

SOUTH GROVE FREE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH LONDON

Lord's Day Morning

Date 16th October 2002

Preacher Rev Philip Knowles Ps/Hymns 145v1-3,9-15 2nd version. 515,644 Read: Philippians 1:12-20 Text Philippians 1:18

Series: Philippians (28) Title: Paul's Knowledge to Rejoice (2) The Supplication of the saints

As the Apostle Paul was in jail for his defence of the gospel, Paul's bonds strengthened believers in their own stand for the cause of Christ.

However, those believers, who were strengthened, were soon divided into two groups,

some who supported Paul by preaching Christ out of love, and some who added affliction to Paul by preaching Christ out of envy in competition to Paul.

When it came to preaching the gospel message, both groups preached Christ the only Saviour of sinners, one way of Salvation, **however their motivations or their reasons for preaching Christ, taking a gospel stand were different.**

Some preached for Christ's glory to support Paul, and some for their own glory, their own name, adding distress to Paul.

Though Paul was in jail, literally bound with chains, he didn't stay down in the dumps, rather he lifted his mind to Christ and rejoiced in the knowledge that a future day will come when Christ shall be his deliverer, and vindicator.

The Lord will declare, Paul a faithful servant, having **fought a good fight**, finished his course, and kept the faith.

All that happened unto him was for the furtherance of the gospel.

Paul will have served Christ not as a man pleaser but unto the praise and glory of God. He served for Christ's glory, as he gloried in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.

This is meaning of the words, ***this shall turn to my salvation.***

The word **salvation** means **deliverance**, the idea is **vindication**.

In the context, Paul is not speaking about salvation from the power, penalty and punishment of sin, because this is already Paul's present standing before God. This can never be changed.

Rather Paul uses the word **salvation** or the phrase ***this shall turn to my salvation***, to mean **deliverance in the sense of a future and final vindication**.

The words apply to his earthly service for Christ's glory.

Paul doesn't focus on man's opinions of him.

Paul knows while writing this letter, God will take the wrong actions and words spoken against him and use it for the furtherance of the gospel.

Just as God will overrule their wrong motives, so He will bless Paul, because he preaches for Christ's name not his own.

Believer, we too look forward to a future day, a final day, when God will publicly vindicate us.

No more false accusations, misinterpretations, or speculations, rather crowns received to cast at Christ's feet in worship.

I first, Paul rejoices in the Salvation of the Sovereign.

II SECOND, PAUL REJOICES IN THE SUPPLICATION OF THE SAINTS

Already in Paul's letter we have considered Paul's prayer for the Philippians.

Paul was a praying Pastor.

But now Paul makes a wonderful and precious statement concerning the Philippians, as a congregation of prayer, ***through your prayer.***

1 Paul rejoices in the supplication of the saints because their supplication is intercessory

The word **prayer** is the word meaning to **supplicate**. Supplication it is still prayer, but it is more intense.

It refers prayer that is urgent, strong, intense, a request or supplication in a time of great need.

It is to plead before God. At times it's a sigh, tears, or silence. It is to seek His face earnestly and sincerely, about a matter, and not to give up supplicating until God answers.

Hear is the point, Paul is not writing to ask for prayer or supplication for him, rather he is writing to believers who already pray and supplicate for him.

This is another certainty that Paul has knowledge of.

Back at Philippi there **was a power house, prayerful chargers,** that uphold Paul.

The saints at Philippi supplicated for Paul. They interceded for Paul continually.

This same word **prayer** meaning **supplication** is used in **1 Peter 3:12** ***"for the eyes of the Lord are over the***

righteous, and His ears are open unto their prayers... (unto their supplications)”

Remember the context, the background to these words from **verse 12**, the Philippian believers will read how some have added affliction or distress to Paul while in jail, and they will continue to intercede about these matters.

Paul has confidence, he rejoices for he knows that God will work on his behalf, through their prayers.

Paul labours in the gospel, with an army called praying ones, upholders, intercessors, or as **Isaiah 62:6-7**, names as **remembrancers**, those who keep not silent day and night in prayer to God.

Because this was how Paul prayed for the saints at Philippi, he pleaded for them, he interceded for them, day and night.

This same word **prayer** meaning **supplicate** was used by Paul to show how he prayed for saints at Philippi.

Paul said in **verse 4** “***Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy,***”

It is also interesting to note that the word **prayer** and the word **request** are the same word in the original Greek, meaning **supplication**.

Therefore, you can read these words, ***Always in every supplication/request of mine for you all, making supplication/request with joy.***

The saints at Philippi, knew Paul supplicated for them and God would work in them and by them through Paul’s prayer for them.

Likewise, Paul has the same confidence, and knowledge that the saints at Philippi supplicate for him in gospel ministry, and God will work in Paul for the furtherance of the gospel, perfecting all that concerns Paul, as he said **through your prayer**.

But I must point this preacher and people to the greatest intercessor, one whose supplication is perfect, powerful and unending, infinitely Spirit filled.

The same word **prayer** meaning **supplicate** is used of Christ in **Hebrews 5:7** ***“Who in the days of his flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared;***

In fact in **Heb 5:7** the words ***prayers and supplications are one word, in the original Greek, read supplications,***

Christ’s intercession on earth and now in heaven, in the presence of God,

pleading for His redeemed people with His own precious blood,

gives the confidence and the knowledge to rejoice of a future and final public vindication.

Rev 14:4 ***“...These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever He goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb.***

The prayers of Christ are all powerful for sinners whom His blood was shed.

Believer Christ is interceding for you.

Every sinner who the Father has given Christ within the everlasting covenant of grace, He will give call unto Himself, until His return. They will be kept by His eternal, unlimited, and unchanging power.

