

God is still Sovereign, and Salvation is still Sure
Phil 1-2-3 (04-26-20am)

Central thought: (1.6) Covid-19 does not interrupt the *completing work* of God's redemptive plan,
In God's providence, covid-19 is part of the *completing work* of God's redemptive plan

I. Chap 1: Being faithful to the gospel, no matter what it takes

A. vs 1-11: Paul is fond of the Philippians; so he encourages them with his testimony to God's faithfulness

3 implications about Paul's confidence and how it should equip our confidence:

- 1) God began the good work in Philippian church – that work didn't come from the people themselves
- 2) God will finish/complete His purpose for the Philippian Church – so that the gospel will go forth
- 3) The good work God is completing in the church assures us God will finish His work in His children

B. v12-18 Paul rejoices in midst of suffering under Roman incarceration. Why? How can he do that?

Paul knew God's providence always has purpose; great encouragement as you remember these truths:

1. God is absolutely sovereign over His creation (Dan 4.34-35; Ps 33.11; Prov 19.21; Is 46.9-10)
2. We can't see the future, but we can know that God has ordained every day of it. (Ps 139.16)
3. Just because we can't explain the mysteries of God's providence, does not change the truth of it
Like Paul, we remember that God will finish His redemptive work in the world, and we rejoice

C. v18b-30 We wrapped up chapter 1 w/look at v18-30. (see esp. v20, 21 & 27)

Vs 27 should guide our thinking as we study Paul's letter to the Philippian church

In fact, *living a life worthy of the gospel of Christ* could stand as Paul's exhortation in all of his letters

II. Chap 2: Adopting the Mind of Christ spent three weeks on vs 1-11

A. vs 1-4 Call to unity

1. Unity in the church is based on a shared relationship (in Christ)
2. Unity in the church is grounded in a shared understanding about gospel
3. Unity in the church is lived out in a shared concern for others

B. vs 5-8 Model of Humility Answered 3 questions: Who is Jesus? What did He do? Why did He do it?

1. v6-7: Jesus is fully God & fully man
2. v8: Jesus left the glory of Heaven to come to earth to die on a cross
3. v8: Jesus went to the cross in obedience to God's will

C. vs 9-11 From Humility to Exaltation

1. Jesus was granted a new stature (9) which included an exalted place and an exalted name
2. Jesus was granted a new authority (10-11a) *every knee bow/every tongue confess* (cf. Is 45.22-25)
3. God granted so that God would get glory (11b) *to the glory of God the Father*

Paul rightly assigns glory to God the Son, but God the Father always holds first place (1 Cor 15.20ff)

D. v12-18 Central thought in this sermon: demonstrate an attitude of gladness in our salvation

1. v12-13: Keep working on your faith – as you seek to grow, remember: God is working in you
2. v14-16: Avoid grumbling & disputing – those attitudes hide the light of the gospel in you
3. v17-18: Be glad about your salvation – those who shepherd over you are rejoicing with you
And, just as they rejoice in shepherding you, you are called to rejoice with them (18)

E. v19-30 Paul gave glowing endorsements of Timothy & Epaphroditus for faithfulness to Christ & church

Through their models, we see that serving others honors the gospel and it brings joy to those we serve

III. Chap 3: Having faith in Christ propels us to the finish Four observations, v1-11:

1. Rejoicing stays under the lamp of emphasis (1)
2. Shepherding includes: encouraging faith, exhorting truth, and expressing dangers (2-3)
3. Paul is sold out for Christ and for the Christian faith, but he wasn't always that way (4-6)
4. Paul's testimony of faith is remarkable, because each word of it connects him to Christ (7-11)