

Outline of the Messages for the Thanksgiving Conference November 25-28, 2010

GENERAL SUBJECT: THE NEED FOR A FRESH VISION OF THE LORD'S RECOVERY

Message Three

Building Up Christ in Our Experience to Work Out Our Own Salvation

Scripture Reading: Phil. 2:12-16

- Phil 2:12 So then, my beloved, even as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only but now much rather in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;
- Phil 2:13 For it is God who operates in you both the willing and the working for *His* good pleasure.
- Phil 2:14 Do all things without murmurings and reasonings
- Phil 2:15 That you may be blameless and guileless, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverted generation, among whom you shine as luminaries in the world,
- Phil 2:16 Holding forth the word of life, so that I may have a boast in the day of Christ that I did not run in vain nor labor in vain.

I. The ark that Noah built is a type of the practical and present Christ as God's salvation, and to build the ark is to build up the practical and present Christ as God's salvation in our experience for the building up of the Body of Christ as the corporate Christ; according to Philippians, this is to work out our own salvation—2:12-13:

- Phil 2:12 So then, my beloved, even as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only but now much rather in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;
- Phil 2:13 For it is God who operates in you both the willing and the working for *His* good pleasure.
- A. To build the ark is to work out our own salvation, which is to build up Christ in our experience for the building up of the Body of Christ, the corporate Christ.
- B. What Noah worked on and entered into was God's salvation, the ark; we should have a practical and present Christ into whom we can enter as God's salvation.
- C. The ark is a type of Christ, not only the individual Christ but also the corporate Christ, the church, which is the Body of Christ and the new man—Gen. 6:14; 1 Cor. 12:12; Eph. 2:15-16; Col. 3:10-11:
- Gen 6:14 Make yourself an ark of gopher wood; you shall make rooms in the ark and shall cover it within and without with pitch.
- 1 Cor 12:12 For even as the body is one and has many members, yet all the members of the body, being many, are one body, so also is the Christ.
- Eph 2:15 Abolishing in His flesh the law of the commandments in ordinances, that He might create the two in Himself into one new man, *so* making peace,
- Eph 2:16 And might reconcile both in one Body to God through the cross, having slain the enmity by it.
- Col 3:10 And have put on the new man, which is being renewed unto full knowledge according to the image of Him who created him,
- Col 3:11 Where there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcision and uncircumcision, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all and in all.
1. The building of the ark typifies the building of the corporate Christ, with the element of Christ's riches as the building material, by those who work together with God; this is to work out our own salvation—1 Cor. 3:9-12a; 2 Cor. 6:1; Eph. 3:8-10; 4:12.
- 1 Cor 3:9 For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's cultivated land, God's building.
- 1 Cor 3:10 According to the grace of God given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid a foundation, and another builds upon *it*. But let each man take heed how he builds upon *it*.
- 1 Cor 3:11 For another foundation no one is able to lay besides that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.
- 1 Cor 3:12a But if anyone builds upon the foundation gold, silver, precious stones, ...
- 2 Cor 6:1 And working together with *Him*, we also entreat you not to receive the grace of God in vain;
- Eph 3:8 To me, less than the least of all saints, was this grace given to announce to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ as the gospel

