

The Epistle of Paul the Apostle to Philippians

YTTC Theme: Love The Light

19 And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

20 For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed.

21 But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God." (Jn 3:19-21)

Outline to the Book of Philippians

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Gospel

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PHILIPPIANS 1

CHAPTER 1 **Gospel**

Phil 1:1-11 **Gospel**
Phil 1:1-2 Greeting
Phil 1:3-7 Remembering the Gospel
Phil 1:8-11 Love and affection
Phil 1:12-18 Motive and endurance for preaching the Gospel of God
Phil 1:19-26 To Live is Christ
Phil 1:27 – 30 The Gospel; Conduct and worthiness towards the Gospel

Phil 1:1-11 **Gospel**
Phil 1:1-2 Greeting

1 Paul and Timothy, bondservants of Jesus Christ, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:

2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Lesson:

We can have affection for those who make up the Church or find in the body of Christ. They have a union and togetherness in Christ.

- **Saints –**
 - Set apart from the world and yet set apart for holy calling of God
- **Bishop/Overseer –**
 - ① **responsible to safeguard or witness that something is done in the correct way, guardian**
 - **Good testimony while not puffed up with pride (1st Tim 3:6-7)**
 - To fulfil mission according to God
- **Deacon –**
 - Good standing and boldness in the faith (1st Tim 3:13).
 - To fulfil mission according to God.

Work of Jesus Christ

- Jesus Christ has mission and purpose to bring His people together through His work. We learn to accept whom God has identified to be in in Church and reason for their identity in His household.
- Saints, bishops and deacons to continue to obey His calling to the Gospel of God.
- Lord Jesus Christ still strengthens His Church in His appointment of bondservant, bishops, deacons and saints.

- Appreciate in Christ
- Relate to Christ; Appointment or His choosing.

Lesson:

- Whether we are younger or older, just like Paul and Timothy, we can discover joy towards those of the household of God:
 - Saints younger/older
 - Overseer/Bishop and the deacon
 - Discover godliness, goodness and advance faith between all.

Phil 1:3-7

Remembering the Gospel

For this section we can see Apostle Paul not forget devotion to the Gospel, their progress in the Gospel.

- Apostle Paul also shares with them how he relates to the Gospel and what they and him jointly have in common – The Gospel and the grace of God.

What is it that we should not forget about the Gospel?

3 I thank my God upon every remembrance of you,

4 always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy,

5 for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now,

6 being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;

7 just as it is right for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart, inasmuch as both in my chains and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers with me of grace.

- Joy in Christ whereby His joy promotes renewed heart and mind in brethren and yet towards one another – perfect change:
 - Joy to have things in common,
 - joy to share,
 - joy to revere the Lord Jesus,
 - joy to serve one another.
 - Joy to pray,
 - joy to receive and give encouragement through His word

Motive and reasoning of prayer

- Paul prays with requests to God for believers in Philippi.
- "...Making requests for you with joy"
- Motive for making requests?
- Prepare to accomplish/fulfil
- Obligation of moral/social nature – practice & commit

Sometimes, some people plan for their joy;

- Clubbing, Cinema, dating, drinking to create opportunity and devote time.
- Outcome is a short-term fix for joy

Sometimes we plan for our joy

- Delays in preparation;
- Acceptance at College, University
- The delayed joy to pass exams and then to see outcome.
- Joy is fruit through working of prayers and intercessions.

Paul's Joy to help others through intercession

- Joy to allow God to work ahead of time

- Joy to see their progress in something fruitful that this helpful to them and helpful to the Church.
- Consistency to see progress through prayer.
- It can take time to discover joy in Christ yet worthwhile – hence Paul did not cease to pray for the believers.

“...because I have you in my heart”

- Paul was close to the church, defending the gospel and preaching the gospel. The brethren were supportive of Paul's work.
- To be partakers together and to suffer together.

The believers, Paul is impartial whereby all receive his care/concern/love

- In the heart of Paul
- In the chains of Paul
- In the defence of Paul and confirmation of the gospel.
- Paul and believers have grace in common with one another

Lesson:

- Today, prayer is a form of work, yet from our prayers we can discover true joy in Jesus Christ, and joy to pray to Him. To pray for self, to pray from others yet not lose hope that we identified in Christ.

Phil 1:8-11

Love and affection

For this section we see the general affection Apostle Paul has for the brethren, and more specifically, the affection for the Church. The affection is for them to progress to discern, identify what is excellent to pursue, keep sincere and remain fruitful until the day of Jesus Christ

8 For God is my witness, how greatly I long for you all with the affection of Jesus Christ.

9 And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment,

10 that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ,

11 being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

Paul mentions “God is my witness”

- Different apostles experience the witness of Christ in different ways
 - of God (or the exalted Christ) as witness (1st Jn 1-3)
 - witnessing by eye and ear (1st Jn 1:3, Acts 2:33, Acts 5:32, 2nd Pet 1:16-17)
 - of witnesses who bear a divine message (2nd Pet 1:13-14, Jn 2:25).

Lesson:

- In life there are matters that Christ show us what we are to witness. We can cherish to remember because Jesus wanted us not to know rather than forget. Should we forget or wish to hide from His witness, we are reminded to give account before God in the future (Heb 4:13).
- We may be chained to Christ, in in that chain to Christ reflect how to renew that affection and love for Christ with clear purpose and mission. He will test our sincerity before Him and test our love in faithfulness to Him in order for us to remain a faithful witness (1st Thes 2:4).

Prayer

Paul takes into prayer the love of Jesus Christ for the believers.
What did Paul focus to intercede for them, and why?

