

## PHILIPPIANS: Picture Joy

June 23: Expect and Hope: Philippians 1:18-26:

“Yes, and I will continue to rejoice, **19** for I know that through your prayers and God’s provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance. **20** I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. **21** For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. **22** If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! **23** I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; **24** but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body. **25** Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, **26** so that through my being with you again your boasting in Christ Jesus will abound on account of me.”

Intro:

### **I. Expect Prayer and Provision: : *I know that through your prayers and God’s provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance (Phil. 1:19).***

A. Prayers: *Through your prayers.* Get people praying for you. More things are accomplished through prayer than this world dreams of. If prayer

B. Provision: *God’s provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ*

1. Only twice in the NT do you have the exact phrase “the spirit of Jesus,” here and in Acts 16:7. The phrase in Acts is subject to some debate and does not appear in the KJV but is included in nearly all modern translations.

2. Luke and Paul, then, both use this phrase, “the spirit of Jesus,” in connection with the mission to Philippi. Luke is describing the reason they went to Macedonia, and Paul is discussing his deliverance from the things that happened to him (Philippians 1:19).

3. The slave girl in Philippi had a “spirit by which she predicted the future” (Acts 16:16). She followed them around shouting, “These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved” (Acts 16:17). Finally Paul turned around and said to her, “In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!” (Acts 16:18). At that moment the spirit left her, and Paul and Silas were in big trouble. And later the way of salvation was made clear to the JAILER: “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved” (Acts 16:31).

C. Expect God to provide for you. Jesus said, “*Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside of your Father’s care. And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So don’t be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows*” (Matthew 10:29-31). Jesus does not want us worrying about food or clothes or the future or the past. He wants us resting in the Father’s care.

### **II. Expect Things to Turn Out Right: *What has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance (Phil. 1:19).***

A. “Eagerly expect” is *apokaradokia* which means “to watch with head erect or outstretched, to wait for in suspense.”

1. The prefix “apo” communicates constancy in expecting, that this is the style of his life rather than just a moment in time—an anxious and persistent expectation.

2. The other time it is used in the NT is also by Paul in Romans 8:19: *For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed.*

B. “Hope” is *elpis*, the standard word for hope in the NT. This word also includes the sense of “expectation,” usually of good though sometimes of evil. Here it is used in a very familiar way as the expectation of our future deliverance through Christ.

1. At the root the word refers to the one in whom you confide or the refuge to which you flee.

2. Romans 8:20-21 reads, *For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.*

C. Drop Your Troubles into the Sovereignty of God

D. I have an expectation for the future. It is given to me by the spirit of Jesus, and it is this: We will be **“liberated from bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God” (Romans 8:21).** This is my prediction for all those who are in Christ. It is about the future for sure although it has implications for your present attitudes and actions.

E. This eager expectation and future hope guarantees that I will maintain a certain posture in this world and in my life: ***I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my life, whether by life or by death*** (Philippians 1:20).

1. I have no fear of being ashamed, of failing—no fear of failure. This is about what God will do for me. I am not going to be brought to shame by my faith in Christ. He is not going to abandon me or desert me or leave me to fend on my own. I will not be embarrassed in the end that I gave my life to Christ.

2. I have no fear of losing courage: I “will have sufficient courage.” Do you ever worry that you are not going to be able to “live the life”? Are you afraid to commit because you are afraid you will fail to live up to your commitment?

### **III. Expect Sufficient Courage: *I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage* (Phil. 1:20).**

A. The word courage here is “free and fearless confidence, cheerful courage, boldness, and assurance.”

B. “Will have” means that Paul is anticipating a future test.

1. He has a history with God to look at. In the past he has always been supplied with the courage that he needed at the time he needed it.

2. He is extrapolating to the present and believes that “now as always,” he will be supplied what he needs by the Spirit of God.

C. We do not receive the strength and courage that we need before we need it. We receive it WHEN WE NEED IT. It is no use worrying about things to come. You will not have the sufficient supply from God when you are lying in your bed at night worrying about it. The sufficiency of God’s provision comes at the time of the need.

D. Paul is contemplating an extreme test—the test of martyrdom. He may be executed. As he considers this reality, he expects that in the moment of his execution, God will provide the courage that he needs.

E. Courage to EXALT CHRIST in the body (v20). God will give you the courage if you will focus on exalting the Savior.

### **IV. Expect Fruitful Labor (Phil. 1:22): *If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me.***

A. We have this middle-aged crazies in our culture. People who are 50 or so realize they are not going to do all that they dreamed they would. They are not going to be all that they hoped to be. They realize that some of their dreams did not come true. And they become depressed.

\*\*\*Do you know that one of the highest suicide rate in age groups for men is in this 45-54 age group? I think it is the death of the dream that brings about the higher rate of suicide.

B. Fruitful labor is productive, important, useful, significant, lasting.

1. Fruit is primarily the fruit of trees like apples or citrus.

2. Labor is our work and profession, that which occupies our time.

C. Fruitful labor versus future glory. They are like isometrics. They seem to work against one another but actually they build up each other.

D.

My age perspective, if there is such a thing, has never been so close to that of the Apostle Paul in Philippians.