

Acts 28 – The Great N.T. dispensational divide

Phils.3 –loss to win, prize, might attain the out-resurrection

2Tim.2:2 – be strong, soldier, athlete, farmer, crown, first to partake
consider the resurrection of Christ

Rewards for faithful service 02

We have observed the consistent theme of Scripture regarding salvation as being faith first then works following. Those of us who have stood at the cross, naturally want to respond with faith obedience based on what God has done for us in Christ and rightly so. Working in response to love is one thing, but then we find that God is offering rewards for our works. We should be motivated to serve with this double incentive, God's love and God's rewards.

Faith then works following is our understanding of the Word and an essential clarification in this present dispensation of the grace of God must be made. Our life by faith through grace can never be lost, but our reward for faithful service might be diminished or lost.

Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory. Col 3:2-4.

And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ. But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons. Col 3:23-25.

Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth;.... Col 3:5A.

Our service for the Lord is not in vain and Philippians reminds us to work out our salvation in awe of a loving God who has saved us securely, but will respond positively or negatively about our works when we face the righteous judge, God's only begotten son.

Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure. Php 2:12-13.

Philippians and 2Timothy speak of certain aspects of the reward for our good works. These include being unashamed, pleasing, approved, inoffensive, receiving a prize, a crown, reigning with Christ, and being first to partake of the fruits. Simple faith in Christ does not equate to reigning with him. Believing Jn.3:16 or 1Cor.15:3-4 for life does not equate to wearing a crown. A child of God by faith ensures life and an inheritance, but our good works as a child of God can result in reigning and wearing a crown in that inheritance. 2 Tim.2 warns us that if we died with him, which we did when we believed, then we shall live with him, if we endure [suffer], we shall also [2Tim.2:10 & 2:12] reign with him but if we deny him, he will deny us this salvation with eternal glory, see Tit.1:16, Rev.3:8.

One good aspect of our reward used by Paul in Philippians has caused lots of discussion and speculation. Paul wanted to win Christ, to know him and his ultimate objective was the resurrection from the dead.

That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings,

being made conformable unto his death; If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead. Php 3:10-11.

The resurrection from the dead must be understood in the context of the power of Christ's resurrection which was a resurrection from the dead. Here is how J.P.Green in his literal translation offers it.

to know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, having been conformed to His death, if somehow I may attain to a resurrection out of the dead. Php 3:10-11. LITV.

Paul wanted something and he was willing to strive for it by any means. He wanted a resurrection out of the dead, or out from among the dead. Here is Paul's desire for this resurrection in the immediate context.

But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss because of Christ. But, no, rather I also count all things to be loss because of the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them to be trash, that I might gain Christ and be found in Him; not having my own righteousness of Law, but through the faith of Christ, having the righteousness of God on faith, to know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, having been conformed to His death, if somehow I may attain to a resurrection out of the dead. Not that I already received or already have been perfected, but I press on, if I also may lay hold, inasmuch as I also was laid hold of by Christ Jesus. Brothers, I do not count myself to have laid hold, but one thing I do, forgetting the things behind, and stretching forward to those things before, I press on after a mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Php 3:7-14. LITV.

Within this section we find words which remind us of Paul's great doctrine expose regarding justification by faith through grace, but that doesn't seem to fit here. Paul is writing about winning Christ and striving for the prize of the high calling, this is not the initial salvation by faith but the outworking of salvation by faith. Before looking at this section, we should remember the theme of Philippians which, I believe, will strongly endorse the works context of chapter 3 and perhaps bring a different thought about righteousness and faith.

The practical thrust of Philippians.

Paul's opening prayer asks that their love would flourish in knowledge [acknowledgment] and judgment, that is, discernment based on external things as well as the mind.

And this I pray, that your love may yet abound more and more in full knowledge and all perception, for you to distinguish the things that differ, that you may be sincere and without blame for the day of Christ, being filled with fruits of righteousness through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God. Php 1:9-11.