CONTENTS FOR FOCUSSED PRAYER

- **Aim through list of reasons**
- **Pray for the reason/purpose**
- **Give room for God to work/Decide**
- **Await His results & will**

CONTENTS FOR FOCUSSED PRAYER

Reasoning:

- **True joy**
- **Abidance of God – Cultivation**
- **Confess/Acknowledge faults to God – (Daniel 9)**
- **Overcome crisis – (Hezekiah – 2nd Kings 20:1-3)**

Lesson:

- Today we are to learn to have a prayer that is focussed to improve our affection for our spiritual advancement so that, in Christ, we can become a more effective servant in Him to glorify His name.
- Focussed prayer of spiritual cultivation and advancement in faith in Christ:

And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment,

- Beginning of Intercession
- Love to abound more and more,
- Grow to know by being clear, yet clear to see what is right from wrong as you discern principle in relation to God.
- **True love is founded on what is true, yet how can we pray in such a way identified acceptable in Christ?**

Prayers that lack acceptance

- insincere (Jn 4:24)
- Lustful desires and/or pleasures (James 4:2-4).

Prayers that manifest acceptance in Christ:

- Godly fear (Heb 5:7).
- Jesus learned the true pursuit of perfection based on suffering and the experience of determination to fulfil mission without learning to waver (Heb 5:8).
 - Endure through perseverance
 - Eventually experience peaceful outcome that is according to God, who is righteous – Perfect answer from perfect God (Phil 4:6-7).

Lesson:

- Grow to discern in moral understanding; between good and evil, to reason out and be clear between yourself and others and clear between yourself and God. To safeguard or protect ourselves as we discern.
 - Consider our work colleagues
 - Consider our brethren
 - Consider family we belong to
 - Consider our spiritual family
 - Consider God

Lesson:

- When we examine and test to see that good is proven helpful, we don't wish to let go because decision is proven to have no faults, consequences or side-effects. We must choose and walk in the best decision that also does not offend God.

.....BECOME FILLED WITH FRUITS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

Why filled with fruits of righteousness?

- ① responsibility on fairness, justice, equitableness, fairness
- ② correctness on redemptive action, righteousness
- ③ upright behavior, uprightness, righteousness

Lesson:

- We are to learn to fulfil the expectations of the Lord Jesus for God to then observe that we live to His righteousness to remain pleasing to God:
 - of specific action of righteousness to fulfil expectation in Christ
 - the principle early in the ministry of Jesus Christ to seek His kingdom and His righteousness whereby we do not lack (Mt 6:33).

TESTIMONY –

- A sister had acidic content in her blood, so took medication.
- She stopped taking medication,
- She lost her sight in one eye while watching TV.
- Doctor poked a needle in her eyeball to remove puss.
- Doctor said there would be complete loss of eyesight, while the other eye had weak eyesight.
- Sister asked her husband to read the bible to her, Jesus healing the blind (Jn 9).
- She was doubtful whether Jesus could heal 2,000 years later.
- She prayed daily.
- Eventually, one day, she saw a light. The doctor thought it was impossible because the retina was destroyed.
- The Lord Jesus enabled her to see, and caused her to see spiritually.

Lesson:

- Hope in God through prayers enabled sister to see, discover the power of God.

Phil 1:12-18

Motive for preach the Gospel of God & endure to preach the Gospel of God

For this section we see Apostle Paul:

- Share the difficulties and progress to advance the Gospel of God
- Share the different motives for those who preach the Gospel
- The joy for people to receive Jesus Christ in the Gospel.

12 But I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel,

13 so that it has become evident to the whole palace guard, and to all the rest, that my chains are in Christ;

14 and most of the brethren in the Lord, having become confident by my chains, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

15 Some indeed preach Christ even from envy and strife, and some also from good will:

16 The former preach Christ from selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my chains;

17 but the latter out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel.

18 What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is preached; and in this I rejoice, yes, and will rejoice.

V12) But I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel,

We can see joy and how the evangelical work prospers.

- “But I want you to know”
- Paul is willing to share challenges and tests to preaching the Gospel
- Paul is willing to share the joys to overcome those challenges
- That which “have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel” is a necessity in learning to discover the perfection to:
 - persevere in Gospel
 - not to lose heart and give up
 - joy to remain in Christ & preserve
 - the power of God from Gospel.
- We can learn about the perfect work of Jesus Christ to take us beyond what we initially thought, planned or prepared.

Lesson:

- People think Paul was restricted to preach the gospel, yet the word of God is not bound. God Himself can set people free, and even if workers are in prison, the gospel can be preached. For example, the jailer at Philippi when the gospel was preached to them, some of the family of Caesar believed when Paul preached the gospel (Acts 28:30-31).

Lesson:

- We may sometimes do tasks which do not seem to progress well according to our liking, and yet, through endurance, we come to discover the bigger picture of furtherance to our assistance. It becomes more worthwhile to devote to what we are committed to. For Paul it was remaining chained to the Gospel of Christ....discover fulfilment.
 - Hardships to endure in University studies...yet obtain qualification at the very end
 - Challenges to obey the word of God....yet trained in discipline to reap the helpful rewards.
 - We shall experience good fulfilment when we do not lose heart, in order to reap joy of endurance, and overcome discouragements.
 - As we devote to remaining chained to Christ we shall discover the greater abidance of God and true joy in Him.
 - Only when we experience enduring in chains do we appreciate more of His help to us.

Phil 1:19-26

To Live For Christ

For this section we see Apostle Paul identify merits to be with Christ and the merits to remain with the believers. He hopes for the faith of the believers to progress, which is his joy. We can also see how Paul serve Christ and the Church, and his conduct in the circumstance.

- To live for the Lord Jesus Christ in order to remain that chosen vessel to which one has been appointed.
- Theme: Servitude / Conduct / Behavior (in relation to Gospel)

19 For I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayer and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,

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

21 For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

22 But if I live on in the flesh, this will mean fruit from my labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell.

23 For I am hard pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better.

24 Nevertheless to remain in the flesh is more needful for you.

25 And being confident of this, I know that I shall remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy of faith,

26 that your rejoicing for me may be more abundant in Jesus Christ by my coming to you again.

