

Hope for Life and More Life

Thomas Robinson, *Life and More Life 1*, April 28, 2019

Philippians 1:12-25

¹² I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that **what has happened to me** has really come to be an advance **of the Good News** (Royal Proclamation). ¹³ As a result, it has become obvious throughout the whole **imperial guard** and to all the rest that my **fetters** (chains) are in **Christ** (Messiah, Anointed King). ¹⁴ And since most of the brothers and sisters in the **Lord** have **gained confidence** about my **fetters**, they are more and more **daring to speak the word without fear**.

¹⁵ Now some people because of **envy** and **rivalry** and others because of **good will** are **announcing** about the **Anointed King** (Messiah). ¹⁶ The latter out of **love**, since they know that I am where I am for the **defense of that Good News** (Proclamation). ¹⁷ The former are **publicly talking about the Anointed King** out of **strife for their own purposes**, not sincerely but intending to **stir up worse trouble** for me in my **fetters**.

¹⁸ What then? Only that in every way, whether with false motives or in truth, **an Anointed King is being publicly discussed**, and in that I **rejoice**.

Yes, and I will rejoice, ¹⁹ for I know that for me this will lead into **salvation** through your **entreaty** and what is provided by the **Spirit of Jesus Anointed King**. ²⁰ In all this it's my eager expectation and hope that I will **in no way be shamed**, but rather with all **boldness**, now as always, **Christ/Anointed King** will be **shown in his greatness in my body, whether through life or through death**.

²¹ For to me **to live is Christ**, and to **die is a gain**. ²² If it's going to be **living in the flesh**, that for me means a **fruitful harvest** requiring labor, and I am not predicting which I'll pick. ²³ I am caught between the two, since I have the **desire** for release and to **be with Christ/the King** – better by far! ²⁴ But **remaining in the flesh** is more **necessary on your account**. ²⁵ Since I'm **convinced** of the latter, I'm sure that I'll **remain** and **continue** with all of you, to help **you make progress** and **have joy** in your **faith** ²⁶ so that your celebration may abound in **Anointed King Jesus** and may include me as I come to stay with you again.

Philippians 3:7-11

⁷ But whatever gains I had, I counted as loss for the sake of **the Messiah**.⁸ And what is more, I consider everything as a loss because of **the surpassing value of the knowledge of Messiah Jesus my Lord**. Because of him I have forfeited all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may have **the Messiah as my gain** ⁹ and be found **in him**, not having a righteousness of my own that is from Law, but that which is through **the Messiah's faithfulness**, the **righteousness from God that is bestowed on faith**. ¹⁰ **My aim is to know him and the power of his resurrection**, and the fellowship of **his sufferings**, becoming **shaped by his death**, ¹¹ that by whatever path I may arrive at **the resurrection from the dead**.

Philippians 1:29-30

²⁹ For by grace it has been **granted to you** that for the sake of Christ/Anointed King you should **not only believe in him** but also **suffer for his sake**, ³⁰ engaged in the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Acts 19:1, 8-10 Paul Comes to Ephesus, Capital of Roman Asia

¹ ... Paul passed through the inland country and came to Ephesus. ... ⁸ And he entered the synagogue and for three months spoke boldly, reasoning and persuading them about the kingdom of God. ... ⁹ He taught daily in the hall of Tyrannus. ¹⁰ This continued for two years, so that all the residents of Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks.

Galatians 2:20

²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by the faithfulness of the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Learning the Joy of Faith in a World of Trouble

We focus on Philippians in this period between Easter and Pentecost: a time of Disciples beginning to grasp the reality and transformation of the resurrection. Paul is living and carrying that resurrection power into a world that had no grasp of it – Roman cities.

Paul is in Ephesus and writes to Philippi. Both were cities of Roman government. Ephesus, capital of Roman Asia, center of Artemis and Emperor worship. Jewish community, culture, magic, riots, etc. Luke shows complex situation. Philippi was a Roman colony. Little Jewish presence, but strong patriotism to Rome. Close relation to Paul.

What happened? Paul is in prison/chains in Ephesus. His Roman citizenship got him out of jail in Philippi, but not in Ephesus. Paul is in danger of execution. Paul has both supporters and enemies (Demetrius). Believers have become bolder. Paul's friends are in danger. Many people are talking about this King that Paul proclaims!

Royal Announcement and Divine Life in one Word.

What king? In Greek "King" means "Emperor." Paul comes announcing the Kingdom of God and Jesus Christ. Christ isn't a normal name. It means "Messiah" for Jews, which means "Anointed King." But there's only one king/emperor, the Roman one!

Paul comes with a Royal Proclamation/Good News/Gospel. It's about God's Kingdom ruled by Anointed King Jesus. Where is this kingdom? Who's Jesus? Well, it's here! And he is a Jewish prophet who was crucified. Crucified? He's gone. He can't be king now! Oh, but he is! He was raised from the dead, conquering death for all of us.

The one word "Christ" – Messiah – Anointed King when applied to Jesus the crucified carries with it so much. It is a statement of resurrection against all the power of death. It is the promise of Life and More Life. It is a challenge to every structure of power in our death-dealing world. It is the remaking of all values and visions of life.

"For to Me to Live is ..." What?

How do we finish that assertion? Paul is in chains, and he's heard about persecutions suffered by Philippians. But this reality of King Jesus (Life now, Resurrection, Hope, unbreakable peace) shapes him. He can't bring himself to be angry at his guards, or officials, or those who want to torment him. All are beloved by God. Paul rejoices.

Life and death are both good. Both are Life! Both are Christ! A faith full of work and joy!