

Philippians

A Letter Of Joy

CLASS 4 – Philippians 1:27f



Paul's Trust in Providence

¹² Now I want you to know, brethren, that **my circumstances** have turned out for the **greater progress of the gospel**, ¹³ so that my imprisonment in the cause of Christ has become well known throughout the whole praetorian guard and to everyone else, ¹⁴ and that most of the brethren, trusting in the Lord because of my imprisonment, have far more courage to speak the word of God without fear. ¹⁵ Some, to be sure, are preaching Christ even from envy and strife, but some also from good will; ¹⁶ the latter do it out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel; ¹⁷ the former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition rather than from pure motives, thinking to cause me distress in my imprisonment. ¹⁸ What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed; and in this I rejoice. Yes, and I will rejoice, ¹⁹ for I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayers and **the provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ**, ²⁰ according to my earnest expectation and hope, that I will not be put to shame in anything, but that with all boldness, Christ will even now, as always, be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death.

The Need To Stand Firm

²⁷ Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that **whether I come and see you or remain absent**, I will hear of you that **you are standing firm** in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;

²⁸ in no way alarmed by your opponents-- which is a sign of destruction for them, but of salvation for you, and that too, from God.

²⁹ For to you it has been granted for Christ's sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake, ³⁰ experiencing the same conflict which you saw in me, and now hear to be in me.

So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now **much more in my absence**, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure (Php 2:12-13)

**GOD'S PROVIDENCE CAN ONLY
BE STOPPED BY US**

So what is our part in suffering and trials?

¹ Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, ² make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, **united in spirit, intent on one purpose.** ³ Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; ⁴ do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.

Our job?

UNITY

SERVANT
THINKING

⁵ Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but **emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant**, and being made in the likeness of men. ⁸ Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Our proof of God's providence?

⁸ Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹ For this reason also, **God highly exalted Him**, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus **every knee will bow**, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Isa 45:23 I have sworn by Myself, The word has gone forth from My mouth in righteousness And will not turn back, that to Me every knee will bow, every tongue will swear allegiance.

So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now **much more in my absence**, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure (Php 2:12-13)

DO ALL THINGS WITHOUT GRUMBLING OR DISPUTING...

Num 11:4 The rabble who were among them **had greedy desires**; and also the sons of Israel wept again and said, "Who will give us meat to eat?"

Deu 1:27 and **you grumbled in your tents** and said, 'Because the LORD hates us, He has brought us out of the land of Egypt to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites to destroy us.'

Luk 22:24 And there arose also **a dispute among them** as to which one of them was regarded to be greatest.

2 Cor 9:7 Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, **not grudgingly** or under compulsion, for **God loves a cheerful giver**.

**You too, I urge you, rejoice in the
same way and share your joy with
me.**