

/Hello. / We will begin the eighth lecture on the prison epistles.

/Today's Word begins from Ephesians 6:18. / Fourth, be alert and continue to pray. Verses 18-20.

/Read verse 18. / And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

/We must continue to pray to fight against the powers of Satan. / The verse tells us to stay alert and continue to pray. / It says, "pray in the Spirit." / This means that we must strive to pray with the help of the Holy Spirit.

/Prayer that does not come from the inspiration of the Holy Spirit will not be communicated to God. / It is very important that believers pray in the Holy Spirit. / We must discover our sins and repent when there is no inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

/Also, we must get rid of all our pride. / We must pray wholeheartedly by denying ourselves. / To be alert and pray means to pray by entering the spiritual world.

/Such prayer refers to prayer that spiritually communicates with God. / The verse tells us to pray on all occasions. / We must not only pray with motions, but pray with all our hearts. / We must always pray, but it is good to pray in the early mornings.

/Our Jesus also habitually prayed in quiet places, before sunrise. / Our theological seminary teaches students to pray for more than two hours a day.

/Martin Luther also said that a day in which he did not spend more than two hours in prayer was a day defeated by Satan. /Verse 18 also tells us to pray for all the Lord's people.

/We believers must pray for all other believers, and not only for ourselves. / We must especially pray for the pastors.

/Verse 19. / Pray also for me, that whenever I open my mouth, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel,

/Believers must pray for pastors who do God's work. / Then God's works will go well.

/Here in verse 19, Paul asked the people to pray for him, and especially asked that he would receive the Word of God so that he would courageously preach the mystery of the gospel.

/Because God works through pastors and leaders of the church, it is important that believers pray for them.

/Verse 20. / for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it fearlessly, as I should.

/Paul was imprisoned and chained for the sake of sharing of the gospel. / Still, he fearlessly preached the gospel to people as the ambassador of God.

/Now, the fifth point. The sending of Tychicus. Verses 21-22.

/Verse 21. / Tychicus, the dear brother and faithful servant in the Lord, will tell you everything, so that you also may know how I am and what I am doing.

/Paul did not write about his personal life in his public letters. / He only wrote about things that would benefit the church. / Like this, pastors must not be tied down by personal affairs.

/Pastors must endure and makes sacrifices for the church, and they must make sure that everything will benefit the church. / Paul said that Tychicus would tell them everything concerning him. / It is said that Tychicus was a brother who was loved by people.

/Paul called Tychicus, a faithful servant. / He testified that Tychicus was a faithful servant who was worthy of their love. / We must be like him when we do the works of God.

/We cannot entrust unfaithful people with valuable work. / God's works cannot be entrusted to the unfaithful. / We must be faithful servants.

/Verse 22. / I am sending him to you for this very purpose, that you may know how we are, and that he may encourage you.

/What was Paul's purpose in sending Tychicus to tell people of his circumstances? / Many were worried about Paul because he was imprisoned. / To console their anxious hearts, / Paul sent Tychicus along with the letter.

/We can see how worried the believers were for Paul. / Paul did not want the believers to worry.

/Like this, believers of the church must have caring and concerning hearts towards their pastors. / Pastors must comfort the hearts of believers and not cause them worry.

/Sixth, greeting and blessings. Verses 23-24.

/Verse 23. / Peace to the brothers, and love with faith from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

/When we live in faith, we can receive peace and love from God. / Paul was called to send peace and love to believers in Ephesus.

/Paul blessed them that God's love would be upon those who loved him.

/Verse 24. / Grace to all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with an undying love.

/We must love Jesus Christ with an undying love. / Paul blessed the believers that all who love would be filled with grace. / We believers must enter further into the world of love that loves Jesus.

/God's grace is abundant to those who love him so. / If we leave the world of love of Christ, we also leave the peace and grace that Christ gives us.

/Just as a fish cannot live outside the water, we believers must always live in the grace of Jesus Christ.

/Now we will begin Philippians chapter 1. / The title for this chapter is “Exalting the Lord.” / First, greetings and blessings. / Verses 1-2. / Second, fellowship in the gospel. / Verses 3-8. / Third, prayer that believers would bear fruit. / Verses 9-11.