V19.....my deliverance through your prayer

V19.....supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,

V20.....according to my earnest expectation and hope

Deliverance? –

- ① delivered, preserved
 - Reward & strength from intercession (Acts 12:5-7)
 - Effective prayers for effective ministry
- ② salvation
 - A correctly taught and submissive soul is saved according to the One Faith (Tit 2:4,11-12)

- **Expect?**
 - Eager.
 - Wait
- **Hope?**
 - ① confidence respecting fulfillment, hope, expectation
 - ② (foundation of) hope
 - ③ that for which one hopes, hope, something hoped for
- **Magnify?**
 - ② greater esteem through praise or deeds, exalt, glorify, magnify, speak highly of

Why expect hope in the Gospel and not be ashamed of the Gospel?

- Glorify the LORD.
- Benefit man in preaching of perfect gospel.
- When the perfect Gospel is explained, then such can see hope in the Gospel, and to pursue to discover the glory of God to transform their life through Jesus Christ.

Lesson:

- By connecting with God through prayer and praying in the Spirit, we can become bold to magnify the Lord Jesus Christ.

Usually, prospects through prayer can enable good progress and guidance. The Spirit can strengthen progress in the right direction when we submit to the Spirit.

Sometimes

- Praise ourselves before others
- Acknowledge helps of others over many years
- Influence/Persuasion of celebrities.
- Jesus Christ is not celebrity yet tend to praise Him weekend only. Yet we may be ashamed to praise His name in public, confirm our identity in relation Him in public.

Why?

To speak highly of Christ and to hope in Christ will not bring shame. **What will bring shame to Christ when we consider His deeds and favour towards us?** (Jn 13:18, Heb 6:4-6)

Progress of faith & Joy of faith

- **What do we remain to progress towards in relation to faith?**
- **What do we remain to joy towards in relation to our faith?**

How can we progress in the one faith?

- ...to remain and continue.
- Man is to be benefitted when we remain and continue to provide assistance:
 - Identify willingness heart to fellowship in the Gospel, to create fellowship with God (Phil 1:5-6).
 - Mutual interest with brethren without selfish ambition (Phil 2:4).
 - To keep self in in the righteousness of God by faith in Him, and furthermore His power in the midst of suffering (Phil 3:9-11)
- Other ways of progressing:
 - To join with brethren to pursue serve in good principles that benefit believers (2nd Jn 8).
 - Share reward with fellow servant
 - Share in rewards from the Lord.
 - Reman open to rewards from His calling you into His ministry: (Acts 13:2) – Share in Literary Ministry, Hymnal, Internet Ministry, YCC, RE Teaching Ministry, Team Leader...etc
 - To share with church brethren a mindset and focus for heaven (Col 3:1-3).
 - Share in prayers for God to open the door for the Word (Col 4:3).
- **How to remain in joy towards the faith?**
 - Fellow brethren grasp same foundation (1st Cor 13:6). Such will love true fellowship and bond.

Growth to mature in Christ brings greater joy and fulfilment.

Phil 1:27 – 30 The Gospel; Conduct and worthiness towards the Gospel

27 Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel,

28 and not in any way terrified by your adversaries, which is to them a proof of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that from God.

29 For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake,

30 having the same conflict which you saw in me and now hear is in me.

....., not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake,

Two conflicts:

- 1) **To believe Jesus Christ and discover how He perfects our life for the better**
 - Experiencing His grace/favor
 - Sometimes we choose our own methods until we give way to the arrangement from the Lord Jesus, and eventually accept His goodwill.
- 2) **The conflict to suffer for the Lord**
 - Learning to believe and obey (Rom 6:16-17, 1st Pet 4:16)
 - Learning not to abuse His grace (2nd Cor 6:1-2)
 - To position self to stand in the Lord Jesus Christ (Phil 4:1)

Lesson:

- We should not think it strange for tribulation to occur. Suffering occurs with belief (1st Thes 3:13, 1st Pet 4:1, 12).
- Sometimes, for God to give us more we have to suffer. This is very temporary, for which God will pave a way for us. Those who suffer for Christ are worthy to enter the kingdom of God.

PHILIPPIANS 2

CHAPTER 2

Phil Chapter 2

Mindset & Exemplary mindset & Obedience/Submission in Gospel of Salvation

Like-minded with fellow co-workers in Christ

For this chapter we can see and learn how to be like-minded when we serve and suffer in the Gospel of God. We can discover who we can obtain joy with the correct mind-set, share joyfully with the same mind-set and when we may suffer with mind-set for the Gospel of God:

- Like-minded co-workers in Christ:
- Like-minded in Christ (Phil 2:20-23) Timothy
- Like-minded in Christ (Phil 2:26, 28) Epaphroditus

Phil 2:1-4

Joy of one mind, one accord – The pursuit of joy through Unity. Like-minded with fellow co-workers in Christ

Phil 2:5-11

Exemplary Mindset for serving God – Jesus Christ

Phil 2:12-18

Serving God and His Church

Phil 2:19-24

Proven Mind-set and motive to serve Church of God

Phil 2:25-30

Like-minded in suffering for the Lord and His Church....and serving

Phil 2:1-4

Joy of one mind, one accord – The pursuit of joy through Unity. Like-minded with fellow co-workers in Christ

For this section we see Apostle Pauls' encouragement to pursue for unity by becoming like-minded towards one another. These same thoughts to matters brings together unity, joy and motive towards one another as they serve the Lord with one another

Theme: Being Like-minded / Joy of Like-mindedness / Be of the Same Mind in Christ / Joy Through Like-mindedness
Like-minded / Unity

1 Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy,

2 fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.

3 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.

4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

... fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.

