

**Philippians 1:1** Paul and Timotheus, the **servants** of Jesus Christ, to all **the saints** in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:

**Our subject today is practical Christian living. Gospel centred living.**

Today we are looking at the Church of Philippi, one of the best examples of a church. And one reason for this was their willingness and sincerity to not only hear the Word taught to them but to be **doers of the Word**. They were a **people that applied the Word**. They were an authentic church.

Genuine believers. True ones. **They loved Paul**, and Paul loved them. There were genuine deep bonds of love between them. *1 John 3:14 We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.* He doesn't use his official title as apostle here, perhaps because there is no need to, the genuineness of his leadership here was never questioned, but more likely because of his deep affection towards the believers of Philippi.

### **The Servants of Jesus Christ**

Note how the Apostle describes Himself and his fellow workers as '**slaves of Christ Jesus**' It delighted him to acknowledge his total surrender and submission to Christ, and recognise he was bound to Him, with a debt that he could never repay.

Paul says we **servants of Jesus Christ**. That means one who gives himself up to another's will. To be devoted to another to the disregard of one's own interests. It has its roots in an honourable position of service, the servant in total obedience.

**Paul says he is a servant or slave to Jesus Christ**. Why would he call himself a slave. A willing slave. He understands He had been **bought with a price and redeemed**. Everything He does, body soul and spirit is to glorify God. *1 Corinthians 6:20 for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.* He has been bought not with corruptible things such as silver and Gold, but with the spotless sinless blood of the Lamb.

He is not his own, rather he is completely devoted to the cause of Christ.

### **As a Believer can I say I am a slave of Jesus Christ?**

- Can I say I'm not my own but Christ's.
- Am I devoted to His service.

- Do I put Him first in everything I do. Is He more important to me than anything in the world?

Or are my decisions made on my own advancement and for my own pleasure. Do I see myself in the service of Jesus Christ.

Some people say I'm very successful, I'm very rich the Church is lucky to have someone like me! The Lord must be happy. Not the Apostle Paul, He was happy serve, to give His all, He understood just how much the Lord had given for Him. He was indebted to Him, from a grateful heart.

**This Letter is addressed to all the saints, BY SAINTS is meant those who are set apart to Christ and have been made Holy by Him.** Christ's special possession, those who are elect and belong to Him.

Not just painted saints, not just those who have empty professions, not just the Sunday only Christians. He is addressing those who are set apart. them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called *to be* saints. Called to manifest Spiritual Life.

As we see in **Php 1:27-28. Here is a call to gospel centred living.**

*Philippians 1:27 Only let your conversation (It means conduct in general / live the life of a citizen to behave as a citizen) be as it becometh (in a manner worthy of) 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;*

**A Call to Holiness.** A true Christian has a desire to be like Jesus, to be conformed to His image. **How can we who are so impure become perfect?** It seems almost impossible. How does this perfection begin? It begins with the inclination and desire of the heart and the will. *Philippians 2:13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.* If we are to go from a freezing winter to a tropical summer, we can't take this journey in a single step. No, we get there step by step. When we are instructed to be perfect as our Father in heaven is perfect. It is a progressive process we grow in grace step by step. Sanctification isn't one big step, rather it is a process. Step by step. From Grace to grace-

The Bible says, *Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: Your manner of life worthy of the Gospel.* We see that Paul truly lived to Glorify God, We read Acts 23:21.

he tells the council, *I have lived my life before God in all good conscience up to this day. - I have walked in a manner worthy of my calling. - I've walked in a manner fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God* – Paul is saying my whole life brings forth fruits meet unto repentance, (Mathew 3:8). It simply means fruit consistent with repentance, actions showing your heart has really changed. Can you see how we ought to be, can you see the pattern Paul provided for us to follow.

**The set apart ones, the ones who let their conversation be as becometh the gospel. They conduct themselves not the same as the world.** Under all circumstances they are worthy of the Gospel. **They are in the world but not of the world.** They are not under the influence of the god of this world, they bear not the image of this world, they don't walk by this world's values.

Scripture is very clear. *James 4:4 You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.*

Adultery is a common term well known as terribly wrong. \* when a man gets married everything changes. He no longer even entertains thoughts of any other woman, He is loyal to His wife. It's the same with us who are born again. Behold all things are new, we are crucified with Christ and dead to the world. *Galatians 6:14 But may it never be for me to boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.* Here the scripture is saying that those that do not love God with a single heart, those who are disloyal, who love something else as well, are in essence spiritual adulterers. We ought to give God our whole being, our whole heart, yet instead we allow some part of it to wander off to other things, worldly things. Therefore, the scripture says you adulterous people. A very hard word, but a true word. May being called an adulterer bring us to our spiritual senses. Let us Love our Lord and God with all our hearts our mind our soul and our strength.

**The Lord prayed for all in the world** (John 17:15) *I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one.* Do we long to see the world saved? Do we long for them to find the Love of God? Are we believers compelled to reach the world with the Love of Christ. Compelled to preach The Gospel of salvation. This is part

of, *let your conversation be as it becometh the Gospel. This is leading a life worthy of the Gospel.*

### **Be sure to conduct yourself as Citizens of Christ, and the Gospel.**

**The Gospel is very simple.** It is simple—"not with enticing words of man's wisdom." So Christians should be simple and plain in their habits. There should be about our manner, our speech, our dress, our whole behavior, that simplicity which is the very soul of beauty. "Except we are converted and become as little children," who are extremely simple and child-like, "we cannot enter into the kingdom of Heaven."