This knowledge and discernment were the means whereby they could approve things excellent or test things differing. This is a prayer for spiritual growth since consequently they would be filled with fruits of righteousness. Here righteousness is not used in an initial salvation context; its fruits not faith. In 2 Timothy it is a crown of righteousness given for faithful service, not because we first believed. The word knowledge is found in a similar prayer for growth.

For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; That ye might

walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; Col 1:9-10.

Why might some Christians not grow in faith and practice? Because they might not walk according to the knowledge they have received. Consequently, they might not be pleasing like the soldier, might not be fruitful and might not increase in knowledge. This is a loop, knowledge worked out means productivity and more knowledge. This principle is seen when the Philippians were encouraged to live in harmony with the gospel, 1:27, and this is perfection, applying given truth so that more understanding and knowledge will be given. Perfection has many levels, it is truth provided then applied.

Applying truth might be accompanied by suffering and we find this in Philippians and 2Timothy where Paul's sufferings are given as examples.

For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake; Having the same conflict which ye saw in me, and now hear to be in me. Php 1:29-30.

But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience, Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured: but out of them all the Lord delivered me. Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. 2Ti 3:10-12.

We are setting the theme for a contextual consideration of the resurrection from the dead. Philippians is about testing things differing as a believer, not hearing about Christ as the Savior. There is no mention of the blood, of identification, of reconciliation, of sin and sins, of substitution or any redemptive truth in the following example of Christ. The cross is not the means of salvation, but the ultimate display of obedience.

The faithfulness and divine elevation of Christ, Paul's inspiration. In chapter 2 of Philippians we have the faithfulness of Christ and the God given consequence. After humility; submitting unto the shameful death of the cross, Christ then receives divine elevation and ultimate glory. Paul wants them to have this same mind of Christ, perhaps not only to esteem others of more importance, but also because if they followed the same pattern they might enjoy the same divinely appointed consequences. If the Philippians have the mind of Christ in humbling themselves, then they too might enjoy the same divine favor of an elevation about their fellows. Here is Christ's example, the one who enjoyed Godly rank and prerogatives stooped in love to the status of a servant and the likeness of people.

2:7 Emptied himself

Status of a servant

Likeness, fashion of men

He humbled himself

obedient unto death

even the death of the cross

2:9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him,

Before this outline of Christ's majesty to ignominy, Paul asked them to have the mind of Christ in this regard of humble service. After Christ's example he exhorts them to work out their own salvation with fear and trembling. Christ was faithful from equality with the

Father unto the cross with criminals but as a result of obedient faith, was then exalted. What might be the message for the Philippians and for us if we have the mind of Christ?

Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure. Php 2:12-13.

The NET offers this for consideration.

So then, my dear friends, just as you have always obeyed, not only in my presence but even more in my absence, continue working out your salvation with awe and reverence, for the one bringing forth in you both the desire and the effort — for the sake of his good pleasure — is God. Php 2:12-13.

NET

Isn't it amazing that it was God who sent his son in love, who saved us by grace through faith but then, in the works foreordained for us, he also works in as we work out for the sake of his good pleasure. God is our life of faith from beginning to end, who shall boast save in Christ our Lord?

Already we see that Paul highlights Christ as the principal example of faithful service, he is after all, preeminent in all things. Accompanying this prime example of self-denial and degradation we read of Timothy, as a son with the father, naturally caring for the Philippians, 2:19-20. We read of Epaphroditus who nearly died for the work of Christ, risking his life, completing their service but who was distressed because the Philippians had heard he was sick, not because he was sick, 2:25-30. These are two examples of servants with the mind of Christ.

Some other key identifiers for the practical thrust of Philippians are found in chapter 4. There is the crown in verse 1. There is laboring together [sunathleo] in verse 3 which only occurs here and 1:27, [cf athleo in 2Tim.2:5]. There is fellowlaborers in verse 3 [sunergos found also 2:25], and the Book of Life also in verse 3.

And I also ask you, true yoke-fellow, help those who struggled along with me and with Clement in the gospel, and the rest, fellow-workers with me, whose names are in the Book of Life. Php 4:3. LITV.

