

## Expository Bible Study for Paul's Letter to the Philipplians

### Lesson #4 • “Abound in Love More & More”

#### • HANDOUT •

► In our last study we covered the first eight verses of Paul's letter to the faithful at Philippi. As we know, Paul was writing from Rome, where he was under house-arrest, awaiting his hearing with Caesar.

In addition to his standard words of greeting Paul used in his letters to the churches, Paul added his personal thankfulness for the Philippians' partnership in spreading the Gospel message. Included in his personal comments Paul wrote the awe-inspiring promise: “He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the Day of Christ Jesus.”

Paul closed his Greeting by telling the Believers at Philippi that they were in his heart, and he loved them deeply with the same love which God had bestowed on him.

This current study begins with Paul's prayer for the Believers at Philippi.  
He prays that they will grow in knowledge and discernment,  
and that their love will abound more and more ...

► Philippians 1:9-11 • And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more & more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best, and may be pure and blameless until the Day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ – to the glory and praise of God.

Q: What is significant about “love abounding more and more” as stated in this verse?

Q: Why is love presented here as the key to spiritual growth?

Q: What are the various fruits of the Spirit and what is the purpose for the Believer's life?

Q: What does it mean “to discern what is best?”

Q: What does Paul mean by the “Day of Christ?”

Q: The Fruit of Righteousness is not listed as one of the Fruit of the Spirit. What does Paul mean when he speaks of the “Fruit of Righteousness?”

**Having completed his Greeting and Prayer for the faithful at Philippi  
Paul now reveals the actual purpose of his letter:**

► **Philippians 1:12-14** • Now I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel. As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ.

Because of my chains, most of the brothers in the Lord have been encouraged to speak the Word of God more courageously and fearlessly.

Q: How has Paul's imprisonment actually advanced the spread of the Gospel?

The term "to advance" in Greek is: \_\_\_\_\_ which denotes: \_\_\_\_\_

Q: What is the added bonus that Paul reports regarding his Paul's imprisonment influence others?

Q: When Paul says he is “in chains for Christ” what are the implications of that statement?

**Paul now discloses that there were some who were  
proclaiming the Gospel with false, selfish motives.**

► **Philippians 1:15-18a** • It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill. The latter do so in love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. The former preach Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing that they can stir up trouble for me while I am in chains. But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice.

Q: In the prior verse Paul said that because he was preaching while in chains there were those who were influenced to also boldly preach the Gospel. Now, what does he now disclose?

1.

2.

Q: What was Paul's response to this situation of errant motives?

Q: Would God actually send Paul to prison in order to preach the Gospel? Is there Biblical proof?

► **Lamentations 3:37-38**: "Who is he who speaks and it comes to pass, if the Lord has not authorized and commanded it?"

► **John 1:3** • "All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing that was made was made."

► **Isaiah 45:7** • "I form the light and create darkness, I bring prosperity and create disaster; I, the LORD, do all these things."

► Look at the story of Joseph:

► **Genesis 50:20** • "You meant it to me for evil, but God meant it for good."

**Paul now reflects confidence in the outcome of his present circumstances  
which includes the possibility of his death ...**

► **Philippians 1:18b-26** • Yes, and I will continue to rejoice, for I know that through your prayers and the help given by the Spirit of Jesus Christ, what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance. I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now, as always, Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me.

Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body.

Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, so that through my being with you again, your joy in Christ Jesus will overflow on account of me.

Q: Previously Paul said he did not know what the outcome of his hearing before Caesar would be. Now he states: "what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance." Is he talking about being delivered from his present imprisonment or is it something else?

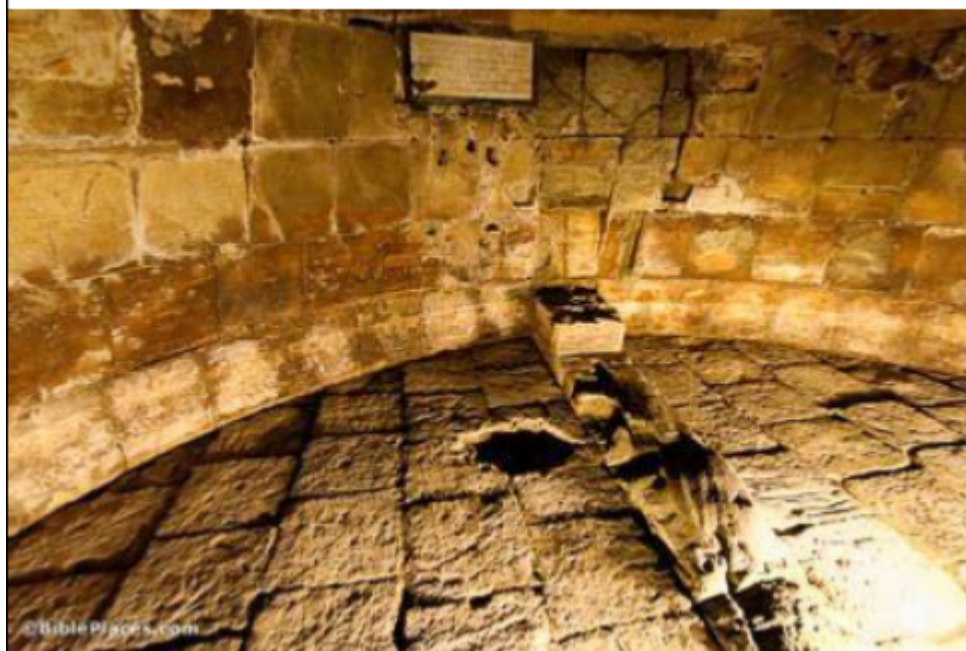
Q: What did Paul mean when he used the terminology, "not be ashamed" when standing before Caesar?

Q: Overall, how did Paul view his apostolic ministry?

Q: What did Paul mean when he said: "To live is Christ?"

Q: What actually happened when it was time for Paul's case to be heard by Rome?

Inside Mamertine Prison



Paul's letter now shifts into instructional mode.  
He wants his faithful friends at Philippi to work together  
for the cause of the Gospel – even in his absence.



**Next Time ◆ Lesson #5**  
**“Striving Together for the Faith”**

