

The Gospel's Responsibility – Philippians 1:1-2 – November 12, 2017

Today we are going to continue in our series “Proclaim and Rejoice”

Phil. 1:18 “Whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed and in that I rejoice”

We are going to talk about the responsibility we have to the gospel.

The freedom from sin and death that we have been freely given by Christ comes with an obligation to the King.

Faith Comes by Hearing - To Cover the World with the Word

- Translated the Bible into 1,108 languages
- 100,000 audio Bibles into the hands of underground leaders in North Korea

Those leaders have a simple and terrifying discipleship process:

1. White Martyr – Die to self
2. Green Martyr – Die to the world
3. Red Martyr – Die

That is an understanding that there is a responsibility to the gospel.

Until you know what's at stake for God you will never be committed for the sake of God!

Lets preach the introduction to Philippians 1:1-2

Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus. To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are at Philippi, with the overseers and deacons. Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The threefold repetition of the name Christ Jesus, Christ Jesus, and Jesus Christ

Is there any doubt to what consumed Paul's life? Unites the whole letter...

In the introduction to the letter Paul we are going to see some different people who represent both equality in Christ and a distinction in responsibility.

The Gospel's Responsibility to Fulfill Your Role

- **Fulfill Your Role (1)**

➤ **CHURCH – This particular church Philippi – Our Church Vertical**

Philippi – Roman Colony – 15,000 people – Slaves / Servants / Farmers / Retired

- **Equal value**

Who is sending and who is receiving the letter...Servants and Saints

First the servants:

- **Paul** – Born Saul – Hebrew & Roman – Religious Extremist – Acts 9
- **Timothy** – Recipient of two letters – Served with Paul – Pastor in Ephesus

“Servants of Christ Jesus” | **SLAVES**

Slaves - Paul and Timothy have willfully died to their own desires and are now in complete submission to the will of their Master Christ.

For Paul this is a badge of honor...putting His and Timothy's entire will in subjection to the Lord. Why? Because Christ “emptied Himself taking the form of a slave” (2:7)

The first part of our equal value is that we all stand in subjection to the King...

SLAVERY vs. SLAVERY

To be marked, as a servant is the highest distinction among God's people: Moses, Joshua, and David

All considered servants before they were Liberators, Conquerors, or Kings.

This is simple...if Christ is the Lord, then we are His servants

The second is saints:

“To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are at Philippi”

Saints – The Holy Ones of God

What made them holy? What makes a Saint a Saint?

In Catholicism it's a five-step process of:

Investigation | Evaluation | Pope Approval | Verification of 2 Miracles

That is not biblically accurate...according to Paul Saints are Saints not based in what we do but instead our submission in what Christ's done!

For Paul to say this is incredible, because he was raised submitting to a High Priest.

A man from Aaron's lineage who was set apart for being holy on behalf of the Jewish People (Day of Atonement)

Now we know (Hebrews) that Jesus is now our High Priest as an offering for our sins once and for all

Now there is no distinction between those who are believers in Christ

We are all servants | all saints! EQUAL VALUE / RESPONSIBLE TO GOSPEL

We all are servants to the Master, joyfully, because He has made us saints by cleansing our sins before our perfect, holy, and righteous Father!

Before we get into our distinctions, I want to dispel a common misunderstanding

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT vs SPIRITUAL GIFTS (I'll talk more about in a minute)

The church Philippi & Vertical are full of Saints / Servants / Fruit of the Spirit
Gal. 5:22-24 “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.”

Why are we all of Equal Value?

- Saved by the same Jesus | Servants to the same Master
- Embodied by the same Holy Spirit | Responsible to the same mission!

In our equality we have different responsibilities

- **Different Responsibilities**

To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are at Philippi, with the overseers and deacons.

To continue with the equality, I'm going to show you something awesome!

WITH (Words are important) It means “Along Side” or “Being Together”

OFFICES – Part of the Saints | Servants | Holy Spirit Indwelt People are: **A/E/D**

Apostles – Paul was an apostle: Authority to Speak and Write the Words of God in an absolute sense.

- Qualifications: Seen the resurrected Jesus | Appointed by Jesus

The apostolic age is over – **BIBLE | QUALIFICATIONS CANNOT BE MET**

Overseers – Elders “Watch over like a shepherd” | Nurture | Feed | Protect

Teach – Leadership – Guard Against Error – Rule

- Elders are appointed by other Elders and in plurality: **Acts 14:23**
- They have to be qualified: **1 Timothy 3:1-7 | Titus 1:5-9**

Deacons - Serve Practical issues in the church – To “deacon” is to serve

- Deacons are appointed: **Acts 6**
- They have to be qualified: **1 Timothy 3:8**

What does this mean on a practical level?

- Elders serve by leading (Elder Board governs the Church)
 - Doctrine | Direction | Discipline
- Pastors (Elder Qualified to lead ministries)
- Deacons Lead by Serving
 - Facilities | Financial Recording | Benevolence

Offices vs. Congregants - We are all equal but have different responsibilities:

Spiritual Gifts – How God has uniquely gifted you to build His church! **TOY**

You are uniquely gifted by the Lord to serve the Lord – Christ's Church!

Spiritual Gift Assessment | Chart of Gifts | Website

So we have a responsibility to the Gospel to Fulfill our Role

Second Reveal God's Love

- **Reveal God's Love (2) - We made it through a verse...go us!**

Verse two is the greeting. There are two words of encouragement "grace" and "peace." Grace is the western salutation and peace is the eastern (Unity)

We have a responsibility to the Gospel to both proclaim and display Grace or God's...

○ Unmerited Favor

Grace is what God does for us without any strings attached. It is God's free favor without any merit from man.

Grace is part of God's nature where He gives us pardon for our rebellion, not because we can earn His favor, but because Jesus paid the debt.

God's grace has been compared to the Ocean...and I like that Illustration

The Ocean: Fathom – Waves – Get in it does not diminish – Covers you completely

Human gifting can wane, grow cold, or become sporadic. However, grace goes on and on. Grace is the energy of God's love what ministers to the wretched.

- Have you shared with anyone the grace that God has given you?
 - Responsible to reveal God's Love and the Unmerited Favor

Understanding God's grace brings the gift of God's Peace...Trustful Hope

○ Trustful Hope

Where grace abides, peace dwells. Grace always precedes peace in salutations.

- **Peace** – Childlike confidence and trustful hope which is a result from faith in Christ
- **Peace** – This word means to bind together. God binds Himself to us so that we can sense His care.

Fret and anxiety pull us away from Him. Peace binds us to Him.

- Peace - It is the health of a life in harmony with God, a life where God has entered in. (Not something we can give ourselves)

Grace to you and peace **from** God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

FROM – Meaning that God is the ultimate source of grace and peace in our lives.

God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ

The Author of our salvation; God the Son, the Word was made flesh, brought the message of peace from heaven, and reconciled us to God.

Have you been struggling with peace in your life? Go back to God's grace...HEART

Dying world who needs to hear of God's love by His Grace that leads to divine peace!

Conclusion –Are we trying to gain God's favor?

Constant attempts to "measure up" to God will frustrate the Christian life. We cannot attain the standards of God's perfection.

That is why Paul again and again challenged believers to live on the basis of grace and peace, which come from the source of God and not us.

Vertical Church Albuquerque – Responsibility to the Gospel

- Fulfill our roles
 - Equal in value
 - Different in responsibility
- Reveal God's Love
 - Unmerited Favor (Grace)
 - Trustful Hope (Peace)

PRAY - OFFERING