This is the first occurrence of the phrase, the Book of Life in the New Testament, and it is associated with works, not the gift of eternal life. This book appears to contain records of faithful service and is next found numerous times in Revelation. It seems the Book of Life contains entries across dispensational boundaries. We read of a book in Ex.32:32 and in Psa.69:28 where blotted out is juxtaposed against the righteous, a point to remember when we consider Philippians 3. In other words, there is a righteousness attained by good works, not the divinely appointed righteousness by faith through grace. Malachi 3 might be included too about this book. The book of life features at length in Revelation in 3:5, 1:8, 17:8, 20:12, 15, 21:27 & 22:19. The Book of Life is associated with works confirming the practical nature of Philippians.

The Book of Life, Christ's faithfulness, Paul's desire.

Philippians and the Book of Life are about things that accompany salvation and with this in mind we consider chapter 3 which speaks of Paul's righteousness of the law compared to the righteousness that comes through the faithfulness of Christ and the power of

Christ's resurrection. Paul desired to be found in Christ, to have the faithfulness of Christ, to participate in Christ's sufferings so consequently he would be made conformable to his death if by any means he might attain unto the resurrection out of the dead.

Philippians is a very exciting letter for us today.

Don't forget these charts, which have been uploaded to www.acts28.net/charts

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THE PRISON EPISTLES

Chart expanded from: "Prize of the High Calling". C.H.Welch.

A Ephesians

Seated
together

PAUL. (3:1, 7-9, 13, 6:19-20).

Prayers. Know hope, inherit'ce, power. (1:15-19). Know. (3:14-21, 6:18-19).
The Dispensation. Mystery. (3:2,3,9,RV).
Christ's ascent. Christ the Head. (4:9-10,1:20-22).
The church which is His body. (1:22, 23).
Fullness. (1:23, 4:10).
Principalities and powers.* (1:2 1).
Instructions for The Church. (4:1-6:19).
Aware. (3:9).

B Philippians

The Prize

PAUL. Learned, rec'd, heard & seen. (4:9).

Prayers. Knowledge & judgment. (1:9-11). Peace. (4:6).
Analyze the things that differ. (1:10).
sincere & unoffending.
Suffer. (1:29).
Loss, win, press (mark), prize. (3:8, 11, 14).
attain, (out) resurrection. (3:11).
power of His resurrection. (3:10).
Good Ex. (2:5-11, 19-21,25-30, 3:4-7).
Enemies of cross, god is their belly. (3:18,19).
Depart.^o (1:23). Offered.^o (2:17). Abide. (2:25).

C Philemon

A Picture
or an appeal

PAUL. (:10).

Prayer. Faith & Love. (:5).
The Dispensation seen.
Far off made nigh. A brother, son.
Profitable servant.

A Colossians

Complete
in Him

PAUL. (1:23-29, 4:3-4).

Prayers. Hope, knowledge, walk. (1:3-12). Known. (4:2-4).
Dispensation. Mystery. (1:25, 26).
Christ's ascent. Christ the Head. (2:15, 19).
The church which is His body. (1:24).
Fullness. (1:19).
Principalities and powers.* (1:16, 2:10).
Instructions for The Church. (3:1-4:6).
Beware. (2:8).

B 2 Timothy

The Crown

PAUL. Learned, assured. (1:7-11,13, 2:2,3:14, 4:16-17).

Prayers. Memory. (1:3-4). Appeal. (4:16?).
Rightly dividing the Word of Truth. (2:15).
approved & unashamed.
Suffer. (1:12).
Suffer ill, strive (rules), labour, endure. (2:3,5,6,10,12)
endure, reign. (2:10).
consider Christ's resurrection. (2:8).
Bad Ex. (1:15,16-18, 2:17, 4:10,14).
Snare of the devil. (2:26).
Depart,^o (4:6). Offered.^o (4:6). Crown. (4:8).

* None of these expressions occur in Philippians or 2 Timothy.

^o Only occurrences in Paul's epistles.