Therefore, unsaved one, troubled by sin, here is the confidence to come to Christ to have sins forgiven, He is able and willingly to save all who come unto Him by faith.

2 Paul rejoices in the supplication of the saints because their supplication is Instrumental

Paul received the abundant evidence that he lived in the hearts of the saints at Philippi.

He knew God will perfect that which concerneth him, He will vindicate, and deliver him, using the supplication of His people fulfilling His purposes.

For I know that this shall turn to my salvation (deliverance, vindication) through your prayers (supplications)...

The word **through**, also means **by**, the idea ***is that instrumentality, by means of, a vehicle, or a channel***, that which God uses to bless.

For instance, to play music, we use an instrument, as the channel used to make a sound.

This is the picture, God is pleased to accomplish His will through the prayers of His people, making them channels of blessing.

When the saints at Philippi would receive this letter, they would take these updates and continue to uphold Paul in

prayer, that in his bonds and added affliction, the gospel will continue to flourish, despite the distress and discouragement.

That God will overrule the wrong motives of men but for His own glory, bless the truth because Christ is preached.

Therefore, Paul valued the prayers of God's people. They gave him encouragements in the work of God.

Notice, the words **through your prayer** was directed to all saints all Philippi.

Paul needed the prays of men, woman and the young.

Those in church office and not.

He needed the prayers of Lydia, the Philippian jailer and his family. Believers who had been added to the congregation since he was last there.

Believer, **there are many ministries in the church** that we serve God, whether, its the flowers, Catering, Cleaning, Children's, Youth ministry, and more areas of service as we add to, and while we are unable to do all, **but there a ministry, that we all partake in and that is praying.**

Men and woman, young or old, rich or poor, married or single, we can supplicate, for God choses to work through the prayers of His people.

That's why we hear the phrase, ***little prayer little blessing, much prayer much blessing.***

Praying not only at set times, but throughout the day, utter a short and silent requests to God.

Maybe the Lord puts a certain person on your mind, impresses on your heart at a certain time, there and then just utter a word to God.

He's reminding you about them, yeah He's calling upon you to pray for their salvation, sanctification, health, service, safety.

We may not know what is happening to another person in the congregation,

a discouragement that arises, a need that comes up, heart breaking news that arrives, worry that hangs arounds, distress added,

and you may never know, or guess it, and such people will not tell, but if you are in tune with God, walking in the Spirit, the Lord Himself will impress upon you, a need to pray.

Paul also used this word supplicate in spirit in **Eph 6:18** **praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit...."**

When you supplicate in the Spirit, for Christ's glory, God will work through your prayer.

Believer, you are a **prayer first responder, remembrancer, prayer warrior, for your family, church, for me, for London.**

This church ministry, the pastor and people of this congregation need, prayer responders, that when trouble comes, news is given **they will first get to the throne of grace.**

Immediately take it to the Lord in prayer and through your prayer God is pleased to use and work according to His will.

Paul rejoices in knowledge that the saints at Philippi prayed for Him, he said ***Through your prayer.***

Believer, all ministers who you know that preach the gospel need the support of your supplication, **but so does your own pastor, you are my prayer responders, to hold up hands that hang down.**

CHS **the Preacher of the Metropolitan tabernacle in London for 38 years, 1854 until his death in 1892, age 57.**

The context fits Paul's situation.

He Said on the **2nd Nov 1873**, encouraging his church and visiting believers, to pray for him and their own ministers by saying "***Truly, if ever there were times when the people of God should pray for their ministers, these are the times, for the minister of Christ is beset by legions of evils of all kinds, and has to cut his way through perpetual opposition....***

These are evil days, almost beyond any age that has gone before, and therefore we may exhort the church to pray more persistently, because her prayers are more than ever needed."

That was 149 years ago. I rejoice today, that 149 years later London still knows and has the prayers of God people.

Today I thank the congregation at South Grove, for your supplications, and prayerful support, spoken in conversation, uttered in the prayer meetings and by text.

Its interesting to note that this word prayer meaning supplicate was used for Paul's described Paul burden prayer for Israel.

Romans 10:1 "***Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer***

(supplication) to God for Israel is, that they might be saved.” Paul was burdened to see souls saved by the grace of God.

Believer as we supplicate for one another in the Lord’s work, may our supplication to God, be urgent for UK, burdened family, England, London and Londoners, that they might be saved.

O unsaved one, a mum, dad, son, daughter, brother, sister, and more, someone is praying for you with urgency, that you will confess your sin to Jesus Christ and ask Him to forgive you, for He will.

3 Paul rejoices in the supplication of the saints because their supplication is instructive

We said the word **prayer** means **supplicate**, refers to an urgent need, a strong cry.

It is to plead before God, urgently, earnestly and sincerely.

There is a time of distress, anxiousness that only the Lord can meet the need.

When the saints of Philippi, received this letter detailing Paul’s situation in jail and his afflictions they were instructed how to continue praying for him.

The same happens in our own prayer life, we pray for missionaries, one another, but then you hear an update report, recent prayer requests concerning a need, an individual, a burden, there is instruction to supplicate, to get before God without delay.

That’s what took place. Paul was absolutely sure the Philippians prayed for him but in receiving the letter, they were instructed, guidelines for prayer.

Believer, this book, this letter, and the preaching of it must lead us into prayer.

Men and woman, we have instruction to pray for one another, but also for the souls of unsaved men and woman in this city of ours and further abroad that souls for whom Christ died will be come to know Christ personally who is eternal life.

There is an urgent need, we supplicate thee, come revive believers, save sinners.