

Philippians Series

Lesson #023

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Philippians

The Progress of the Gospel

Philippians 1:12–14



- **Overview of Php. 1:12–26**
- **The expansion of the gospel**
- **Defining the gospel**
- **All things work together for good**

- **Overview of Php. 1:12–26**

Major Themes in Php. 1:3–11

- Fellowship (*koinonia*) in the gospel = financial partnership with Paul in his gospel ministry, 1:5.
- The “good work” (the *koinonia*), which was begun (1:6) was this financial partnership.
- Paul’s hope, confident expectation, was that God would mature them in this work.
- Paul and the Philippians have a mindset, *phroneo* (1:7), which is their common mission in the gospel and foreshadows Php. 2.
- This work would bear fruit from the beginning until the day of Christ.
- The Philippian believers were joint-partners with Paul both in his chains and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel (which foreshadows Php. 3).
- Those who grow in love as worked out by participation in the gospel ministry will grow in purity and blamelessness until the day of Christ.
- The end result is they will be characterized by the fruits of righteousness.

1. The mention of the progress of the gospel, with the section bracketed by προκοπή (*prokopē*), develops the idea of the expansion of the gospel introduced by “begun ... complete” in Php. 1:6.

Php. 1:6, “being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;” ~NKJV

2. Paul's circumstance of imprisonment, "chains," and the "defense and confirmation of the gospel," is the backdrop for Paul's statements: "my chains are in Christ" (1:13) and "confident by my chains" (1:14), and "add affliction to my chains" (1:16).

Php. 1:7, "just as it is right for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart, inasmuch as both in my chains and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers with me of grace." ~NKJV

Php. 1:13, "so that it has become evident to the whole palace guard, and to all the rest, that my chains are in Christ;

Php. 1:14, "and most of the brethren in the Lord, having become confident by my chains, are much more bold to speak the word without fear."

~NKJV

Php. 1:16, "The former preach Christ from selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my chains;" ~NKJV

3. Paul's mission for the "defense and confirmation of the gospel" (1:7) echoes in "appointed for the defense of the gospel" (1:17).

Php. 1:7, "just as it is right for me to think this about you all, because I have you in my heart, inasmuch as both in my chains and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers with me of grace." ~NKJV

Php. 1:17, "but the latter out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel." ~NKJV

4. The spiritual virtue of a knowledgeable and discerning love which chooses the excellent was stated in 1:10, and exemplified by Paul in his testimony before the Praetorian guard.

Php. 1:10, “that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ,” ~NKJV

Php. 1:13, “so that it has become evident to the whole Praetorian guard, and to all the rest, that my chains are in Christ;” ~NKJV

Php. 1:17, “but the latter out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel.

Php. 1:18, “What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is preached; and in this I rejoice, yes, and will rejoice.” ~NKJV

5. Paul's imprisonment did not hinder the gospel, but in fact led to its progress through the testimony to the guards (v. 13) and through emboldening more preachers.

Php. 1:14, “and most of the brethren in the Lord, having become confident by my chains, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.” ~NKJV

6. Through Paul's pure and blameless conduct, the majority of believers were encouraged and became more confident by his witness.

Php. 1:14, "and most of the brethren in the Lord, having become confident by my chains, are much more bold to speak the word without fear." ~NKJV

7. Though both groups proclaimed Christ, Paul's knowledge and discerning love recognized that one group was motivated by selfish ambition, in contrast to love and good will.

Php. 1:9, “And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment,

Php. 1:15, “Some indeed preach Christ even from envy and strife, and some also from goodwill:

Php. 1:16, “The former preach Christ from selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my chains;” ~NKJV

8. The other group were pure and blameless in their motives—

**Php. 1:9, “And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment,
Php. 1:10, “that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be pure/unsullied and without blame till the day of Christ, ~RD**

Php. 1:15, “... and some also from goodwill:”

Php. 1:17, “but the latter out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel.”

9. In the section from 1:18b to 1:26 Paul is demonstrating discerning love by realizing his desire on the one hand is to be with Christ, but on the other to remain on the earth to continue his ministry.

The result of this is his joy as expressed in 1:18. But for him, the path of staying alive produces the fruit of their progress and joy of faith (vs. 25). The certainty of this is seen in “and because I am confident of this.”

Php. 1:25, “And because I have been confident of this, I know that I shall remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy of faith,”

Php. 1:12, “But I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the progress of the gospel,

Php. 1:13, “so that it has become evident to the whole Praetorian guard, and to all the rest, that my chains are in Christ;

Php. 1:14, “and most of the brothers and sisters in the Lord, having become confident by my chains, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.”

**Php. 1:12, “But I want you to know, brethren, that:
the things which happened to me have actually turned out
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1. Paul wants them to know that what has happened to him is for the progress or expansion of the gospel.

Rom. 8:28, “And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.”

2. What happened to Paul is his arrest in Jerusalem, his incarceration at Caesarea Maritima (by the Sea) for two years, his being taken to Rome by ship, ship wreck, finally making it and around two years under house arrest.

Eph. 3:1, “For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles—

Eph. 3:2, “if indeed you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me for you,”

Eph. 3:13, “Therefore I ask that you do not lose heart at my tribulations for you, which is your glory.”

3. As God providentially worked, Paul's testimony made its rounds among the Praetorian guard. And what they heard was the gospel.

4. The second result is that it gave the other believers much confidence to boldly stand up for the gospel. Leadership by example.

Php. 1:12, “But I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel,” ~NKJV

Php. 1:12, “But I want you to come to know, brethren, that: the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the progress/expansion of the gospel,” ~RD

Php. 1:12, “But I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel,” ~NKJV

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progress, success; BDAG “a movement forward to an improved state, *progress, advancement, furtherance*

Php. 1:25; 1 Tim. 4:15.”

Note: Used in the first sentence of the section and the last sentence of the section.

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ὥστε *hōste*

Conjunction subord (result)

so that, in order that, thus.

Introduces two results ...

“it has become evident ...”

“and most of the brothers ...”

Php. 1:6, “being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;”

Php. 1:14, “and most of the brethren in the Lord, having become confident by my chains, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.”

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