

The Book of Philippians

I. CHRIST IS LIFE'S PURPOSE (PHILIPPIANS 1).

"For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain" (1:21). The knowledge of this wonderful truth allowed Paul to accomplish three things.

- A. He could rest in God's security (1:1-12).
 - 1. Paul's greetings to the saints (1:1, 2).
 - 2. Paul's thanksgiving for the saints (1:3-8).
 - 3. Paul's prayer concerning the saints (1:9-11).
 - 4. Paul's explanation to the saints (1:12).
- B. He could rejoice in great suffering (1:13-20).
 - 1. The cause of his fetters (1:13).
 - 2. The circumference of his faith (1:13).
 - 3. The courage of his friends (1:14).
 - 4. The carnality of his foes (1:15-17).
 - 5. The conclusion of the facts (1:18).
 - 6. The confidence in his future (1:19).
- C. He could remain in glad service (1:21-30).
 - 1. God's will for the apostle (1:22-26).
 - a. His desire was to depart and be with the Savior (1:23).
 - b. His decision was to remain and minister to the saints (1:24).
 - 2. God's will for the Philippians (1:27-30).

II. CHRIST IS LIFE'S PATTERN (PHILIPPIANS 2).

"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus" (2:5). This refers to the two beautiful Christian virtues of unity and humility.

- A. The exhortation to these virtues (2:1-4).
 - 1. They are available (2:1).
 - 2. They are attainable (2:2-4).
- B. The examples of these virtues (2:5-30).
 - 1. The example of Christ (2:5-8).
 - a. He left heaven's glory.
 - b. He made himself of no reputation (he refused to use his divine attributes in an independent way).
 - c. He was made in the likeness of men.
 - d. He took the form of a servant.
 - e. He humbled himself.
 - f. He became obedient unto death.
 - g. He died on a cursed cross.
 - 2. The example of the Father (2:9-11).
 - 3. The example of Paul (2:12-18).
 - a. What the apostle had done (2:16, 17).
 - b. What the Philippians were to do (2:12-15, 18).
 - (1) They were to work out their salvation (2:12-14).
 - (2) They were to hold out their illumination (2:15).
 - 4. The example of Timothy (2:19-24).
 - a. To the church he had served as a shepherd (2:20).
 - b. To the apostle, he had served as a son (2:22).
 - 5. The example of Epaphroditus (2:25-30).
 - a. His service (2:25).
 - b. His sickness (2:27).
 - c. His sacrifice (2:30).

III. CHRIST IS LIFE'S PRIZE (PHILIPPIANS 3).

"I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus" (3:14).

- A. The corrupters of this prize (3:1-3, 18, 19).
 - 1. Who they were--the Judaizers (3:2).
 - 2. What they were--enemies of the cross of Christ (3:18).
 - 3. Where they were headed--for destruction (3:19).

B. The cost of this prize (3:4-6). Becoming a Christian had cost Paul the many natural advantages of his background.

"Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee; concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless" (3:5, 6).

C. The crown of this prize (3:7-17, 20, 21).

1. He gained a new knowledge (3:7, 8).
2. He gained a new righteousness (3:9).
3. He gained a new power (3:10).
4. He gained a new goal (3:11-17).
5. He gained a new hope (3:20, 21).

IV. CHRIST IS LIFE'S POWER (PHILIPPIANS 4).

"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me" (4:13).

- A. This power can unify (4:1-3).
- B. This power can magnify (4:4, 5).
- C. This power can fortify (4:6, 7).
- D. This power can purify (4:8).
- E. This power can exemplify (4:9).
- F. This power can satisfy (4:10-13).
- G. This power can ratify (4:15, 16).
- H. This power can sanctify (4:18).
- I. This power can multiply (4:19).
- J. This power can glorify (4:20).
- K. This power can justify (4:21-23).