

# Chesswood Baptist Church

Where Everybody is Somebody

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MINISTRY OF THE WORD

**BUT IF I LIVE IN THE FLESH, THIS IS THE FRUIT OF MY LABOUR:**

PASTOR HOWARD DANIEL, JR.

SUNDAY EVENING OCTOBER 13, 2019

SCRIPTURE READING: **PHILIPPIANS 1:14-30**

**Philippians 1:22, But if I live in the flesh, this is the fruit of my labour:** yet what I shall choose I wot not.

## 1. BACKGROUND

- a. Today I will be preaching from the **Book of Philippians**, written by the Apostle Paul between AD 60 and AD 62.
- b. I take the position that this Epistle was written from prison in Rome where Paul wrote three other Epistles.
- c. Those Epistles being **Ephesians**, **Colossians**, and **Philemon**.
- d. This Epistle, from Paul to the Philippians, was written to believers in Europe in the city of Philippi.
- e. This letter came as a wonderful testimony of Paul's relationship with the Philippian church.
- f. As a matter of fact, it seems that this church was closer to the Apostle Paul than any of the other churches he planted.
- g. Their love for him was so strong and his response to that love is reflected throughout this Epistle.
- h. Philippians deals with Christian experience at a level on which all believers should enjoy. **John 10:10**, *The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.*
- i. We will find out today how to live this abundant life. **John 10:10**, *The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.*
- j. This type of abundant living is where the Lord Jesus Christ wants each believer to be continually as we journey through this life. **1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**, *Rejoice evermore. 17, Pray without ceasing. 18, In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.*
- k. Paul visited Philippi on his second missionary journey.
  1. He was traveling with Barnabas on the first missionary journey as they went into Galatia territory.
  2. They were a wonderful missionary team and founded many churches in spite of all the persecution they encountered.
  3. Paul attempted to visit these churches on his second missionary journey;

- however, Barnabas wanted to take his nephew John Mark, but John Mark turned back for some reason on the first missionary journey and Paul did not think it was a good idea to include him.
4. This conflict split this missionary team and Paul took Silas and Barnabas took John Mark and they went in different directions. The mission of each team was highly effective and God used them mightily.
  5. It seems that Paul intended to widen the missionary circle that he encountered on his previous missionary journey because of the great population and the highly civilized inhabitants.
  6. Actually the Greek culture and Greek learning was centered there.
  7. Dr. Luke records in the **Book of Acts** Paul's attempt to go south into the providence of Asia of which Ephesus was the leading city.
  8. When Paul attempted to go south the Spirit of God put a road block in his way. **Acts 16:6**, *Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, and were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia,*
  9. *We are to never question the timing of Almighty God; He is always on time.*
  10. Although he could not go south, Paul thought he would travel north, however God had other plans.
  11. **Acts 16:7**, says, *After they were come to Mysia, they assayed to go into Bithynia: but the Spirit suffered them not.*
  12. So we see Paul neither could go south nor could he go north. He came from the east so there was only one direction left for him to travel and that was west.
  13. He went west as far as Troas, to go further would have required him to board a ship so Paul waited there for instructions from God. **Acts 16:8**, *And they passing by Mysia came down to Troas.*
  14. *Sometimes we feel like God has forsaken us when He requires us to wait. Remember that His grace is sufficient. 2 Corinthians 12:9, And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.*
  15. I can tell you from previous experience, we have to learn to wait on the Lord.
  16. The Bible says in **Isaiah 40:31**, *But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.*
  17. *We have to continue to do what God has called us to do in our particular locale as we wait on further instructions from Him as did the Apostle Paul.*
  18. The orders from God finally came by a vision in the night. **Acts 16:9-10**, *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. 10, And after he had seen the vision, immediately we endeavoured to go into Macedonia, assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us for to preach the gospel unto them.*
  19. Paul and his companions, Silas, Timothy and Dr. Luke boarded a ship and took off for the continent of Europe.