- The result of the foundations for unity; like-minded in Christ.
- All things should magnify Christ (Rom 12:17). This is the manifestation of unity, especially after a meeting.

Joy to be like-minded

Love to do the same and share in the same – Yet depends on motive?

- Like-minded, mutual care (Phil 2:20-22)
- Same thoughts to care for things of Christ (Phil 2:20-22)
- Likeminded to disobey the provision from the LORD and behave hypocritically against the word of the LORD (Jer 42:10, 19-20)
- Like-minded pure heart calls on the Lord together in righteousness, faith, love and peace (2nd Tim 2:22)

Lesson:

- Love to do good rather than love to do harm. Love to obey rather than disobey, looking at situations from the perspective of God. Learning to be of the same mind, experience joy and yet joy that all can share in good that is of genuine good help to one another and for one another.

The choice to either deny unity or allow for unity.

The pursuit to become like-minded

- Consolation in Christ
- Comfort of love
- Fellowship of the Spirit
- Selfish ambition, looking for your own interests (1st Cor 10:23-24).
- We need to pursue the things that make for unity.

Lesson:

- Whether it be school, college, university or employment, and even in the Church, we need to guard our heart when we pursue to be like-mindedness. This helps allow for joy to rule over sadness.
- To follow the example of the Lord Jesus Christ by considering the needs of others and to help best we can, while guarding our heart.
- Spiritual companions should not maintain the same mindset in application of righteousness, faith, love and peace as we call upon God out of a pure heart (2nd Tim 2:22)

Phil 2:5-11 Exemplary Mindset for serving God – Jesus Christ

This section further encourages the pursuit of the same mind-set to serve by following Jesus Christ as the model example. Some of His virtues include the mindset to serve, serve with humility, and learning to remain obedient

- For this section we can see Jesus as the best role-model, for which we learn how to serve God.
- The mind-set of Christ – The best mind-set and example

The Great Example we should emulate/follow (behavior of Jesus Christ).

5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,

6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God,

7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.

8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.

9 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name,

10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth,

11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

....coming in the likeness of men.

- Jesus came as a bondservant, lowering Himself to the lowest point.

Jesus did not consider it robbery to be equal with God – How?

The rich young ruler referred to Jesus as good teacher, yet Jesus said that only One is good – God (Mk 10:17-18)

The mindset of Jesus taking the form of a servant – How?

- Jesus had the glory of God yet did insist to hold on the glory, because by loving man he gave it up – How?
- Jesus became poor for ours sakes in order for us to become rich in God through Him (2nd Cor 8:9).
- Became poor to associate with man so that mankind could access a living hope for eternal life through faith in Jesus Christ to God.
- Jesus came as a bondservant, lowering Himself to the lowest point.(Phil 2:7)
 - Bondservant? –
 - one who is solely committed to another, slave, subject
 - Of humble service by being slave to all (Mk 10:44)
 - Aim and mission and purpose to submit to the work of God and finish the work of what He was entrusted (Jn 17:4)

Lesson:

Just as with employment or being asked to serve, only when we know our role and duty to serve faithfully will that mindset become acceptable before the boss, and likewise our boss in Heaven

- Know our mission and purpose
- Remain faithful until the end
- Reflection on learning as we serve

Lesson:

- Only when we clearly know our entrusted requirement and mission we strengthen refusal to change willing direction when we allow the will of God to exceed our own.
- From our periods of suffering...to learn the lesson to fulfil obedience as we suffer. When we relate to this:
 - We learn of our depth of persevering
 - We learn the strength of Christ to help us to persevere
 - We identify changes to strength and maturity to obey God (Heb 5:9, Heb 10:5, Phil 1:12, Is 53:3)

Phil 2:12-18 Serving God and His Church

Theme: Shine in the Gospel of Salvation

For this section we see the importance of salvation, the mindset and goal we should have as we serve the Lord through His Church

- To reflect on our salvation and yet identify how to continue to perfect goal on pathway with help from the Lord.
- To not forget how God works to help us
- To serve without complaining and disputing
- To protect and cherish identity as blameless and harmless owned by God

To serve in such a way that benefits others

12 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;

13 for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

14 Do all things without complaining and disputing,

15 that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,

16 holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.

17 Yes, and if I am being poured out as a drink offering on the sacrifice and service of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all.

18 For the same reason you also be glad and rejoice with me.

..... work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;

- To Work out reason, and maintain conviction in direction towards salvation with clear purpose
- Work out salvation with fear and trembling
- Without allowing for pursuit, eternal punishment exceeds salvation.
- Wrath of God.
- Reason out salvation whereby God is pleased in our walk with Him.

What will please God for us to discover perfect fellowship with Him?

- God's work of fulfilment is His good pleasure.
- Obedience to God allows us to experience the abidance of the Holy Spirit.

.....holding fast the word of life

Lesson:

We need to mature more and more in discernment and application to prove what is good for us through proving to live a skilful life as we continue to shine for the LORD. We should learn not to be tossed to and fro through deceitful doctrine/experiences that are not upright (Eph 4:14-15). Mature identity in Christ involves proving by experience, good mentoring from those who is that good example. We should not forget that not matter how many changes occur in our life, that salvation remains the goal:

- More work colleagues v more spiritual friends
- Changes in careers, yet stable job will help settle us
- Love the things of God v things of the world
- Marriage v Marriage in the LORD
- Simple life v riches that can cause much sorrows
- More worldly habits and trends v more Spiritual (that are of God and from God)

Retain the word of lifefor our salvation (Please God)

- Constantly remaining teachable to honour and live apply self to what God has consistently reminded through His teaching, self and others.
- God...."teaches us" up uphold His virtues/requirements, so when we remain submissive we can remain teachable to live a skilful life in a world that is increasingly wicked.

