**THE**

**EPISTLE OF ST. PAUL TO THE PHILIPPIANS**

*The* PHILIPPIANS *were the first among the Macedonians converted to the faith. They had a great veneration for* ST. PAUL*, and supplied his wants when he was a prisoner in Rome, sending to him by Epaphroditus, by whom he sent this Epistle; in which he recommends charity, unity, and humility, and warns them against false teachers, whom he calls* dogs, and enemies of the cross of Christ*. He also returns thanks for their benefactions. It was written about twenty-nine years after our Lord’s Ascension.*

**CHAPTER 1**

*The apostle’s affection for the Philippians.*

**1** Paul and Timothy, the servants of Jesus Christ; to all the saints in Christ Jesus, who are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons.

**2** Grace be unto you, and peace from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

**3** I give thanks to my God in every remembrance of you,

**4** Always in all my prayers making supplication for you all, with joy;

**5** For your communication in the gospel of Christ from the first day unto now.

**6** Being confident of this very thing, that he, who hath begun a good work in you, will perfect it unto the day of Christ Jesus.

**7** As it is meet for me to think this for you all, for that I have you in my heart; and that in my bands, and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers of my joy.

**8** For God is my witness, how I long after you all in the bowels of Jesus Christ.

**9** And this I pray, that your charity may more and more abound in knowledge, and in all understanding:

**10** That you may approve the better things, that you may be sincere and without offence unto the day of Christ,

**11** Filled with the fruit of justice, through Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God.

**12** Now, brethren, I desire you should know, that the things which have happened to me, have fallen out rather to the furtherance of the gospel:

**13** So that my bands are made manifest in Christ, in all the court, and in all other places:

**14** And many of the brethren in the Lord, growing confident by my bands, are much more bold to speak the word of God without fear.

**15** Some indeed, even out of envy and contention; but some also for good will preach Christ.

**16** Some out of charity, knowing that I am set for the defence of the gospel.

**17** And some out of contention preach Christ not sincerely: supposing that they raise affliction to my bands.

**18** But what then? So that by all means, whether by occasion, or by truth, Christ be preached: in this also I rejoice, yea, and will rejoice.

**19** For I know that this shall fall out to me unto salvation, through your prayer, and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,

**20** According to my expectation and hope; that in nothing I shall be confounded, but with all confidence, as always, so now also shall Christ be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death.

**21** For to me, to live is Christ: and to die is gain.

**22** And if to live in the flesh, this is to me the fruit of labour, and what I shall choose I know not.

**23** But I am straitened between two: having a desire to be dissolved and to be with Christ, a thing by far the better.

**24** But to abide still in the flesh, is needful for you.

**25** And having this confidence, I know that I shall abide, and continue with you all, for your furtherance and joy of faith:

**26** That your rejoicing may abound in Christ Jesus for me, by my coming to you again.

**27** Only let your conversation be worthy of the gospel of Christ: that, whether I come and see you, or, being absent, may hear of you, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind labouring together for the faith of the gospel.

**28** And in nothing be ye terrified by the adversaries: which to them is a cause of perdition, but to you of salvation, and this from God:

**29** For unto you it is given for Christ, not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him.

**30** Having the same conflict as that which you have seen in me, and now have heard of me.