- Eph 3:9 And to enlighten all *that they may see* what the economy of the mystery is, which throughout the ages has been hidden in God, who created all things,
- Eph 3:10 In order that now to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenlies the multifarious wisdom of God might be made known through the church,
- Eph 4:12 For the perfecting of the saints unto the work of the ministry, unto the building up of the Body of Christ,
2. By building the ark and entering into it, Noah was not only saved from God's judgment on the evil generation through the flood, but was also separated from that generation and ushered into a new age—Gen. 8:13-19; 1 Pet. 3:20.
- Gen 8:13 And in the six hundred first year, in the first month, the first day of the month, the water was dried up from the earth; and Noah removed the covering of the ark and saw that now the surface of the ground was dry.
- Gen 8:14 And in the second month, on the twenty-seventh day of the month, the earth was dry.
- Gen 8:15 And God spoke to Noah, saying,
- Gen 8:16 Go forth from the ark, you and your wife and your sons and your sons' wives with you;
- Gen 8:17 Bring out with you every living thing that is with you of all flesh—birds and cattle and every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth—that they may swarm on the earth and be fruitful and multiply upon the earth.
- Gen 8:18 So Noah went forth, as well as his sons and his wife and his sons' wives with him.
- Gen 8:19 Every animal, every creeping thing, and every bird, everything that moves upon the earth, went forth from the ark according to their families.
- 1 Pet 3:20 Who had formerly disobeyed when the long-suffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was being prepared; *entering* into which, a few, that is, eight souls, were brought safely through by water.
3. Likewise, by building the church and entering into the church life through building up the practical and present Christ as God's salvation in our experience, we will be saved from God's judgment on today's evil generation through the great tribulation (Matt. 24:37-39; Luke 17:26-27; 1 Thes. 5:3) and will be separated from that generation (Luke 21:36; Rev. 3:10) and ushered into a new age, the age of the millennium.
- Matt 24:37 For just as the days of Noah were, so will the coming of the Son of Man be.
- Matt 24:38 For as they were in those days before the flood, eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day in which Noah entered into the ark,
- Matt 24:39 And they did not know *that judgment was coming* until the flood came and took all away, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.
- Luke 17:26 And even as it happened in the days of Noah, so will it be also in the days of the Son of Man:
- Luke 17:27 They were eating, they were drinking, they were marrying, they were being given in marriage, until the day in which Noah entered into the ark and the flood came and destroyed them all.
- 1 Thes 5:3 When they say, Peace and security, then sudden destruction comes upon them, just as birth pangs to a woman with child; and they shall by no means escape.
- Luke 21:36 But be watchful at every time, beseeching that you would prevail to escape all these things which are about to happen and stand before the Son of Man.
- Rev 3:10 Because you have kept the word of My endurance, I also will keep you out of the hour of trial, which is about to come on the whole inhabited earth, to try them who dwell on the earth.
- D. The salvation in Philippians 2:12 is not eternal salvation from condemnation and from the lake of fire but the daily and constant salvation that is Christ as a living Person; although we have eternal salvation, we need further salvation from the crooked and perverted generation—v. 15.
- Phil 2:12 So then, my beloved, even as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only but now much rather in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;
- Phil 2:15 That you may be blameless and guileless, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverted generation, among whom you shine as luminaries in the world,
- E. Today we are in the passage of God's salvation; we have entered into this pas-sage, and our going through this passage is our working out our own salvation:

1. The more Noah built the ark, the more he passed through God's salvation, and eventually, he entered into what he worked out—Gen. 7:7.
Gen 7:7 And Noah and his sons and his wife and his sons' wives with him went into the ark because of the waters of the flood.
 2. The very Christ whom we are building up in our experience today will become our future salvation; one day under God's sovereignty, we will enter into the very Christ whom we have built up.
 3. Even today, if we build up Christ in our experience, we will be able to abide in Christ, to dwell in Christ—John 15:5:
John 15:5 I am the vine; you are the branches. He who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing.
 - a. To build up Christ in our experience is to love the Lord, to talk to Him by calling on His name, and to fellowship with Him, living by Him and walking together with Him day after day and hour after hour to be a “co-walker” with God, so that we can be a co-worker with God—Gen. 5:22-24; 6:9.
Gen 5:22 And Enoch walked with God after he had begotten Methuselah three hundred years, and he begot more sons and daughters.
Gen 5:23 And all the days of Enoch were three hundred sixty-five years.
Gen 5:24 And Enoch walked with God, and he was not, for God took him.
Gen 6:9 These are the generations of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generations; and Noah walked with God.
 - b. Then we build up Christ in our experience so that we can enter into Him as our salvation.
- F. All four chapters of Philippians refer to the all-inclusive, living person of Christ as our salvation:
1. In Philippians 1 salvation is to live Christ and magnify Christ in any circumstance.
 2. In Philippians 2 salvation is to reflect Christ by holding forth the word of life.
 3. In Philippians 3 salvation is the righteousness of God, who is God Himself embodied in Christ.
 4. In Philippians 4 salvation is Christ Himself as the life that is true, dignified, righteous, pure, lovely, well spoken of, and full of virtue and praise.