- Teachable behaviours to God may also cause others to work out their salvation to pursue God (Tit 2:11-13)

Live the word of life...for our salvation (Please God)

- ...to shine for the Lord in this world by observing all of Jesus' commands until His Second Coming (Mt 28:20)
- ...to shine by doing all the will of God in order to remain identified as one related to Christ (Mt 12:50)
- **What is the blessing to shine for the LORD by hearing and keeping God's word, especially in relation to working out our salvation?**
- Keep the words of the prophesy of this book.
- Retain the words of Christ of this book, and that of the faithful apostles and faithful ministering spirits in order to reap the blessing in the end time (Rev 22:7):
 - For skilful life of what occurs in the end time
 - Not caught off-guard
 - Salvation is the ultimate blessing and reward.
- Give attention to the virtues of a faithful example of one whose outcome in the faith remains blameless, harmless, and faultless in the faith whereby exercising moral behaviours cannot be condemned because they shine in the faith in goodness and uprightness before God and man.
- Shining example of those who guide help us continue to live as good example in the faith...to gain salvation at the end of the spiritual path (Heb 13:7)
 - Rule through guidance
 - We can testify o that guidance with reasoning
 - To keep faith, and commit, and devote, and love it...to gain reward of salvation

Phil 2:19-24 Proven Mind-set and motive to serve Church of God

19 But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you shortly, that I also may be encouraged when I know your state.

20 For I have no one like-minded, who will sincerely care for your state.

21 For all seek their own, not the things which are of Christ Jesus.

22 But you know his proven character, that as a son with his father he served with me in the gospel.

23 Therefore I hope to send him at once, as soon as I see how it goes with me.

24 But I trust in the Lord that I myself shall also come shortly.

.....who will sincerely care for your state.

For all seek their own, not the things which are of Christ Jesus.

- Timothy was like-minded servant, to care for the gospel and suffer for the gospel.
- Timothy could think about the faith and welfare of the brethren.

Sometimes:

- Like-minded to things in common
- Like-minded to the same idea
- Like-minded can bring a perfect connection between one another
- **How to continue to remain like-minded?**
 - Share the same care about the same matters
 - Same reasoning
 - Same mutual understanding
- being of the same mind or attitude perfected through:
 - Trust
 - Regular fellowship
 - Respect the other party

Deeply rooted identity in Christ, strengthened alongside prayers and correct application, is sustained through trust, regular fellowship and mutual respect for others and God.

Phil 2:25-30 Like-minded in suffering for the Lord and His Church....and serving

For this section we see Apostle Paul acknowledge the virtues of Epaphroditus who served sick almost unto death. We discover the mercy of God he experienced while suffered for the Lord's work, and the faithfulness he had while serving the Lord and the Church

- Like-minded co-workers in Christ:
- Like-minded in Christ (Phil 2:20-23) Timothy
- Like-minded in Christ (Phil 2:26, 28) **Epaphroditus**

25 Yet I considered it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother, fellow worker, and fellow soldier, but your messenger and the one who ministered to my need;

26 since he was longing for you all, and was distressed because you had heard that he was sick.

27 For indeed he was sick almost unto death; but God had mercy on him, and not only on him but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow.

28 Therefore I sent him the more eagerly, that when you see him again you may rejoice, and I may be less sorrowful.

29 Receive him therefore in the Lord with all gladness, and hold such men in esteem;

30 because for the work of Christ he came close to death, not regarding his life, to supply what was lacking in your service toward me.

...Epaphroditus, my brother, fellow worker, and fellow soldier, but your messenger the one who ministered to my need;

- Served Paul as a brother and fellow soldier. Paul and Epaphroditus were soldiers of Jesus Christ.
 - Epaphroditus was sick unto death, which caused brethren to have concern.
 - As co-workers, we should intercede for one another.
 - "....the one who ministered to my need"
 - Paul required help due to his need/circumstance
 - Receiving the ministry of that need allowed for a good supply of assistance in light of that need.

Lesson:

- Appreciating the ministry and witness
- Help offered yet identify need was helpful
- Time – consideration – depth of help – joy to what was received (perfect acknowledgement)

Sometimes

- Allow for need that is due in ministry (our help and our safety to help).
- Acceptable/fitting way to help v acceptable/fitting way to discern with caution (Jude v22-23). Love with discernment.

Epaphroditus: Lovely; handsome; charming

- A messenger sent by the Philippian church to Paul (Phil 4:18)
- Like-minded in the things of Christ by concern for them (Phil 2:20, 26, ...longing with care for the believers 2nd Cor 6:4...distresses...deep concern for all the churches 2nd Cor 11:28)

- Attitude to the work of Epaphraditus –
 - close to death, not regarding life.
 - High standard of devotion to serve Lord Jesus Christ
 - Two co-workers to work together, good reward for their labour (Ecc 4:10).
 - Many people look at riches than their family.
 - Jesus sent out disciples two by two.
 - If the Church Board/Council is united, the minister will be joyful. Ministers should ask God to provide good co-workers.

PHILIPPIANS 3

CHAPTER 3

Defend the Church in truth

“Growing in the Faith & Discern to know what is safe

Phil 3:1-21

Warnings against error

For this chapter we can learn how Apostle Paul continued his duty of care, repeatedly reminding the believers to grow to mature yet carefully discern in relation to the Gospel of God by continuing in what is safe

- To learn not to be easily influenced by those who do harm to the Church of Christ than good.
- To be careful about self-confidence
- To gain Christ and experience His power
- To mature as we aim to reach the heavenly kingdom while discern not to become an enemy of the cross
- To wait for our Saviour, Jesus Christ, while we have this heavenly citizenship

Phil 3:1-16

Phil 3:3-7

Phil 3:9-11

Phil 3:12-16

Phil 3:17-21

Warnings against Judaizer - “All for Jesus Christ”

Convictions of own identity & self-righteousness

All for Christ; Knowing Christ and standing in Christ

Lay hold of that which for which Christ laid hold of me.