**The Gospel is true,** It is **pure** Gold without dross. It is pure water – we must be true – we are called to be true to be in the light and not the dark. 1 Peter 2:9 ... who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. We would be so lost so impure if it were not for cleansing and pardoning of the blood shed for us. He gave Himself to purify us *Titus 2:14 who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.* The Lord Purifies us *Proverbs 25:4 Take away the dross from the silver, and there shall come forth a vessel for the finer.* He makes us vessels fit for the masters use, vessels of silver and vessels of Gold.

**The gospel is a very fearless gospel,** it boldly proclaims the truth, whether men like it or not: "He that believes and is baptized shall be saved. He that believes not"— what does it say, does it try to placate the lost offering some other way to be saved fearlessly and boldly it proclaims — there is never pretending - "he who does not believe shall be *damned*"! That is the Gospel. We must be equally faithful and steady. We fearlessly speak the truth in Love. If any man preach another Gospel, even if an angel preach another Gospel. The bible says let Him be accursed. The Gospel is very fearless in what it says and this is how a Christian ought to be. I live in the sight of God His words are in my heart and mouth. Who is man that I

should be afraid to speak the truth. Be strong! Fear not! For only so will your conversation be such as becomes the Gospel of Christ.

**But the gospel is also very gentle.** See this gentleness in our Lord "a bruised reed he will not break." Some preachers are sharper than a thorny-hedge; this is not like Jesus. Let there be such a gentleness about your whole life's behaviour that even little children are not afraid to come to you and the Bar keeper and prostitute may not be driven away by your harshness, but invited to goodness by the gentleness of your words and acts.

**The gospel is very loving.** It proclaims in every Word the Divine Grace of Him "who loved us and gave Himself for us." "Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." It is the message of the God of love to a lost and fallen race.

Christ's last command to his disciples was, "Love one another." O that we would have more real, unity and love to all the saints; That We would have more tender compassion towards the souls of the lost the worst and vilest of men!

**The Gospel of mercy** and if any man would act as becomes the Gospel, he must be a man of mercy. There are some believers we see them praying, they are at the Lords table they have been drinking the wine and eating the bread. What a good man he is on Sunday! But look at him on Monday—he has got his hands on his Brother's throat, saying —"Pay me what you owe!" Is that how a citizen of Heaven acts, Is that worthy of the Gospel? Or maybe He has workers in his fields that get below the minimum wage. They work so hard and He is so rich. No mercy, no Compassion, Not even a cabage freely given. they this becoming the Gospel.... No the Gospel servant is full of mercy, it receive the beggar, they hears their cry. Mercy picks up and helps the vile and undeserving. Gives to the naked and the hungry. The selfish and stingy person is not a good example of a citizen of heaven. Be prepared, as much as you are able, to do good unto all men and especially to the household of faith! *Galatians 6:10*. Live a life of unselfishness! And so shall your *conversation* be such as becomes the Gospel of Christ.

**The gospel of Christ is holy.** The Angles cry Holy, Holy, Holy. They are citizens of Heaven, If we too are citizens of heaven we live like a citizen of heaven. Holy and

acceptable to our God. This is the cry of the Gospel, If our life is to resemble the gospel, we must shun, not just the big sins, but everything that would hinder our perfect conformity to Christ. For his sake, for our own sakes, and for the sakes of others, we must strive day by day to let our conversation be more in accordance with his gospel.

We have briefly looked at what the Christian life should be, I must, plead with you that by the power of God's Holy Spirit, that you will seek to make your lives like this.

How those who don't walk right bring shame on the Gospel, It wouldn't be so bad if they only shamed themselves, but they bring reproach on the Kingdom on the Church on the Lord. The sinners look and scoff, saying we are all hypocrites. Oh may we never bring the name of the Lord into reproach. May we walk worthy of the Gospel.

**Maybe you have never called on the name of the Lord for salvation. You say I don't need to walk worthy of the Gospel, I've never been born again. I can just walk however I want.**

There are many who say I have never claimed to be born again; I've never called upon the name of the Lord. Suppose a thief is arrayed before the judge and says, I never claimed to be an honest man. The Judge will quickly see he is admitting being guilty, and he may get 3 or 6 months depending how serious his case was.

But for the man or woman that says I never called upon the name of the Lord. I don't claim to be conformed to the Gospel. By saying that they are placing themselves among the condemned ones. The condemnation is much much more serious than 6 months! Its separation from the Lord for all eternity. Let my make it clearer still, You may say I never confessed to be saved I have never repented of my sins. Therefore, that one is making a clear proclamation that they are an enemy of God, they are unrepentant and unbelieving. By saying, saying I am not the Lords. They are condemning themselves. Then when the devil comes looking for they will have numbered themselves among his and He will take you away to a place where you don't want to go. Oh, don't be foolish call upon the name of the Lord. Believe the Gospel and repent of your sins and turn to Him.