II. Each chapter of Philippians presents particular aspects of Christ as our daily salvation, revealing to us how we can build up Christ in our experience to work out our own salvation—3:12-13; cf. Hab. 1:1:

- Phil 3:12 Not that I have already obtained or am already perfected, but I pursue, if even I may lay hold of that for which I also have been laid hold of by Christ Jesus.
- Phil 3:13 Brothers, I do not account of myself to have laid hold; but one thing I do: Forgetting the things which are behind and stretching forward to the things which are before,
- Hab 1:1 The burden which Habakkuk the prophet saw.
- A. We can experience the inward parts of Christ Jesus—Phil. 1:8; Eph. 5:25; 2 Cor. 12:15; 1 John 3:16.
Phil 1:8 For God is my witness how I long after you all in the inward parts of Christ Jesus.
Eph 5:25 Husbands, love your wives even as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her
2 Cor 12:15 But I, I will most gladly spend and be utterly spent on behalf of your souls. If I love you more abundantly, am I loved less?
1 John 3:16 In this we know love, that He laid down His life on our behalf, and we ought to lay down our lives on behalf of the brothers.
- B. We can take Christ as our living for His magnification, His expression—Phil. 1:19-21a; John 6:57; Gal. 6:17-18.
Phil 1:19 For I know that for me this will turn out to salvation through your petition and *the* bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,
Phil 1:20 According to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I will be put to shame, but with all boldness, as always, even now Christ will be magnified in my body, whether through life or through death.
Phil 1:21a For to me, to live is Christ ...

- John 6:57 As the living Father has sent Me and I live because of the Father, so he who eats Me, he also shall live because of Me.
- Gal 6:17 Henceforth let no one trouble me, for I bear in my body the brands of Jesus.
- Gal 6:18 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers. Amen.
- C. We can experience the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ as the supply of the Body of Christ; imprisonment did not isolate Paul from the Body of Christ or cut him off from the supply of the Body—Phil. 1:19; John 16:13.
- Phil 1:19 For I know that for me this will turn out to salvation through your petition and *the* bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,
- John 16:13 But when He, the Spirit of reality, comes, He will guide you into all the reality; for He will not speak from Himself, but what He hears He will speak; and He will declare to you the things that are coming.
- D. We can take Christ's mind as our mind—Phil. 2:3, 5; cf. Eph. 4:23; Rom. 12:3.
- Phil 2:3 *Doing* nothing by way of selfish ambition nor by way of vainglory, but in lowliness of mind considering one another more excellent than yourselves;
- Phil 2:5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus,
- Eph 4:23 And *that* you be renewed in the spirit of your mind
- Rom 12:3 For I say, through the grace given to me, to every one who is among you, not to think more highly *of himself* than he ought to think, but to think so as to be sober-minded, as God has apportioned to each a measure of faith.
- E. We can experience Christ as the inner operating God, as our subjective salvation, to hold Him forth as the word of life—Phil. 2:12-16.
- Phil 2:12 So then, my beloved, even as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only but now much rather in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;
- Phil 2:13 For it is God who operates in you both the willing and the working for *His* good pleasure.
- Phil 2:14 Do all things without murmurings and reasonings
- Phil 2:15 That you may be blameless and guileless, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverted generation, among whom you shine as luminaries in the world,
- Phil 2:16 Holding forth the word of life, so that I may have a boast in the day of Christ that I did not run in vain nor labor in vain.
- F. We can experience Christ to become a drink offering—v. 17:
- Phil 2:17 But even if I am being poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I rejoice, and I rejoice together with you all.
1. The drink offering typifies Christ as the One poured out as the real wine before God for His satisfaction—Exo. 29:40-41:

Exo 29:40 And with the one lamb a tenth of an ephah of fine flour mingled with a fourth of a hin of beaten oil, and a fourth of a hin of wine for a drink offering.

