

SOUTH GROVE FREE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH LONDON

Lord's Day Morning

Date 2nd October 2022

Preacher Rev Philip Knowles Ps/ Hymns, Ps 34:1-10. (T- Antioch Joy to the world, 404, 611, 612 Read: Philippians 1:12-20 Text Philippians 1:18

Series: Philippians Title: Paul's Knowledge to Rejoice (1)

The opening words of **verse 19** actually point back to the previous words in **verses 15-18** but especially **verse 18**.

Notice the connection in **verse 18 to the first part of verse 20**.

“What then? notwithstanding, every way, whether in pretence, or in truth, Christ is preached; and I therein do rejoice, yea, and will rejoice.

19 For I know that this shall turn to my salvation through your prayer, and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, 20 According to my earnest expectation and my hope...”

At the time of this letter Paul is chained to a Roman guard, facing death at some point by the order of the Emperor at that time who was Nero.

Paul's bonds gave encouragement, and courage for believers to take a gospel stand, to see Christ preached as He is revealed in the scriptures as the Only Saviour of sinners.

However, it was clear, that some believers had different reasons or motives why they were preaching Christ.

Paul noted that some preached Christ out of good will, and love knowing God had called Paul, set him apart for the defence of the Gospel, therefore they wanted to support, work alongside and help Paul spread the gospel.

Whereas other believers, preached Christ out of envy, jealousy, strife, contention, rivalry, competitively, as Paul says in **verse 16 to add affliction to my bonds** meaning they added extra, distress to which Paul already suffered.

As Paul remained in bonds, they separated from Paul.

They wanted position, praise, popularity, and recognition. They preached Christ for their own cause,

And while their message was scriptural, yet their motives, and reasons for their message was unscriptural.

However, Paul didn't fight back, get nasty, degrade them, rather Paul makes it clear their reason for preaching is wrong, but who they are preaching must be continue.

That's why Paul says at the end of **verse 18** *and I therein do rejoice.*

Paul is not rejoicing in them, or their motives but in the message that Christ is preached. Paul's cause to rejoice is always *in, by and through Christ.*

(Preach against me all you want, make your judgment about me, add affliction to me, degrade my reputation, advance your own cause at my expense, but as long as Christ is preached in truth, as long as souls are hearing the gospel, as long as the gospel is being furthered, that's what I rejoice in.)

For this reason, the last part of **verse 18** links with the start of **verse 19** “...*and I therein do rejoice, and will rejoice, for I know*.....,

Paul connects the present and future with rejoicing.

Paul lives in his present circumstances with his focus on future comfort.

The word **know** means **to perceive, to have an understanding, to know something to be true.** It is a statement of absolute certainty and confidence. I know this.

This is blessed assurance, as **Romans 8:28** states “*And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose*

In other words, Paul has a future expectation, a hope that is steadfast and sure. **God is always and ever working for the blessing of them who love Him.**

For this reason, Paul knew there is only one whose judgment matters, it's not the words of man, **but the well done of Christ.**

Paul said in **2 Cor 5:10** ***for we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.***

There is a day, as Paul said in **Romans 2:16** “...***God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel.***”

The believer will never be judged for sin's guilt because their sin was dealt with at the cross, blotted out and removed by faith in the blood of Christ. Our sinful account was settled.

But believers will stand before God and give account for service, by what we have done with what Christ has given us.

Have we used or misused our talents? What has been our motives, the reasons for serving Christ.

If our motives are wrong, for self, those works will be burned up, but if done for Christ there will be rewards, crowns in order to cast at the Saviour's feet to worship Him.

1 Corinthians 3:13-15 ***Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.***

14 If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.

15 If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire

You see, only what's done for God will last.

Paul's point is this, add to my affliction, cause me as much distress as you plan to but I **will rejoice**... my eyes are forward, my eyes are on the upward, **Phil 3:14** *I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.*

In **verse 19**, *Paul rejoices in the Salvation of the Sovereign, the Supplication of the Saints and the Supply of the Spirit.*

Today our thoughts will centre upon **Paul rejoices in the Salvation of the Sovereign**

I FIRST PAUL REJOICES IN THE SALVATION OF THE SOVEREIGN

Notice the opening words of **verse 19** "**For I know that this shall turn to my salvation.**"

The word **salvation** in **verse 19** is the standard meaning **to save, deliverance, escape, preservation.**

While the overall meaning is deliverance yet the usage of the word is based upon the context that it is used.

For instance, as we preach the gospel, we speak of salvation, referring to the need of sinners to be delivered from the power, penalty and punishment of sin by faith alone in the blood of Christ.

However, in **verse 19** and context of the passage, Paul is not using the word **salvation** to speak about deliverance from sin's curse and condemnation, because Paul is already a sinner saved by Grace. That is his legal, eternal and unchangeable position before God.

So, what does the word **salvation** or the phrase "**...this shall turn to my salvation,**" actually refer to?

Among commentators there are various opinions, though no disagreements. All their views can be acceptable.

some suggest Paul is referring to deliverance from prison, however, one way or another, in life or death, Paul will be delivered from prison.

Others, suggest Paul is confident that he will preserve to end, kept by the power of God, and see Christ.

The more favoured view and one I lean towards is that of Paul being vindicated at the last day by Christ, the Sovereign King, the judge of all the earth.

Notice two thoughts,

1 Paul rejoices in the salvation of the sovereign which is a FUTURE and FINAL DECLARATION

Based on all that Paul has said, Paul rejoices, that in a future and final day he will be vindicated by the Lord, a public declaration by Christ.