Philippians, 2Timothy prize, crown, out resurrection-

| | | |
|---|-------------|--|
| B | Philippians | 4:9. PAUL. Learned, rec'd, heard & seen. |
| | The Prize | 1:9-10 Prayers. Knowledge & judgment. (1:9-11). Peace. |
| Analyse the things that differ. | | |
| sincere & unoffending. | | |
| Suffer. (1:29). | | |
| Loss, win , press (mark), prize . (3:8, 11,14). | | |
| attain, (out) resurrection . (3:11). | | |
| power of His resurrection . (3:10). | | |
| Good Ex. (2:5-11, 19-21, 25-30, 3:4-7). | | |
| Enemies of cross, god is their belly. (3:18,19). | | |
| Depart. ^o (1:23). Offered. ^o (2:17). Abide. (2:25). | | |

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|--|-----------|--|
| B | 2 Timothy | <u>PAUL</u> . Learned, assured. (1:7-11,13, 2:2, 3:14, 4:16-17). |
| | The Crown | Prayers. Memory. (1:3-4). Appeal. (4:16?). |
| Rightly dividing the Word of Truth. (2:15). | | |
| approved & unashamed. | | |
| Suffer. (1:12). | | |
| Suffer ill, strive (rules), labour, endure. (2:3,5,6,10,12) | | |
| endure, reign . (2:10). | | |
| consider Christ's resurrection . | | |
| (2:8). Bad Ex. (1:15,16-18, 2:17, 4:10,14). | | |
| Snare of the devil. (2:26). | | |
| Depart, ^o (4:6). Offered. ^o (4:6). Crown . (4:8). | | |

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Chart expanded from: "Prize of the High Calling". CHWelch.

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Philippians & 2 Timothy

prize, crown, the out resurrection

Philippians

the prize

Christ's resurrection the key in both letters

the prize

the prize?

1:9-11 prayer, love excel in knowledge & judgment
approve/test/analyze things that differ
sincere, unoffending, fruits of righteousness

2:5-10 Christ, our example – faithful unto *death*, even cross
*highly exalted

3:4-8 Paul's loss – genealogy, righteousness of the law
excel in knowledge of Christ,
*win/gain Christ

3:9-11 Paul's desire – found in Christ
not his faithfulness/righteousness of the [works] Law
but righteousness by Christ's faithfulness
to know Christ *power of his resurrection
fellowship of his sufferings, likeness of his *death*
Paul's desire – if by any means, attain/arrive
*the resurrection out from among the dead

3:12-14 Paul's gain - reaching forth, to attain, perfection, forgetting
* the prize – the high calling [upward call]

3:15-21 Paul's example, living to the standard
Enemies of the cross, destruction/loss, shame, earthly things 1:28

3:20-21 *heaven from where we look/wait, then [out-resurrected?] bodies changed

2Timothy

the crown

Christ's resurrection the firstfruit ek the dead

1:9-11 prayer, power, love, sound mind, afflictions with gospel
rightly divide the word – be diligent
approved, unashamed, shun

2:1-6 be strong, present truth, faithful taught
*soldier endure hardship, 2:9, 4:5, war to please
*athlete compete lawfully, the crown
*farmer toil to partake first of the fruits [cf 1Cor.15:20 et.al.]

2:7-8 consider, understanding from the Lord
remember *Christ raise from [ek] the dead

2:9-13 Paul's hardship, chained malefactor, word not chained
*endure so elect may obtain salvation with glory in Christ
faithful word dead with him – live with him
*endure – reign with him +ve
deny him – deny us [cf 3:5] -ve
believe not - he continues faithful, cannot deny himself

2:14-26 remember v10-11, unprofitable disputes = subversion of hearers [cf 2Pet.2:6]
right division, shun profane fruitless discussions [1Tim.1:9, 4:7, 6:20]
ungodliness, gangrene, error, faith overturned
the gain *gold, honor, useful vessel, unto good works
the loss wood, earth, dishonor, captive, snare of the devil

4:6-8 Paul's offering and departure, fought, finished, kept the faith
*crown of righteousness

Love his appearing [past for present truth 1:10, future for hope, 4:1, 8, Tit.2:13]

Based on chart in "Prize of the High Calling" C. H. Welch
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