

# NEW DAY... NEW WAY

## *Christ Is Everything!*

TEXT: Philippians

INTRODUCTION:

If Paul had a favorite church, it may have been the church at Philippi.

The city was named after the father of Alexander the Great, King Philip of Macedonia 400 years before Paul set foot in that place. The Romans had made it a Roman colony and a military outpost, making its residents citizens of the Roman Empire

I think Paul felt toward the church at Philippi like I feel toward you. He wrote,

Phil. 1:3-8 <sup>3</sup> I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, <sup>4</sup> always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, <sup>5</sup> for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now, <sup>6</sup> 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; <sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> For God is my witness, how greatly I long for you all with the affection of Jesus Christ.

And little wonder.

- Philippi was the first city in Macedonia to which the apostle went after God sent him the vision of the man pleading, “Come over and help us.”
- In Philippi, Lydia was converted as Paul preached the gospel down by the riverside.
- In that place Paul witnessed the Risen Christ set a slave girl free from a demonic spirit of divination.
- Although Paul and Silas were severely beaten in this place, Paul could hardly have prevented having precious memories of their midnight prayer meeting down in the bowels of the prison, where sitting shackled in chains, they sang praises to the One True and Living God and called out to Him in faith filled prayer.
- It was here God sent the miraculous earthquake,
  - The chains fell off
  - The cell doors flew open
  - Paul prevented the jailer from killing himself
  - The flabbergasted man fell on his knees and asked, “**What must I do to be saved?**”

- And here in Philippi, God sent through the lips of His faithful missionary the greatest promise the world has ever known, **“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved.”**
- The jailer took Paul and Silas upstairs to his family’s living quarters, and got his kids out of bed, and called the servants to come in and hear what this Jewish preacher had to say.
- So Paul shared the gospel with them, and everyone in the jailer’s household put their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ who had died on the cross to pay the death penalty for their sins, and who had risen from the dead and ascended back to the right hand of the Father, and they trusted Him as the Lord and Savior of their lives.
- And then, that night, ... that very night ... they all went down to the river and were baptized!

Now isn’t this amazing. Today, people wait years sometime to be obedient to the Lord Jesus to follow Him in baptism as a believer, giving testimony of their faith in Him and of His death, burial, and resurrection; but the household of the Philippian jailer would not even wait until daylight.

I do have to say though that the river there in Philippi must have been different than the rivers in Ghana in which I have baptized. I went down into one just before dusk, and I have to admit I was a bit nervous. And at night, I’m afraid that a good strong light might reveal glowing red pairs of crocodile eyes watching for movement of the water.

I don’t know if they had a safer river or just more faith, but whatever, I do know they went down while it was still night, and the whole lot of them that believed in the Lord Jesus were baptized then and there!

- Then, now get this, Paul and Silas went back to their jail cells. They didn’t want to jailer killed because they had escaped.
- When the city magistrates sent word that Paul and Silas were to be set free, they refused to leave the jail! They said, “Oh no. These magistrates beat us and threw us in prison without a trial, and we are Roman citizens! Now they want to shoo us out of town like nothing happened. I don’t think so.”
- So the magistrates came down to the jail and begged Paul and Silas to leave.
- Paul and Silas consented, but first they went to Lydia’s house and met with all of the new converts in the city of Philippi, and the Philippi Baptist Church was planted!
- Paul came back to Philippi on his third missionary journey, and three times the believers at Philippi sent messages and gifts to Paul to help him with his needs and struggles.

**Paul was never the pastor of the church at Philippi, but he surely was a favorite son; and church and founding missionary loved each other.**

**Paul's letter back to this dear church** reflects their mutual affection, and it **reads almost like Paul's personal testimony**. The Apostle writes to his brothers and sisters in the faith, remember Christ is everything!

## I. CHRIST IS LIFE ITSELF.

1:21 For to me, to live *is* Christ, and to die *is* gain.

A. In Christ Paul had eternal life.

1:23 For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, *which is* far better.

B. In Christ, Paul had meaning and purpose in living.

1:22 But if I live on in the flesh, this *will mean* fruit from *my* labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell.

That is what Paul wanted all the Philippian believers to have, and that is what God wants each of us as believers to have.

## II. CHRIST IS THE EXAMPLE OF WHAT I AM BECOMING.

2:5-8 <sup>5</sup> Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, <sup>7</sup> but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, *and* coming in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of* death, even the death of the cross.

A. Jesus was not a man pleaser, but a God pleaser.

B. Jesus came to serve, not be served.

C. Jesus humbled Himself, rather than exalting Himself.

D. Jesus was obedient to the Father in all things, even the cross!

## III. CHRIST IS THE ONE WHO IS CHANGING ME.

Philippians 3:20–21

...the Lord Jesus Christ, *who will transform* our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

## IV. CHRIST IS THE ONE WHO GIVES ME POWER.

4:13 I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

**A. The Power to have peace.**

4:6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;

I am not a fan of paraphrases of the Bible. But I must admit that I like the way the Living Bible expresses this verse.

**Don't worry about anything.  
Instead, pray about everything.  
Tell God your needs,  
And don't forget to thank Him for His answers.**

And note that verse seven is a consequence of verse six.

4:7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

**B. The Power to have contentment.**

Also note that

4:13 I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

Comes immediately after

4:11-12 <sup>11</sup> Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content: <sup>12</sup> I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.

And the thought ends in verse nineteen.

4:19 And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

**CONCLUSION:** Listen dear friend, Paul knew! And he tells the Philippians and through him the Holy Spirit tells us **Christ is Everything!**

**He not only gives life, He is life.**

**Christ demonstrated the way we can successfully live our lives: as humble servants.**

**From the inside out, Christ will transform our lives to make our mind like His mind and our heart like His heart.**

And **Christ alone can and will give us the power to live this way,**

- **Supplying our needs in answer to prayer**
- **Granting contentment that comes from trusting Him fully.**