Citizenship in Heaven

Phil 3:1-16

Phil 3:1-11

Warnings against Judaizer - “All for Jesus Christ”

All for Christ; Knowing Christ and standing in Christ

- For this section we see that Apostle Paul drew their attention to reminders not to forget that would help their faith in order to remain standing in Christ so that they can continue in joy whereby believers can continue to stand in Christ.
- To continue safely in the Gospel of God, so to be **discerning to know what is safe** in order to stand in Christ (Phil 3:1)
- To discern between what is safe from what is unsafe with the goal to ensure we keep ourselves “safe” in Jesus Christ.

1 Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. For me to write the same things to you is not tedious, but for you it is safe.

2 Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the mutilation!

.....but for you it is safe.

- Rejoice in the Lord

- We cannot rely on external circumstances (position, wealth) to receive joy (James 1:9)
- Crooked identity is not smooth. Sometimes our external health is good but our mental health is poor, or we may have many children yet not all have good education (Ecc 7:13-14).

Sometimes things are smooth and then fall into adversity.

- We need to stand in the grace of God with us (Rom 5:2).
- The changes of life should not be taken too seriously, but to rely on God to obtain joy.
- As we truly rely on the Lord we can grow and discover joy according to the Lord, just Apostle Paul did through perseverance (Phil 1:12). Paul discovered the perfect way to progress further in the Gospel of God...through patience to persevere.

What harms standing in the LORD? What does not cause good safety and why?

- It depends upon what we agree to do, our willingness and knowing consequences (1st Tim 6:3-11) –

Phil 3:1-16
Phil 3:3-7

Warnings against Judaizer - “All for Jesus Christ”

Convictions of own identity & self-righteousness

For this section, Apostle Paul confirms the depth of confidence he gained from his background, and discerning what he gained then, that we would rather forsake this in order to benefit from what is of greater value...Jesus Christ

3 For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh,

4 though I also might have confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so:

5 circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee;

6 concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.

7 But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ.

If anyone..... **does not consent** to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which accords with godliness,

Unsafe

- Rejecting Christ and His doctrine and
- Impact – Lack knowledge: pride/arrogant/foolish, without truth(lack good direction what is pleasing to God to know His will and to abide in it).
 - Unwilling to take corrective action, lack strength to take corrective action
 - Withdraw yourself....or you following outcome unhelpful to life (1st Tim 6:10)

Safe

- Allow for the words of Christ and His doctrine
- Helpful words that are wise and provide good

Testimony –

- Brother was gifted to remember teachings of the Bible.
- Pursued a career that he thought was good....opportunities

- Decided to learn more of that occupation and pursue
- Successful, yet did not preserve his faith in the Gospel of God. Why? – Greed and satisfaction to earning well in career.
- Unsafe: Stray away from faith, depart spiritual path
- Love to serve money rather than God (Mt 6:24)
- Loss of spiritual life / loss of life on spiritual path due do to sorrowful decision
- 2nd Tim 2:17-18 – Hymenaeus & Philetus who distorted truth, caused others to follow that stray from the truth, causing some to unsettle foundation of faith in relation to truth
- Jude v 9-10 –
- Michael the archangel and the devil who dispute about the body of Moses. Impact of corrupt mind.

Safe: Abide in spiritual path God provide for you for salvation (Mt 6:33)

Phil 3:2 Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the mutilation!
It is safe to avoid:

- Dogs?
 - a cultically impure person, unqualified, Unholy (Mt 7:6, Lk 16:21, Num 16:3, 31-32)
 - Dogs do more harm than good
 - We need to perfect our learning that such exist, and perfect our protection not to become influenced and ensnared by such.
 - **How to become perfected?**
 - Strengthen our senses to discern the evil such dogs would behave in their application through discernment
- Evil workers? (2nd Tim 2:17-18, 2nd Pet 2:1-3)
 - ① to being socially or morally reprehensible, bad, evil
 - We need to perfect our learning that such exist, and perfect our protection not to become influenced and ensnared by such.
 - **How to become perfected?**
 - Strengthen our senses to discern the evil such workers would behave in their application through discernment
- Mutilation? - **mutilation, cutting in pieces (Acts 15:1, 24, 29. Gal 5:12, 15)**
 - Circumcision of the flesh – harm to the flesh
 - Circumcision of the Spirit – Joy in the Spirit (Rom 8:5-6)
 - Those who practice circumcision
 - Educated according to the flesh and wickedness (Ecc 7:13-14, 1st Jn 4:3, 6, 1st Jn 2:18) VERSE
 - educated according to the Spirit (1st Jn 4:6, 1st Jn 2:19)
 - To perfect our learning and protection not to become influenced and ensnared by such who are of mutilation.
 - **How to become perfected?**
 - Strengthen our senses to discern the evil such would behave in their application through discernment

Lesson:

Any of the above is with spirit of wickedness with purpose to destroy unity of the faith, the Godhead, or measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ (Eph 4:13)

Phil 3:8-11

All for Christ; Knowing Christ and standing in Christ

For this section we see Apostle Paul gives his reasoning why he wishes to gain Jesus Christ, recognising that his own righteousness is not perfect to

gain, but what is perfect to pursue and gain is righteousness according to God.

As we refocus on the Lord Jesus Christ we will come to experience knowing Him and grasping strength from Him.

8 Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ **9** and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; **10** that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, **11** if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

.....that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith;

- Now discerning between loss and gain, need to make a pursue a perfect decision. **What decisions to take to truly discover a fully rewarding decision?:**
 - Corrective action
 - Abandon own self-righteousness
 - Faithfulness to God to discover He is right (Rom 10:1-3)
 - Build faith according to God's righteous way
 - Abidance with God

Lesson:

- To discover the power of God through a humble heart to Him and His Gospel (Rom 1:16).
- To abide and suffer with the Lord (1st Tim 4:12, Acts 9:15-16)
- Gain Christ
- Joyful direction

....I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

- To discover means and way/method to true joy in life that is safe which is according to God:
 - Justified by faith (1st Tim 1:12)
 - Empowered by Spirit (Rom 1:16-17, Rom 8:1-3)
 - True knowledge according to God (Eph 3:4-7)

How can we truly come to know God?