/Fourth, advancement of the gospel even in times of tribulations. / Verses 12-18. / Fifth, fulfillment of salvation and living in hope even in times of tribulations. / Verses 19-26. / Sixth, living a life worthy of the gospel even in suffering. / Verses 27-30.

/First, blessings and greetings.

/Verses 1-2. / Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, To all the saints in Christ Jesus at Philippi, together with the overseers and deacons: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

/Paul greeted and blessed the believers. / It says in verse 1, “Paul, servant of Christ Jesus.”/ Paul called himself a servant. / The first characteristic of a servant is that /first, he does not have freedom. /He must do whatever his master tells him to do.

/Second, he does not have independence. / He must do everything according to his master’s will. / Third, he does not live for himself. / He lives for the master. /In this way, Paul always considered himself a servant.

/Paul sent a letter to Philippi. / He says, “To all the saints.” Then he addressed the overseers and deacons.

/He want to encourage the deacons / and encourage the elders in a different way. / Paul encouraged everyone so that they would benefit the church.

/In this way, everyone must be properly encouraged and nourished so that the church would be well.

/In other words, too much power to elders can bring great harm to the church. / All believers and the church must be led properly.

/In verse 2, Paul writes, “Grace and peace to you.”

/”Grace” is freely given. / All grace concerning our salvation is God’s grace. / “Peace” is the result of that grace.

/We must become believers who have the grace and peace that is given through the salvation of Jesus Christ.

/Second point, fellowship in the gospel. / Verses 3-8.

/Verses 3-4. / I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy

/Paul thanked God every time he remembered the church of Philippi. / In all his prayers for them, he always prayed with joy. / What gave him such joy? / It is mentioned in verse 5.

/The fact that they participated in the gospel from the first day until now gave him joy. / Verse 5 states the reason for Paul’s joy.

/The reasons for his joy were that / first, believers of Philippi had fellowship with Paul in the gospel. / Second, / believers of Philippi supported Paul with materials. /That is how they participated in Paul’s preaching of the gospel.

/ We can know this through verse 7. / It is worthy to have fellowship in the gospel and in faith and help one another in difficult times. /It is worthy to support one another with materials and with prayer, /and also to participate in the movement of the gospel.

/Paul was strengthened by believers in Philippi. / Hence, Paul was able to preach the gospel with more strength.

/Verse 6. / being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

/It says, “he who began a good work in you.” / “Good work” refers to faith in Jesus Christ. / Good works is / to be born again after believing in Christ / and participation in the gospel.

/These are not done by humans, but by God. / It will not fail because God started the work.

/When we preach the gospel, we may seem lacking and things may seem impossible. / However, God is with us and his works will not fail because he carries on with his works. / Paul had confidence in this.

/Verse 7. / It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart; for whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me.

/Paul always had the believers of Philippi in his heart. / Paul had them in his heart in the way a mother always thinks about her child. / This is because they participated with Paul in spreading the gospel.

/They also participated in Paul's suffering. / Here in verse 7, Paul says, "I am in chains." /This refers to Paul's imprisonment.

/In Philippians 4:18, / it says that they provided all the necessary materials Paul needed when he was in prison. / They also sent people to console him. / Thus, Paul always prayed with joy and gratitude whenever he prayed for them.

/Verse 8. / God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

/Jesus Christ was in Paul's heart. /He loved the believers of Philippi with the heart of Christ.

/In Philippians 2:17, / it says that Paul was glad and rejoiced even when he was poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service of their faith. / "A drink offering" is a sacrifice given by the action of pouring wine on the offering.

/Paul said that he would rejoice even if he gave his life and poured out his blood before the fruit of faith of the believers of Philippi. / Pastors today must truly love believers just as Paul did.

/The third point. / Prayer that believers would bear fruit. / Verses 9-11.

/Verse 9. / And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight,

/Paul prayed. / He prayed that their love, knowledge, and insight would be more and more abundant. / Our love must grow more abundant. / The same goes for us. / We must not remain constant. / We must grow more and more.

/We must grow more and more abundant. / It says that the apostle John's love increased gradually. / By the time he was ninety years old, he stood up at the pulpit / and said, "my friends, let us love one another." Then all the believers were touched by his words.