Exo 29:41 And the other lamb you shall offer at twilight; you shall offer it with the meal offering and its drink offering as in the morning, for a satisfying fragrance, an offering by fire to Jehovah.

 - a. Christ is the wine-producer, sacrificing Himself to produce wine to cheer God and others—Judg. 9:12-13.

Judg 9:12 Then the trees said to the vine, You come and reign over us.

Judg 9:13 But the vine said to them, Shall I leave my new wine, which cheers God and men, and go to wave over the trees?
 - b. If we contact this Christ and experience His sacrificing life, He will energize us to live a life of sacrifice, producing wine to make others and the Lord happy—2 Cor. 1:24b; cf. 5:13-15.

2 Cor 1:24b ... for by faith you stand.

2 Cor 5:13 For whether *we* were beside ourselves, *it was* to God; or whether we are sober-minded, *it is* for you.

2 Cor 5:14 For the love of Christ constrains us because we have judged this, that One died for all, therefore all died;

2 Cor 5:15 And He died for all that those who live may no longer live to themselves but to Him who died for them and has been raised.

2. The drink offering typifies not only Christ Himself but also the Christ who saturates us with Himself as the heavenly wine until He and we become one to be poured out for God's enjoyment and satisfaction and for God's building—Matt. 9:17; Phil. 2:17; 2 Tim. 4:6:

Matt 9:17 Neither do they put new wine into old wineskins; otherwise, the wineskins burst, and the wine pours out, and the wineskins are ruined; but they put new wine into fresh wineskins, and both are preserved.

Phil 2:17 But even if I am being poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I rejoice, and I rejoice together with you all.

2 Tim 4:6 For I am already being poured out, and the time of my departure is at hand.

- a. The drink offering is a type of Christ as the heavenly wine who is enjoyed by the offerer, filling him and causing him to become wine to God.
- b. The drink offering is our subjective experience of being made one with the Lord to such an extent that He becomes us.
- c. The more we experience Christ as the offerings, the more of a drink offering we become—Num. 15:1-10.

Num 15:1 Then Jehovah spoke to Moses, saying,

Num 15:2 Speak to the children of Israel and say to them, When you come into the land that you are to inhabit, which I am giving you,

Num 15:3 And you make an offering by fire to Jehovah, a burnt offering or a sacrifice, to make a special vow or as a freewill offering or at your appointed feasts, to make a satisfying fragrance to Jehovah, from the herd or from the flock,

Num 15:4 The one who presents his offering shall present to Jehovah a meal offering of a tenth of an ephah of fine flour mingled with a fourth of a hin of oil.

Num 15:5 And you shall prepare wine for the drink offering, a fourth of a hin, with the burnt offering or for the sacrifice, for each lamb.

Num 15:6 Or for a ram you shall prepare as a meal offering two-tenths of an ephah of fine flour mingled with a third of a hin of oil;

Num 15:7 And for the drink offering you shall present a third of a hin of wine, a satisfying fragrance to Jehovah.

Num 15:8 And when you prepare a herd animal for a burnt offering or for a sacrifice, to make a special vow or for peace offerings to Jehovah,

Num 15:9 Then you shall offer with the herd animal a meal offering of three-tenths of an ephah of fine flour mingled with half a hin of oil;

Num 15:10 And you shall present for the drink offering half a hin of wine, an offering by fire, a satisfying fragrance to Jehovah.

- G. We can gain (win) Christ and be found in Him—Phil. 3:7-9a; Eph. 3:8; Gen. 15:1; 2 Cor. 12:2.

Phil 3:7 But what things were gains to me, these I have counted as loss on account of Christ.

Phil 3:8 But moreover I also count all things to be loss on account of the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, on account of whom I have suffered the loss of all things and count *them* as refuse that I may gain Christ

Phil 3:9a And be found in Him, ...