- To know God by the power of the Holy Spirit.
- Obedient child (Rom 8:16).
- Overcome fleshly desires/weakness/shortcomings to discover life and peace through the Spirit (Eph 15, Rom 8:5-6).
- Wish to become empowered by God.

Lesson:

- When we correct ourselves according to Jesus Christ in the Spirit, we can discover true joy in the present that is far better than joy/gratification of the flesh.
- That perfect way for which we can be satisfied is through the Holy Spirit.....the strength from the Spirit to overcome.

Phil 3:12-16

Lay hold of that which for which Christ laid hold of me.

For this section we learn about

- To press towards the goal, the prize.- the upward call of God. We are to grow to mature in this goal. This means we are to continue to learn to strive forward.
- Everything else is a small matter, leaving behind things and past accomplishments.

12 Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.

13 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead,

14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

15 Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind; and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you.

16 Nevertheless, to the degree that we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us be of the same mind.

.....forgetting those things which are behindreaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

- Complacent faith
- Upward call of God – cherish direction
- Salvation – Ultimate blessing

Reflect on progress to goal (Phil 2:12)

Proactive faith to calling v passive faith to calling

Maintain joyful standard of God to kingdom (Lk 9:62, Lk 17:21)

Lesson:

- Should we cause Jesus to witness we are clear according to His requirements, then directional path and goal remains clear.
- Everything else is a small matter, leaving behind things and past accomplishments.
- Elijah said he was zealous for the LORD when in fact he thought about past accomplishments.

.....have this mind (mature) God will reveal even this to you.

- Faith is built up slowly, as is prayer, and bible study and knowledge.
 - Mature in our learning of Jesus Christ, and then begin to advance forward. If not, then we have hindered our understanding of our Lord Jesus Christ (Col 2:6).
 - It is safe for us to mature in Christ.
- We should improve everyday. Run towards the goal.
- Jesus Christ, Our Lord has left us a good example (Heb 12:1-2).

Phil 3:17-21

Citizenship in Heaven

For this section Apostle Paul uses Christ as his own model, and asks the congregation to imitate.

- Continue with Christ as One to follow, alongside opposing false brothers.
- Keep clear from the enemies of the cross, we at the same time are to endure as we wait for our only Saviour, Jesus Christ
- To discover how Jesus Christ transforms us as we await His return.

Lesson:

It is safe to cherish and preserve ourselves with the inheritance we have received from the LORD; understand and reason out His calling to us.

It is also safe not to compromise the privilege of the inheritance from heaven by sensual behaviour or we could lose the inheritance (James 3:14-16). We are to discern what is safe, and then from this discernment, pursue good decision that perfects what pleases God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

- 17** Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern.
18 For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ:
19 whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame--who set their mind on earthly things.
20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,
21 who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

PHILIPPIANS 4

CHAPTER 4

The joy of being content in the Lord

We can truly be content when we stand fast in the Lord.

- We can stand fast and be content when we meditate on matters that is helpful to us.
- To learn how to stand fast and be content in every situation we face/experience.
- To express gratitude of contentment from the helps prepared by brethren while also seeking how to manifest helps to the Church.

Phil 4:1	To stand fast in the Lord
Phil 4:2-7	Pursue for unity of the same mind
Phil 4:8-9	Appreciating good virtues that bring joy and goodwill
Phil 4:10 ~ 20	Joy of being sufficient
Phil 4:21-23	Final Greetings

1 Therefore, my beloved and longed-for brethren, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, beloved.

Pursue for unity of the same mind

For this section we discover that:

- Euodia and Syntyche were prominent women in the Church, yet were not united together. As companions in the Gospel, he hopes they resolve their difference in order for them to continue as true companions in the Gospel of God and in the Church.
- We should pray about matters for which God is faithful, Almighty and is merciful. Prayer should be made with thanksgiving

– Stand fast & content in unity and prayer

- This section concerns how we can stand fast and remain united in harmony, stand fast in joy and stand fast through our prayers.

We learn how we can experience joy from our prayers with that good mindset of application against anxieties

2 I implore Euodia and I implore Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord.
 3 And I urge you also, true companion, help these women who labored with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the Book of Life.
 4 Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!
 5 Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand.
 6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;
 7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Be anxious for nothing:

- To be anxious does not help (Mt 6:27). Worldly worries can cause death (2nd Cor 7:10). Rather we should pray about matters for which God is faithful, Almighty and is merciful. Prayer should be made with thanksgiving.

Lesson:

- Sometimes, people make mistakes with their thoughts. Just like king Hezekiah, how the LORD helped his health, then he became proud. There was David who lusted after Bathsheba. Therefore, we should learn to guard our hearts and minds.
- Peace is more important for the mind than the body, because then we would know how to care for our body.

4:8-9

Appreciating good virtues that bring joy and goodwill

For this section:

- We should appreciate the good qualities of others. Should we do the good things, we shall receive blessings. We are to stand fast in the Lord, and to follow all the good virtues

8 Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy--meditate on these things.