20. What a blessing it was to see that God had called the Apostle Paul to preach the Gospel in Europe. **Acts 16:12**, *And from thence to Philippi, which is the chief city of that part of Macedonia, and a colony: and we were in that city abiding certain days.*
- l. Paul's first encounter in Philippi is recorded in **Acts 16:13-15**, *And on the sabbath we went out of the city by a river side, where prayer was wont to be made; and we sat down, and spake unto the women which resorted thither. **14**, *And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul. **15**, *And when she was baptized, and her household, she besought us, saying, If ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house, and abide there. And she constrained us.***
- m. Paul's first convert was not a man of Macedonia but was in fact a woman named Lydia holding a prayer meeting down by the river.
- n. Prayer is a powerful tool and it is great that Paul was able to be under girded with prayer as this woman was a great encouragement to him.
- o. Lydia was now a member of the Philippian church, since she had been saved and scripturally baptized.
- p. There were also other members of this church worthy of note.
1. There was a girl who was delivered from demon possession. **Acts 16:16-18**, *And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying: **17**, *The same followed Paul and us, and cried, saying, These men are the servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation. **18**, *And this did she many days. But Paul, being grieved, turned and said to the spirit, I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her. And he came out the same hour.***
  2. Another member of this church was a Philippian jailer whom Paul and Silas had witnessed to. They were in jail because this woman who had a demon brought her master much income. After salvation, this master being deprived of his income threw Paul and Silas in the Philippian jail. **Acts 16:19**, *And when her masters saw that the hope of their gains was gone, they caught Paul and Silas, and drew them into the marketplace unto the rulers, **Acts 16:23-24**, *And when they had laid many stripes upon them, they cast them into prison, charging the jailer to keep them safely: **24**, *Who, having received such a charge, thrust them into the inner prison, and made their feet fast in the stocks.***
  3. God intervened and the jailer was miraculously saved. **Acts 16:29-31**, *Then he called for a light, and sprang in, and came trembling, and fell down before Paul and Silas, **30**, *And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? **31**, *And they said, **Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.** **34**, *And when he had brought them into his house, he set meat before them, and rejoiced, believing in God with all his house.****
  4. We are told later about Paul being arrested in Jerusalem and the Philippian church losing sight of him for two years, the minute they found out he was in prison in Rome, they immediately called their pastor Epaphroditus and

dispatched him to that location. He finally returned to Philippi bearing the Epistle to the Philippians. **Philippians 4:18**, *But I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things which were sent from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God.*

- q. Paul wrote this Epistle to thank the church and express his love towards them; he had no doctrine to correct in this church as he did in the Epistle to the Galatians, neither was there any confusion of doctrine to address as had been in the church of Corinth.
- r. There was only a small ripple in the stream in the Philippian church that involved two woman who were having problems, and Paul spoke to that issue not considering it a very serious matter but he did straightened it out and challenged them to be like-minded, putting their eyes on the Lord and His Work and not the circumstance. **Philippians 4:2**, *I beseech Euodias, and beseech Syntyche, that they be of the same mind in the Lord.* The use of the preserved Word of God by the apostle Paul is a great example of how to handle problems in the local church.
- s. His letter to the Philippian believer is a great Epistle espousing Christian experience and we will be considering this today at some length.
- t. Several additional themes contained in this mighty book are:
  - 1. A quitter never wins. A winner never quits.
  - 2. What goes into our mind comes out in our actions. **Romans 12:2**, *And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*
  - 3. God never fails; He is always right on time.
  - 4. Lasting joy comes only through a relationship and fellowship with our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. **Psalm 51:12**, *Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.*
  - 5. Christians also have problems, but Christ has the power to overcome each and every one of them as we turn to Him for guidance. **1 Corinthians 10:13**, *There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.* **Colossians 2:10**, *And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:*
  - 6. We have no basis for pride; our perfect example is reflected in the mind of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ who gives us the perfect solution.