Eph 3:8 To me, less than the least of all saints, was this grace given to announce to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ as the gospel

Gen 15:1 After these things the word of Jehovah came to Abram in a vision, saying, Do not be afraid, Abram; I am your shield and your exceedingly great reward.

2 Cor 12:2 I know a man in Christ, fourteen years ago (whether in the body I do not know, or outside the body I do not know; God knows) such a one was caught away to the third heaven.

- H. We can take Christ as our lived-out righteousness—Phil. 3:9b; cf. Isa. 64:6; Matt. 5:20; Rev. 3:18; 19:8.

Phil 3:9 ... not having my own righteousness which is out of the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is out of God *and* based on faith,

Isa 64:6 For all of us became like him who is unclean, And all our righteousnesses are like a soiled garment; And we all wither like a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, carry us away.

Matt 5:20 For I say to you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the scribes and Pharisees, you shall by no means enter into the kingdom of the heavens.

- Rev 3:18 I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined by fire that you may be rich, and white garments that you may be clothed and *that* the shame of your nakedness may not be manifested, and eyesalve to anoint your eyes that you may see.
- Rev 19:8 And it was given to her that she should be clothed in fine linen, bright *and* clean; for the fine linen is the righteousnesses of the saints.
- I. We can know Christ subjectively in both revelation and experience—Phil. 3:8, 10; 2:2; 3:13.
- Phil 3:8 But moreover I also count all things to be loss on account of the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, on account of whom I have suffered the loss of all things and count *them* as refuse that I may gain Christ
- Phil 3:10 To know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,
- Phil 2:2 Make my joy full, that you think the same thing, having the same love, joined in soul, thinking the one thing,
- Phil 3:13 Brothers, I do not account of myself to have laid hold; but one thing I do: Forgetting the things which are behind and stretching forward to the things which are before,
- J. We can take Christ as our goal so that we may enjoy Him as our prize; since our goal is to gain Christ, we should forsake all other things and pursue nothing but Christ—vv. 12-14, 7-8.
- Phil 3:12 Not that I have already obtained or am already perfected, but I pursue, if even I may lay hold of that for which I also have been laid hold of by Christ Jesus.
- Phil 3:13 Brothers, I do not account of myself to have laid hold; but one thing I do: Forgetting the things which are behind and stretching forward to the things which are before,
- Phil 3:14 I pursue toward the goal for the prize to which God in Christ Jesus has called *me* upward.
- Phil 3:7 But what things were gains to me, these I have counted as loss on account of Christ.
- Phil 3:8 But moreover I also count all things to be loss on account of the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, on account of whom I have suffered the loss of all things and count *them* as refuse that I may gain Christ
- K. We can maintain our joy in Christ—Phil. 4:4; Heb. 13:15; Psa. 119:164:
- Phil 4:4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.
- Heb 13:15 Through Him then let us offer up a sacrifice of praise continually to God, that is, the fruit of lips confessing His name.
- Psa 119:164 Seven times a day I praise You For Your righteous ordinances.
1. Since Philippians is concerned with the experience and enjoyment of Christ, which issue in joy, it is a book filled with joy and rejoicing—1:4, 18, 25; 2:2, 17-18, 28-29; 3:1; 4:1, 4.
- Phil 1:4 Always in my every petition on behalf of you all, making my petition with joy,
- Phil 1:18 What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truthfulness, Christ is announced; and in this I rejoice; yes, and I will rejoice;
- Phil 1:25 And being confident of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy of the faith,
- Phil 2:2 Make my joy full, that you think the same thing, having the same love, joined in soul, thinking the one thing,
- Phil 2:17 But even if I am being poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I rejoice, and I rejoice together with you all.
- Phil 2:18 And in like manner you also rejoice, and you rejoice together with me.
- Phil 2:28 I have sent him therefore the more eagerly, so that when you see him again, you may rejoice and I may be less sorrowful.
- Phil 2:29 Receive him therefore in the Lord with all joy, and hold such in honor,
- Phil 3:1 Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you, for me it is not irksome, but for you it is safe.
- Phil 4:1 So then, my brothers, beloved and longed for, my joy and crown, in the same way stand firm in the Lord, beloved.
- Phil 4:4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice.
2. “I maintain my joy, so please do not worry. I hope you will also take care of yourself and be filled with joy in your heart”—written from prison by Brother Watchman Nee to his sister-in-law in 1972 (*Watchman Nee—A Seer of the Divine Revelation in the Present Age*, p. 182).

