

²³May there be peace with the brothers and sisters as well as love with the faith that comes from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴May grace be with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ forever.

PHILIPPIANS

Greeting

I From Paul and Timothy, slaves of Christ Jesus.
To all those in Philippi who are God's people in Christ Jesus, along with your supervisors^a and servants.^b

²May the grace and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

Thanksgiving and prayer

³I thank my God every time I mention you in my prayers. ⁴I'm thankful for all of you every time I pray, and it's always a prayer full of joy. ⁵I'm glad because of the way you have been my partners in the ministry of the gospel from the time you first believed it until now. ⁶I'm sure about this: the one who started a good work in you will stay with you to complete the job by the day of Christ Jesus. ⁷I have good reason to think this way about all of you because I keep you in my heart. You are all my partners in God's grace, both during my time in prison and in the defense and support of the gospel. ⁸God is my witness that I feel affection for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus.

⁹This is my prayer: that your love might become even more and more rich with knowledge and all kinds of insight. ¹⁰I pray this so that you will be able to decide what really matters and so you will be sincere and blameless on the day of Christ.

¹¹I pray that you will then be filled with the fruit of righteousness, which comes from Jesus Christ, in order to give glory and praise to God.

Priority of the gospel

¹²Brothers and sisters, I want you to know that the things that have happened to me have actually advanced the gospel. ¹³The whole Praetorian Guard and everyone else knows that I'm in prison for Christ. ¹⁴Most of the brothers and sisters have had more confidence through the Lord to speak the word boldly and bravely because of my jail time. ¹⁵Some certainly preach Christ with jealous and competitive motives, but others preach with good motives. ¹⁶They are motivated by love, because they know that I'm put here to give a defense of the gospel; ¹⁷the others preach Christ because of their selfish ambition. They are insincere, hoping to cause me more pain while I'm in prison.

¹⁸What do I think about this? Just this: since Christ is proclaimed in every possible way, whether from dishonest or true motives, I'm glad and I'll continue to be glad. ¹⁹I'm glad because I know that this will result in my release through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ. ²⁰It is my expectation and hope that I won't be put to shame in anything. Rather, I hope with daring courage that Christ's greatness will be seen in my body, now as always, whether I live or die.

²¹Because for me, living serves Christ and dying is even better. ²²If I continue to

^aOr overseers, bishops ^bOr deacons

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