## 2. INTRODUCTION

Refer to the Morning message October 13, 2019

## 3. THIRTEEN POINTS TO THE MESSAGE

- n. **And many of the brethren in the Lord, waxing confident by my bonds.**
  - 1. **Philippians 1:14**, *And many of the brethren in the Lord, waxing confident by my bonds, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.*
  - 2. In the early church, these folks were willing to go out and witness for Jesus Christ.
  - 3. We must be willing to be a witness for our Saviour. **Proverbs 11:30**, *The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise.*

4. We are saved to witness for Christ. We are saved to work the ministry. We are saved to cause the Gospel to lodge in the hearts of men and women as we share not only in word but also in our lives how that Christ died for our sins.
  5. Remember that Paul was in bonds. Also remember that he was *bold to speak the word without fear*.
  6. If Paul had never been in prison, we would not have had *Ephesian, Philippians and Colossians*. What a marvellous thing! **Romans 8:28**, *And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.*
- o. Some indeed preach Christ.**
1. **Philippians 1:15**, *Some indeed preach Christ even of envy and strife; and some also of good will:*
  2. Jealousy in the body of Christ is an awful thing. Sometimes we point to things like drugs and alcohol, but I believe that envy and strife are very detrimental to the Gospel of Christ.
  3. We find drugs and alcohol outside of the church, but we have envy, strife and jealousy within the church.
  4. It causes problems. **1 Corinthians 13:4**, *Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,* God does not want us to display prideful attitudes. Every believer should be considered tender grapes.
  5. **1 Corinthians 4:7**, *For who maketh thee to differ from another? and what hast thou that thou didst not receive? now if thou didst receive it, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received it?* – Salvation is a free gift. None of us have a monopoly on the Gospel. We must understand that God gives various gifts to men.
- p. The one preach Christ of contention.**
1. **Philippians 1:16**, *The one preach Christ of contention, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my bonds:*
  2. I find in order to preach an effective message for our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, I must first give my heart to the Lord and once I give my heart to Jesus we can come forth not with flattering words. **1 Corinthians 2:4**, *And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power* **2 Corinthians 8:5**, *And this they did, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God.*
  3. We want the people to hear from and about the Lord Jesus Christ.
- q. Whether in pretence, or in truth.**
1. **Philippians 1:17**, *But the other of love, knowing that I am set for the defence of the gospel.* **18**, *What then? notwithstanding, every way, whether in pretence, or in truth, Christ is preached; and I therein do rejoice, yea, and will rejoice.*
  2. This teaches us a valuable lesson.
  3. We should not be so critical. If Christ is being preached, regardless of who it is being preached by, we are to rejoice.
  4. Although there are some restrictions in the Scriptures as to who is called to be a preacher or pastor, if the Word of God is being preached by some other, although they might be unscriptural; we should rejoice.

5. We should rejoice that the Word is going forth. **Isaiah 55:11**, *So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.*
- r. For I know that this shall turn to my salvation.**
1. **Philippians 1:19**, **For I know that this shall turn to my salvation** through your prayer, and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,
  2. The word salvation in this case does not mean he is getting saved all over again, but speaks to his release from prison. *this shall turn to my salvation through your prayer*, - They were praying for his release and he knew that would happen.
  3. *the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ* – The only way we can get a fresh glimpse of the Lord Jesus Christ is to reflect on His promises and speak to Him in prayer.
- s. So now also Christ shall be magnified in my body.**
1. **Philippians 1:20**, *According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body.* whether it be by life, or by death.
  2. **Galatians 5:16**, *This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.* **Ephesians 4:1**, *I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called,*
  3. Paul is saying he is not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ. **Romans 1:16**, *For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.*
  4. It is very difficult to get this over to Christians sometimes.
  5. We not only want to be ready when Christ comes but we do not want to be ashamed as we go before Him. **1 John 2:28**, *And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming.*
  6. This is **Christian philosophy**. This is Christian living. This is where the rubber meets the road.
- t. For to me to live is Christ.**
1. **Philippians 1:21**, **For to me to live is Christ**, and to die is gain.
  2. The **philosophy of Christian living** is we should reflect Christ in everything we do.
  3. I am convinced that there is nothing more important than reflecting the Lord Jesus Christ in our lives.
  4. I think our actions are the most powerful witness.
  5. Too many believers live in the flesh and make excuses for the way they are living.
- u. But if I live in the flesh, this is the fruit of my labour.**
1. **Philippians 1:22**, **But if I live in the flesh, this is the fruit of my labour:** yet what I shall choose I wot not.
  2. Paul is concerned about the future. Believers need to be concerned about the future.
  3. It is our actions in the present that will determine our future.
- v. For I am in a strait betwixt two.**