- L. We can experience Christ as our forbearance and virtues—vv. 5, 8:
- Phil 4:5 Let your forbearance be known to all men. The Lord is near.
- Phil 4:8 Finally, brothers, what things are true, what things are dignified, what things are righteous, what things are pure, what things are lovely, what things are well spoken of, if there is any virtue and if any praise, take account of these things.
1. To be forbearing is to consider how others will be affected by what we do or say; forbearance is reasonableness, considerateness, and consideration in dealing with others, without being strict in claiming one's legal rights.
 2. Our anxiety can be turned into forbearance by bringing every need, every request, to God and by conversing with Him; to converse implies that there is traffic between us and God, and it is by this traffic, the fellowship between us and God, that we enjoy the divine dispensing.
 3. In Philippians 4:8 Paul presents six virtues that express the life that lives Christ; these virtues are the expressions of God's attributes lived out from within the pursuers of Christ, who is the embodiment of God.
- Phil 4:8 Finally, brothers, what things are true, what things are dignified, what things are righteous, what things are pure, what things are lovely, what things are well spoken of, if there is any virtue and if any praise, take account of these things.
- M. We can learn Christ as our secret—vv. 11-12, 6-7:
- Phil 4:11 Not that I speak according to lack, for I have learned, in whatever circumstances I am, to be content.
- Phil 4:12 I know also how to be abased, and I know how to abound; in everything and in all things I have learned the secret both to be filled and to hunger, both to abound and to lack.
- Phil 4:6 In nothing be anxious, but in everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;
- Phil 4:7 And the peace of God, which surpasses every *man's* understanding, will guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus.
1. Paul had learned the secret of sufficiency, of satisfaction, of contentment, in any circumstance; this secret is actually Christ Himself.
 2. Paul learned the secret of experiencing Christ—to experience Him in every-thing and in every place—v. 12.
- Phil 4:12 I know also how to be abased, and I know how to abound; in everything and in all things I have learned the secret both to be filled and to hunger, both to abound and to lack.
3. After Paul was converted to Christ, he was initiated into Christ and into the Body of Christ—Acts 9:3-19, 25-28; 22:6-21; 13:1-4.
- Acts 9:3 And as he went, he drew near to Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him.
- Acts 9:4 And he fell on the ground and heard a voice saying to him, Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?
- Acts 9:5 And he said, Who are You, Lord? And He *said*, I am Jesus, whom you persecute.
- Acts 9:6 But rise up and enter into the city, and it will be told to you what you must do.
- Acts 9:7 And the men who journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing the voice but seeing no one.
- Acts 9:8 And Saul rose from the ground; and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing. And they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus.
- Acts 9:9 And he was three days without seeing, and he neither ate nor drank.
- Acts 9:10 And there was a certain disciple in Damascus named Ananias; and the Lord said to him in a vision, Ananias. And he said, Behold, I *am here*, Lord.
- Acts 9:11 And the Lord *said* to him, Rise up and go to the lane called Straight, and seek in the house of Judas a man from Tarsus named Saul; for behold, he is praying;
- Acts 9:12 And he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias coming in and laying his hands on him so that he may receive his sight.
- Acts 9:13 But Ananias answered, Lord, I have heard from many concerning this man, how many evil things he has done to Your saints in Jerusalem;
- Acts 9:14 And here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call upon Your name.
- Acts 9:15 But the Lord said to him, Go, for this man is a chosen vessel to Me, to bear My name before both the Gentiles and kings and the sons of Israel;