The legal and present declaration he enjoys now will be publicly declared.

In his present situation, some have had made judgment on Paul, some have made verdict concerning him, but Paul rejoices in a future day, because there is **one final Judgment, verdict, declaration** that matters to him and that is spoken by the Lord Himself, ***well done thy good and faithful servant.***

It is interesting to note, Paul in his suffering's quotes, from **Job 13.**

Paul was skilled in the scriptures he knew the Old Testament scriptures.

He compared scripture with scripture. He took comfort and applied his own situation to other believers in similar experiences.

Remember, Job is a servant of God, upright, one who fears, honours God. Job suffered in life, in body, his children died when

a strong wind hit their house, his own wife turned against him, telling him to curse God due to all that came upon him.

Three men gave counsel to Job, or put him through their own courts, but their counsel; was based upon their judgement that Job was a hypocrite suffering because of sin in his life.

They concluded, God is chastening him for secret sin.

Throughout the book Job answers his critics as he focusses upon his Redeemer and a future day, when He shall see His Redeemer.

In **Job 13:13-18**, Job replies to Zophar. Job is showing whatever men say of him, misinterpret him, Job remained confident that the heavenly court would reverse all human verdicts, and give the only one that counts.

Christ will vindicate and deliver Job. Notice, **verse 15** *Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him: but I will maintain mine own ways before him.* **Verse 16** *He also shall be my salvation: for an hypocrite shall not come before him.* Job's usage of salvation is deliverance, vindication from the Lord.

You accuse, me of sinful living, but one day God shall be my salvation, my deliverance, my vindicator. He honours them who honour Him.

Job knew, God will not view him as a hypocrite, a pretender.

Paul is applying the words of Job to his own situation. Paul viewed his present trouble like that of Job, and since Job was a faithful, and righteous man, then Paul like Job, knew and was confident of his future and final salvation, deliverance, vindication before God.

In the final analysis in life and death the truth will be clear. Paul had fought a good fight, he has suffered for Christ's sake, defending the gospel.

Believer, our present situation, sufferings accusations, and all events that happen unto us in life, are temporal, a light affliction for a moment, nothing compared to the glory that awaits.

It's true, our suffering seems **unending, and is unpleasant, and unwanted**, but no weapon against us shall prosper, no army against us shall succeed, no word spoken against us shall stand, even from other believers, nothing shall separate us from the love of God in Christ.

Do you know, and you see this often, believers using social media platforms, privately or public to degrade other believers whose motives and message are right in serving Christ.

You may have similar experiences. You've served Christ and then your ripped apart. Slanderous words written against and about you.

It's not just shocking it is sinful.

No accusation from men or Satan, will ever change God's vindication about us.

Nothing shall change God's thoughts of peace toward us. He rejoices over His people with joy.

All that God says of us when Christ returns, it is true now. He says it now in heaven, but a day will come when His words will be heard by all and go unchallenged.

This is what Paul knew to be true and caused him to rejoice. God will declare him to be faithful.

Now we can see why Paul prayed for believers that their love abound more and more in knowledge.

When you know why Christ lived, died, arose, and that He is coming for you and speaks word of peace concerning you, this

will be the basis to rejoice, for it will enable you to forgive one another as Christ has forgiven you.

2 Paul rejoices in the salvation of the sovereign which is a FUTURE and FINAL DESTINATION

verse 19 “*For I know that this shall turn to my salvation.*”

The word *turn* or the phrase *shall turn* is wonderful and packed with gospel nutrients, *it means to disembark*.

The picture is to disembark from a boat or ship when it comes to land and to meet loved ones waiting. You disembark, or get off the ship. The ship has brought you to your destination.

This word is used **John 21:9** *As soon then as they were come to land, they saw a fire of coals there, and fish laid thereon, and bread.* The phrase *they were come*.

They disembarked the boat and the Saviour was waiting for them on shore. That's the picture of when we disembark earth ship for heavens harbour, the Saviour is there.

Off course in our lives, we have many destinations, disembark at many places through life, but Paul's usage deals with future and final disembark, which is heavenly.

This is what we have before us.

At the time of writing Paul's present destination is jail and from an earthly point of view by some it would be his final destination.

But not to Paul. This world, the Jail at Rome, was not Paul's final home or destination, nor for any believer.

There was one last disembark, Emmanuel's land.

Believer we are just passing through earth with cities built by human hands, but we look for a city whose maker and builder is God.

Here is Paul's security, his journey, here is his future and final destination, to be with Christ which is far better, and to have the Saviour's vindication.

That's why Paul can say in **verse 19** "***For I know that this shall turn to my salvation.***"

People and words may question, or ruin Paul's reputation, but nothing could rob him of His eternal inheritance.

Believer like Paul our circumstances may not seem favourable, ***you may be misused, misrepresented, misinterpreted, and mistreated by others.***

Even accused by believers and unbelievers. In such times and trials, during present circumstances, look to a future day, it will be worth it all when we see Jesus.

Philippians is a letter to show, there is reason to rejoice, Christ is the reason, He has purchased you by blood and secured heaven for you.

Whether Christ calls or comes, you will disembark on a city made of pure Gold, where the Lamb is the light thereof. A final and forever place of abode, the new Jerusalem.

Unsaved one, Christ's coming will mean for you a day of separation. A day you will reap what you have sown, eternal hell, to face judgment for sin and then along with the devil, and all in hell, cast into the lake of fire.

Turn from sin now and ask Christ to save you. He will save you now.