1. **Philippians 1:23-24**, **For I am in a strait betwixt two**, *having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better: 24, Nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you.*
2. Paul is acknowledging that it is nice to go to be with the Lord.
3. However, we have a mission here on earth. Our mission is to bring people under the sound of the Gospel. Many times it is difficult because people do not understand the things of Christ.
4. Certainly we want to go to Heaven, but, I want to get some more people into the Kingdom.

**w. And having this confidence.**

1. **Philippians 1:25-26**, **And having this confidence**, *I know that I shall abide and continue with you all for your furtherance and joy of faith; 26, That your rejoicing may be more abundant in Jesus Christ for me by my coming to you again.*
2. Paul acknowledges the fact that these folks need him to continue to remind them that Jesus Christ is indeed God.
3. Many saints today forget this.
4. *your furtherance and joy of faith; 26, That your rejoicing may be more abundant in Jesus Christ for me by my coming to you again.* – Paul knows that the Lord called him to teach the Word of God. He longs to make that happen.
5. Regardless of what happens in the life of a Christian, we must stay on the mission that God has called us to do. **1 Corinthians 15:58**, *Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.*

**x. Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ.**

1. **Philippians 1:27**, **Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ**: *that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;*
2. *conversation* – Means the way of life.
3. The credit goes to the Lord Jesus Christ.
4. Notice Paul challenges them to *stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;*
5. God's people need to learn how to stand together.
6. **Together we stand – divided we fall.** This is not in the Bible but it is certainly true.
7. If the church were to come together on one accord, listen to the message from the Word of God, strife and envy would disappear.
8. We are not to agonize over the faith. We are not to argue about the doctrines of the Scriptures.
9. The doctrines of the Scriptures are extremely clear. We just need to line up with them. We must remember that the Preserved Word of God is our final authority for faith and practice. **Psalms 119:160**, *Thy word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever.*

**y. And in nothing terrified by your adversaries.**

1. **Philippians 1:28**, **And in nothing terrified by your adversaries**: *which is to them an evident token of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that of God. 29: For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also*

*to suffer for his sake;*

2. Herein Paul lays out the mission of the believer: we are to not only believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, but we are to suffer for His sake.
3. We are not to get upset and worked up because there are adversaries.
4. When the Preserved Word of God is being preached, there is always going to be conflict.
5. We must be willing to stand firm and realize what the Lord says in **Romans 12:19**, *Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.*
6. Those who suffer for Christ will be persecuted. **2 Timothy 3:12**, *Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.*

**z. Having the same conflict which ye saw in me.**

1. **Philippians 1:30**, *Having the same conflict which ye saw in me,* and now hear *to be in me.*
2. Paul is suffering for Christ.
3. Suffering for Christ is a blessing.
4. It is not a sign that God has turned away.
5. When believers get in quick sand some believe the Lord has left them.
6. If there is any leaving; we left Him.
7. The **philosophy of Christian living** can be summed up in one verse: **Philippians 1:21**, *For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.*

**4. CONCLUSION**

- a. Do you know the Saviour? If you do not know Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour today needs to be the day you do.  
**2 Corinthians 6:2**, *(For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)*
- b. **Romans 3:23**, *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*
- c. **Romans 3:10**, *As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:*
- d. **Romans 10:9-10**, *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. **10**, *For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.**
- e. Would you please stand?

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