/Knowledge and insight must grow abundant as well. / We will be used by Satan if we do not have knowledge and discernment. / Satan will use us if we lack discernment, even though we claim that we have love. / We must always have knowledge.

/Verse 10. / so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ,

/It says, "so that you may be able to discern what is best." / What is the best? / It is God's will. / We must be able to discern God's will. / It also says, "be pure and blameless until the day of Christ."

/We believers must always be truthful. / Whether we have a position in the church or not, we must be blameless. / Paul also prayed that they would bear fruits.

/Verse 11. / filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

/We must bear many fruit. / God is glorified when we bear fruit. / We praise and glorify God with our lips. / Not only that, but our bodies must glorify God as well.

/Now, the fourth point. / Advancement of the gospel even in times of tribulations. / Verses 12-18.

/Paul suffered in prison, but he said that such suffering actually advanced the gospel.

/Verse 12. / Now I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel.

/“What has happened to me” refers to Paul’s imprisonment for sharing the gospel. / Even though he was imprisoned, it advanced the spreading of the gospel.

/This is mentioned in verse 13. / Paul was able to testify the gospel to the guards in the prison because he was imprisoned. / If Paul were not imprisoned, he would not have been able to share the gospel with the guards.

/Paul suffered when he was imprisoned, but his suffering testified to the gospel. / We believers also may encounter difficulties. / However, it must be an opportunity to advance the gospel.

/It would have been difficult for Paul to think about being in prison. / Yet, there was an advancement of the gospel because of his imprisonment. / Right now, we are studying the prison epistles.

/Paul recorded the precious Word of God in prison in Rome. / If he were not imprisoned, these epistles would have not existed. / The gospel should be advanced and revealed through our sufferings.

/Verse 14. / Because of my chains, most of the brothers in the Lord have been encouraged to speak the word of God more courageously and fearlessly.

/Paul was imprisoned. / Many people preached the gospel with courage as they relied on God’s Word. / Their fear was gone because they trusted in God. / It was the same for Gideon’s three hundred soldiers.

/They won because they courageously trusted in God’s Word. / The believers of Philippi were able to have faith through Paul’s imprisonment.



/It was difficult for Paul to be imprisoned, /yet, he trusted in the Lord, /and was able to testify to God's Word.

/Then the believers of Philippi were able to gain courage and boldly preach the gospel through Paul.

/Verses 15-17. / It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill.

/Some preach with goodwill. / Some preached with a loving heart to help Paul.

/Yet, there were some who preached because they wanted to cause trouble for Paul. / It says that there were some people who spread the gospel out of envy and rivalry because they wanted to trouble him.

/They were not heretics. / That is because even though their motives were impure, they still preached Christ. / The reason for this is in verse 18.

/Paul rejoiced the fact that Christ was being preached through them. / Paul rebuked the people when the gospel was wrongly preached. /However, Paul rejoiced when Christ was being preached here.

/Paul rejoiced that Christ was being preached regardless of their motives. / Still, it is not proper faith to preach out of envy and rivalry.

/Even though Christ was preached, / it was not enough to keep one's faith / because it was done out of envy and rivalry.

/Verse 18. / But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice. Yes, and I will continue to rejoice,

/Paul did not think it important that he was insulted by people, /but rejoiced that Christ was preached. /Paul rejoiced that Christ was preached, even if he was insulted and beaten.

/We must rejoice for the spreading of the gospel, whether we are insulted, beaten, or encounter sufferings.

/We can see here that Paul stood in true faith. / We can also see that he considered himself a servant.

/Now, the fifth point. / Verses 19-26. / Fulfillment of salvation and living in hope even in times of tribulations.

/Verse 19. / for I know that through your prayers and the help given by the Spirit of Jesus Christ, what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance.

/Paul was imprisoned. / The believers prayed harder. / They trusted Jesus all the more. / Like this, sufferings become opportunities for believers to pray harder. / It makes us trust God more.

/It becomes an opportunity to receive help from the Holy Spirit. / God helps us in such times because we pray. / It says, “will turn out for my deliverance.” / This refers to fulfillment of salvation.

