fear and whether to live  
is Christ and to die is gain and so here  
he says now in verse 28 that in nothing  
doesn't matter what they do is whether  
it's the Roman Empire the Jews today we  
have Christians being slaughtered all  
over the Middle East through Islam it  
does is the same Satan it's the same  
devil but here as a result of learning  
to love one another and this love  
developing in us and casting out fear  
we're not terrified by our adversaries  
which is to them an evident token of  
perdition so as they persecute us and  
they see our fearlessness and they see  
our love for one another this is  
evidence to them that they are doing  
evil that they are doing wrong and that  
they are going to to perish so this  
confidence that we have that we can look  
them in the eye and smile and say  
forgive them Lord they know not what  
they're doing that their conscience is

going to eat away at them and they know  
they're going to perish because they  
have persecuted the apple of God's eye  
for  
it's evident so which is to them an  
evident token of perdition but to you  
this love this unity this this this  
community of believers that is  
developing in Philippine and in your  
congregation in mind this love that we  
have of the Brethren that's the evident  
token of salvation we know that we have  
passed from death unto life why because  
we love the Brethren and that of God for  
untii you it is given in the behalf of  
Christ not only to believe on him but  
also to suffer for his sake and so this  
again he opens the letter by saying I'm  
a slave of Jesus Christ I do i do my  
masters will his yoke is easy and so  
wherever he turns me i'll go and follow  
me as I follow Christ so as you learn to  
love one another as you as you strive  
together and have behavior that that is  
appropriate to your understanding of the

gospel this is what's going to prove to  
you that you have obtained salvation  
that by loving the Brethren now you will  
know that you will have entrance into  
the kingdom and by loving the Brethren  
now you will demonstrate to our  
persecutors that they are going to  
perish that they are they are messing  
with God's children there's this kind of  
love where we willingly lay down our  
lives for Christ and for each other this  
is this is not human and so it's give  
this as an actual gift this is the gift  
that we have to suffer for his sake so  
it's a gift to have this faith to  
believe in Christ but it's also a gift  
to suffer for his sake though that's you  
we is calling us to be his witnesses to  
be his martyrs and so to be in the  
position where we actually suffer for  
the name of Christ  
this is an incredible honor and so you  
sing you know you you have this you have  
this gift to believe in Christ but  
that's not it that's not all you also

have this gift to suffer for his sake  
having the same conflict which you saw  
in me and now here to be in me so this  
is a very thing that I'm going through  
the bonds that I'm facing these are the  
very things that you're facing and this  
is a gift and here he says in Revelation  
12 verse 11 that the Saints overcame the  
Beast by the blood of the Lamb we  
believe in the blood of Christ and so by  
taking the Passover by understanding me  
the power of the blood of Christ that we  
overcome and by the word of our  
testimony and notice this we love not  
our lives unto the death and that's what  
we see in the Apostle Paul he's not  
hanging on to his life he's not putting  
his life over anybody else's he's not  
prioritizing it he's happy to die in  
Christ and so there's this tremendous  
gift that as we grow in love as we grow  
in knowledge as we grow in our belief  
that we strive together as a community  
to build up each other to edify one  
another and as we do that our confidence

in salvation grows and as we do this  
this is evidence to those who subscribe  
to the beast to those who subscribe to  
Satan's philosophy and doctrine our love  
is evidence to them that they are  
perishing so this is just a wonderful  
wonderful letter and I hope that there's  
a bit of discussion about this now I'll  
just go and check the the chat room if  
not we can finish early but this is  
again just a wonderful wonderful letter  
to a wonderful congregation and there's  
so much that we can learn from this  
letter in terms of how to be a model  
gation and and no one person can make a  
model congregation what makes the model  
congregation is everybody find a  
community of believers where you can  
contribute that this is this is this is  
all about this is all about supporting  
one another this is all about the body  
edifying one another in love and if work  
if we're not planted somewhere if we  
don't have a home congregation we're not  
giving we're taking we're going from

place to place and taking and what God wants is this ability that we have for the spirit to flow through us and enable us to love the Brethren to edit for whatever gifts we have to use those gifts to edify the Brethren and strengthen the body of Christ so I think I'll just go in and check the the chat but I wanted to talk about next week so next week we're going to go into Philippines to which is just a wonderful chapter with with phenomenal insight and truth there the challenge i have is next week I'm traveling on wednesday i'll be out of town and i need to be in my home studio here in order to broadcast the study so if you'll forgive me I did say Wednesday nights but next week I'm going to do this on thursday night so we'll cover philippians 2 on thursday evening same time 630 central seven thirty eastern and i believe these are being recorded so if you if you can't make thursday we'll make sure that there's a recording and with that I will I will



you

okay looks like there's some questions

here no questions okay I

okay so there's a question here do I

have time you said our democratic

institutions are crumbling around us and

persecution abounds do you have time to

elaborate on this read the US elections

and the possibilities of persecution I

just have a couple of minutes and all

else I'll say here is that the u.s.

really has been the policeman of the

world and as a result because the u.s.

is really rooted in judeo-christian

values the world has benefited from

judeo-christian values today both

Britain and the u.s. are stepping back

from the from their judeo-christian

values and in fact if anything they're

embracing these pagan values and as a

pagan and secular and as a result of

that a it seems like they're actually

using these other values that are anti

Christic to root out Christianity out of

society and so what we see in the Middle

East is really a preview of what's coming here in fact the sword is already on the land what we've done is we've gone over there who to take people who have an ideology that is extremely hostile I I cannot even articulate to you the hatred that the folks in the Middle East have towards Christianity and have had for for over a thousand years and we're now importing that hatred into North America and into Europe and as a result of that this that the type of persecution that we're seeing in the middle east toward Christians we're beginning to see that now in the West and this is just a preview so so more to come I'm not sure which way the US elections will be going but you know it really doesn't matter at this point either way we're seeing a departure from judeo-christian values even a despising of judeo-christian values and so what I what I call the long shadow of Constantine we're from the moment

Constantine made christianity the official religion we've been operating under that shadow for for you know almost 2,000 years 1700 years or so and as a result there's been a kind of protection around Christianity and around Christian values that's lifted now and if anything there's a hatred and a despising and I think it's going to get worse I think Christianity is going to be blamed for not being peaceful for not cooperating you know can't we all just get along well no not if you're going to despise Christ so I think that I'll just leave it there and that's something that perhaps we'll be able to talk about and maybe some of the other elders will have a more knowledgeable insight into the way that the u.s. elections are going so with that it is now coming up on the a30 the end of the study so with that I'll say we'll see you next week and thanks very much for joining us really appreciate it i hope you got something out of the study and

will will continue to do this weekly and  
hopefully it's a it's a notification for  
all of you

===== Quiz # 4