- Acts 9:16 For I will show him how many things he must suffer on behalf of My name.
- Acts 9:17 And Ananias went away and entered into the house; and laying his hands on him, he said, Saul, brother, the Lord has sent me—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road on which you were coming—so that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.
- Acts 9:18 And immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he received his sight and rose up and was baptized.
- Acts 9:19 And once he had taken food, he was strengthened. And he was with the disciples in Damascus for some days.
- Acts 9:25 But his disciples took *him* by night and let him down through the wall, lowering *him* in a basket.
- Acts 9:26 And when he arrived in Jerusalem, he tried to join himself to the disciples; yet all feared him, not believing that he was a disciple.
- Acts 9:27 But Barnabas took hold of him and led *him* to the apostles, and he related to them how *Saul* had seen the Lord on the road, and that He had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had spoken boldly in the name of Jesus.
- Acts 9:28 And he was with them, going in and going out in Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the name of the Lord.
- Acts 22:6 And as I journeyed and drew near to Damascus about midday, suddenly a great light flashed out of heaven around me;
- Acts 22:7 And I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?
- Acts 22:8 And I answered, Who are You, Lord? And He said to me, I am Jesus the Nazarene, whom you persecute.
- Acts 22:9 And those who were with me beheld the light, but did not hear the voice of the One who was speaking to me.
- Acts 22:10 And I said, What shall I do, Lord? And the Lord said to me, Rise up and go into Damascus, and there it will be told to you concerning all the things which have been appointed to you to do.
- Acts 22:11 And as I could not see because of the glory of that light, I was led by the hand by those who were with me and came into Damascus.
- Acts 22:12 And a certain Ananias, a devout man according to the law, well attested to by all the Jews dwelling *there*,
- Acts 22:13 Came to me, and standing by, said to me, Brother Saul, receive your sight! And in that very hour I looked up at him.
- Acts 22:14 And he said, The God of our fathers has previously appointed you to know His will and to see the righteous One and to hear the voice from His mouth;
- Acts 22:15 For you will be a witness to Him unto all men of the things which you have seen and heard.
- Acts 22:16 And now, why do you delay? Rise up and be baptized and wash away your sins, calling on His name.
- Acts 22:17 And when I returned to Jerusalem and was praying in the temple, I went into a trance;
- Acts 22:18 And I saw Him saying to me, Hurry, and go quickly out of Jerusalem, because they will not accept your testimony concerning Me.
- Acts 22:19 And I said, Lord, they know that I was imprisoning and beating from synagogue to synagogue those who believe on You;
- Acts 22:20 And when the blood of Your witness Stephen was being shed, I myself also was standing by and approving and keeping the garments of those who did away with him.
- Acts 22:21 And He said to me, Go, for I will send you forth far away to the Gentiles.
- Acts 13:1 Now there were in Antioch, in the local church, prophets and teachers: Barnabas and Simeon, who was called Niger, and Lucius the Cyrenian, and Manaen, the foster brother of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.
- Acts 13:2 And as they were ministering to the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, Set apart for Me now Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.
- Acts 13:3 Then, when they had fasted and prayed and laid their hands on *them*, they sent them away.
- Acts 13:4 They then, having been sent out by the Holy Spirit, went down to Seleucia; and from there they sailed away to Cyprus.
4. He learned the secret of how to take Christ as life (Col. 3:4), how to live Christ (Phil. 1:21a), how to magnify Christ (v. 20), how to gain Christ (3:8, 12), and how to have the church life (1:9, 19; 2:1-4, 19-20; 4:1-3).

Col 3:4 When Christ our life is manifested, then you also will be manifested with Him in glory.

Phil 1:21a For to me, to live is Christ ...

Phil 1:20 According to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I will be put to shame, but with all boldness, as always, even now Christ will be magnified in my body, whether through life or through death.

Phil 3:8 But moreover I also count all things to be loss on account of the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, on account of whom I have suffered the loss of all things and count *them* as refuse that I may gain Christ

Phil 3:12 Not that I have already obtained or am already perfected, but I pursue, if even I may lay hold of that for which I also have been laid hold of by Christ Jesus.