/1 Peter 2:9. / It is to put away greed of the flesh. / It is to gradually get rid of corruption. / Galatians 5:16. / 1 Peter 2:11. / Ephesians 4:15.

/Our born again souls grow and become more like the image of Christ.

/Verse 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.

/What did Paul eagerly expect and hope for? / It was that Christ would be exalted. / It says, “so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body.”

/It is not a matter of whether we live or die. / It is not a matter of whether we are glorified or

shamed. / Paul considered it more important that Christ be exalted through him.

/This is the life of self-denial and life lived for Jesus Christ. / We must be like Paul and believe that as long as Christ is exalted, / we can be insulted / and imprisoned.

/Even if we die, / as long as God is glorified and Christ exalted, / it is good.

/Verse 21. / For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

/People normally live for themselves. / They live for their fame and glory. / Even in the church, there are pastors and believers who believe in Jesus for their own good.

/They are not servants of Christ. / We must live for Christ. / To live is Christ / and to die is gain. / It is a gain for us because we will go before God when we die.

/We must have faith to say in death, “This is good because I am getting closer to God.” / Because we will go to heaven, to die is to gain.

/Verse 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!

/Because death means we will go to heaven, it is to gain. / To continue to live in the body meant fruitful labor for Paul. / If we live this life in faith, it is good for us.

/Our souls grow because we live in faith. / We preach the gospel. / We can save the lives of others. / We bear fruit.

/Thus, in verse 23, it says, / Paul was torn between the two. / Then Paul said that it was better to die and be with Christ.

/Like Paul, we must not shiver in fear of death, but we must have faith to say, “It is good to die because I will be closer to God.” / Yet, in verse 24, / Paul said, “but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body.”

/Paul was a great benefit to believers in this world. / He would benefit others greatly if he were alive in this world.

/However, if Paul died, it was good for him because he would go to heaven.

/Yet, those who lived in selfishness were opposite of Paul. / When they lived, it was for the good of themselves, /and if they were to die, it would then benefit others.

/We must be like Paul and benefit others while we are alive. / Death is good for us because we will go to heaven.

/Verses 25-26. / 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, so that through my being with you again your joy in Christ Jesus will overflow on account of me.

/Therefore, believers would grow in faith while Paul preached the gospel during his time on earth. / Believers would stand proudly before God when they grow in faith.

/The sixth point. / Living a life worthy of the gospel even in suffering. / Verses 27-30.

/In verse 27, it says, “conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ.” / It means that we must not only listen to God’s Word, but obey as well. / Our lives must be worthy of the gospel of Christ.

/That is how God will be glorified. / We must get rid of selfishness. / We must get rid of desire for fame. / We must speak and act in ways that are worthy of the gospel.

/Verse 28. / without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you. This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved—and that by God.

/There are those who oppose the gospel,/ but we do not need to be frightened. / Persecutions will come at us, but we need not fear. / We do not need to fear because it is a sign that they will be destroyed. / We receive the sign of our salvation through persecutions.

/When Jesus comes for the second time, / all those who oppose will be destroyed, / and all of us believers will receive salvation. / Thus, we need not be afraid when we share the gospel. / Eventually, those who oppose Jesus will be destroyed.

/This world opposes the truth. / When we attempt to live godly lives, we will be persecuted. / The fact that we are to be persecuted is a sign of our efforts to live in faith.

/Verse 29. / For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for him,

/God gives us suffering as his grace. / Grace is not only about our bodies living comfortable lives. / We pray when we face sufferings. / We lean on God more in such times.

/We examine ourselves and repent of our sins. / We understand God's Word. / Thus, it says that suffering produces perseverance, / perseverance, character, / and character, hope. / Then our faith can grow

/Verse 30. / since you are going through the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have.

/We also go through the same struggles Paul had. / It is a struggle between the truth and the world. / The believers of Philippi had the same struggles, and we have the same struggles today as well.

/Paul rejoiced even in such times of suffering. / Paul tells us that there are unspeakable sufferings in this world, /but all of it is God's grace.

all the unspeakable troubles in this life / are God's grace.

/“Fight the good fight of the faith.” / Paul comforted us.

/With this we will conclude the eighth lecture on the prison epistles. / Thank you.