9 The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.

true, noble, just, pure, lovely, good report, virtue, praiseworthy

- True - No deceit (Jn 19:35, 1st Cor 13:6, Jn 8:31-32, 2nd Jn 4, 3rd Jn 4)
- Noble - Upright moral principle (1st Tim 3:8, 1st Pet 4:17-18, Ecc 11:9, Jer 29:23).
- Just - That which is favorable and right in principle (Ps 9:4, Ps 139:13 – 14).
- Pure - Behavior without blame, that possess good conduct towards self and without harming others (1st Pet 3:2, 1st Jn 3:3, Tit 2:5, 2nd Tim 2:17-18, Mt 12:31-32).
- Lovely - That which is pleasing and agreeable (Eph 6:6)
- Good report - What is worthy of praise and to be made known, fragrant mutual joy linger in heart and mind (Acts 14:27-28 & Acts 15:24-29, 30)
- Virtue - The sharing in life and godliness as a means of knowing the Lord with moral discernment (2nd Pet 1:3)
- Praiseworthy - From the presence of God we can take joy to witness honor, majesty, strength and gladness.(1st Chron 16:27, Ps 21:3)

Lesson:

- We should appreciate the good qualities of others.
- Should we do the good things, we shall receive blessings. We are to stand fast in the Lord, and to follow all the good virtues that helps us retain, become satisfied, and so become content

Joy of what is sufficient/enough for being content

For this section, Paul is sharing what he has learned to become content when he has and when he is lacking. Paul has learned, through experience to be satisfied in all circumstances. Paul learn to endure with whatever strength Christ sustained him with.

Stand fast in contentment in every circumstance

For this section we can learn about how the Lord Jesus has helped Paul to:

- be and remain content:
- With what he has gained
- With what he lacks
- With how the Church of Philippi has helped Paul
- How Paul wishes to manifest His love to help the Church of Philippi

10 But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at last your care for me has flourished again; though you surely did care, but you lacked opportunity.

11 Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content:

12 I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.

13 I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

14 Nevertheless you have done well that you shared in my distress.

15 Now you Philippians know also that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church shared with me concerning giving and receiving but you only.

16 For even in Thessalonica you sent aid once and again for my necessities.

17 Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that abounds to your account.

18 Indeed I have all and abound. I am full, having received from Epaphroditus the things sent from you, a sweet-smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God.

19 And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

20 Now to our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.

V10-11).....your care for me has flourished again;.....you lacked opportunity.

.....to be content:

I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.

- If one knows how to be content, he will have joy. If not, he will never have joy.
 - We should reflect on the great things God has given us.
 - We should not be jealous of others or become dissatisfied. A person can be rich and yet still remain unsatisfied.
 - Flourished – Revive (Rom 15:4, Phil 1:12)
- Opportunities to once again progress from sadness to joy;
 - From fellowship with brethren
 - From fellowship with God.
 - Care from brethren to us provides another opportunity.
 - Care from God to us provides another opportunity

Lesson:

When we are satisfied with what God has given, then we shall find that He causing us to flourish...when again and again, joy s sustained and we can remain content of what God provides us in all circumstances (1st Tim 6:6).

V13) I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

- When we lack strength, we do not have joy.
- Strength can provide joy – energy – feel good factor.

- When does Christ provide His strength? At the time we are in weakness and yet depending upon Christ (2nd Cor 12:9-10, 2nd Cor 1:3-4, Rom 4:20, Col 1:10-11)

When can we fully please God?

- When we have become complete and perfect in all the will of God (Col 4:12).
- When we have discerned with knowledge what we are to do in application that God approves/accepts (Phil 1:9)

When does longsuffering with joy become effective?

- When we willingly surrender our pride and arrogance before God to discover His grace to strengthen and help the humble heart. At this moment we gradually discover joy

Lesson:

- Humble learning
- Longsuffering helps us to appreciate grace of God (1st Cor 15:10)
- the peace of God surpassing all understanding...What God sometimes does is beyond our reasoning our human logic (Phil 4:6-7)

v18)

- Epaphroditus is that sweet-smelling aroma, and acceptable sacrifice that Apostle Paul received.
- Epaphroditus is acceptable to God
 - Paul commends the Church for the sending of Epaphroditus to help address what was lacking in Apostle Paul to eventually abound:
 - Food
 - Clothing
 - Wealth
 - Joy through fellowship with Epaphroditus while imprisoned.
- A sweet-smelling aroma and acceptable sacrifice is well pleasing to God

Epaphroditus?

- Messenger sent to Paul from the Philippian church (Phil 2:25)
- brother, fellow worker, and fellow soldier

Why did the Church of Philippi send Epaphroditus?

- Epaphroditus share in similar-like works in the Gospel of God, and could empathy with Paul as a fellow worker and fellow soldier. Not imprisoned and yet provide comfort to Paul in relation to the work and a soldier in the Gospel of God.
 - Epaphroditus could have supplied his own messages to comfort Paul.
 - Epaphroditus did send the messages from the Church to comfort Paul.
 - Both approaches were refreshing for Paul to gain/receive much comfort and joy

How to become a sweet-smelling aroma?

- **Sweet-smelling aroma? – Pleasant and fragrant (Jn 12:3)**
- **Cherish to abide in His love, godly jealousy to Him (2nd Cor 2:15, Eph 5:2)**
- Love of atonement through shedding His blood to allow us entry into Kingdom of God.
- Love to receive the Holy Spirit and bear fruit of the Spirit
- Love of begetting us to a living hope (the 5 basic Bible doctrines is great depth of His aroma and sacrifice)
- Love to be in His Church, Body of Christ
- Remain a sweets-smelling aroma by proclaiming the praises of Him (1st Pet 2:9-10)
 - Love and joy from the Lord to us – His acceptance

- Not to be ashamed of the Gospel of Christ we have received, not to bring shame to His name (Rom 1:16). From no shame to share this Gospel to yet to now God through Jesus Christ, they can experience His fragrance at first hand.
- To choose to love what is good, and experience the joy from love that is pure and acceptable to God.

21 Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The brethren who are with me greet you.

22 All the saints greet you, but especially those who are of Caesar's household.

23 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

- Relate to Jesus Christ...discover His favor
- Relate to Jesus Christ through His Church...discover His favor
- We shall discover abundance in the grace of God when we do not depart

END