Phil 1:9 And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in full knowledge and all discernment,

Phil 1:19 For I know that for me this will turn out to salvation through your petition and *the* bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,

Phil 2:1 If there is therefore any encouragement in Christ, if any consolation of love, if any fellowship of spirit, if any tenderheartedness and compassions,

Phil 2:2 Make my joy full, that you think the same thing, having the same love, joined in soul, thinking the one thing,

Phil 2:3 *Doing* nothing by way of selfish ambition nor by way of vainglory, but in lowliness of mind considering one another more excellent than yourselves;

Phil 2:4 Not regarding each his own virtues, but each the virtues of others also.

Phil 2:19 But I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you shortly, that I also may be encouraged by knowing the things concerning you.

Phil 2:20 For I have no one like-souled who will genuinely care for what concerns you;

Phil 4:1 So then, my brothers, beloved and longed for, my joy and crown, in the same way stand firm in the Lord, beloved.

Phil 4:2 I exhort Euodias, and I exhort Syntyche, to think the same thing in the Lord.

Phil 4:3 Yes, I ask you also, genuine yokefellow, assist them, since they contended with me in the gospel, as well as with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.

N. We can take Christ as the empowering One—our Motivator, our inward motivating power—v. 13:

Phil 4:13 I am able to do all things in Him who empowers me.

1. Paul's word about Christ as the empowering One specifically applies to Christ's empowering us to live Him as our human virtues and thereby to magnify Him in His unlimited greatness—vv. 8-13.

Phil 4:8 Finally, brothers, what things are true, what things are dignified, what things are righteous, what things are pure, what things are lovely, what things are well spoken of, if there is any virtue and if any praise, take account of these things.

Phil 4:9 The things which you have also learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things; and the God of peace will be with you.

Phil 4:10 But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly because now at length you have caused your thinking for me to blossom anew; for which matter you had indeed taken thought, but lacked opportunity.

Phil 4:11 Not that I speak according to lack, for I have learned, in whatever circumstances I am, to be content.

Phil 4:12 I know also how to be abased, and I know how to abound; in everything and in all things I have learned the secret both to be filled and to hunger, both to abound and to lack.

Phil 4:13 I am able to do all things in Him who empowers me.

2. By the empowering of Christ, we can live a contented life and be true, dignified, righteous, pure, lovely, and well spoken of—vv. 11-12, 8.

Phil 4:11 Not that I speak according to lack, for I have learned, in whatever circumstances I am, to be content.

Phil 4:12 I know also how to be abased, and I know how to abound; in everything and in all things I have learned the secret both to be filled and to hunger, both to abound and to lack.

Phil 4:8 Finally, brothers, what things are true, what things are dignified, what things are righteous, what things are pure, what things are lovely, what things are well spoken of, if there is any virtue and if any praise, take account of these things.

O. We can take Christ as our expectation—3:20-21:

- Phil 3:20 For our commonwealth exists in the heavens, from which also we eagerly await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,
- Phil 3:21 Who will transfigure the body of our humiliation to be conformed to the body of His glory, according to His operation by which He is able even to subject all things to Himself.
1. The life that Paul lived in the experience of Christ was one that awaited the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who would transfigure his body of humiliation, conforming it to the body of His glory.
 2. The believers' arriving at glorification is the climax of God's salvation in life and the accomplishment of God's economy for the satisfaction of His desire—2 Cor. 3:18; 4:17; Heb. 6:1a; Rom. 5:10b; Rev. 21:10-11.
 - 2 Cor 3:18 But we all with unveiled face, beholding and reflecting like a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, even as from the Lord Spirit.
 - 2 Cor 4:17 For our momentary lightness of affliction works out for us, more and more surpassingly, an eternal weight of glory,
 - Heb 6:1a Therefore leaving the word of the beginning of Christ, let us be brought on to maturity, ...
 - Rom 5:10b ... much more we will be saved in His life, having been reconciled,
 - Rev 21:10 And he carried me away in spirit onto a great and high mountain and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God,
 - Rev 21:11 Having the glory of God. Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, as clear as crystal.