

July 2, 2015 Scripture Reading
Message - Advancing God's Gospel

Phil 1:3-7 (NASU)

³ I thank my God in all my remembrance of you,

⁴ always offering prayer with joy in my every prayer for you all,

⁵ in view of your participation in the gospel from the first day until now.

⁶ *For I am* confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.

⁷ For it is only right for me to feel this way about you all, because I have you in my heart, since both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers of grace with me.

Phil 1:3-7 (NIV)

³ I thank my God every time I remember you.

⁴ In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy

⁵ because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now,

⁶ being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

⁷ It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart; for whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me.

July 2, 2015 Message
Advancing God's Gospel

Phil 1:3-7 (NLT)

³ Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God.

⁴ Whenever I pray, I make my requests for all of you with joy,

⁵ for you have been my partners in spreading the Good News about Christ from the time you first heard it until now.

⁶ And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.

⁷ So it is right that I should feel as I do about all of you, for you have a special place in my heart. You share with me the special favor of God, both in my imprisonment and in defending and confirming the truth of the Good News.

Matt 18:20

²⁰ "For where two or three have gathered together in My name, ^aI am there in their midst."

NASU

Acts 16:1-17:1

16 Paul came also to ^aDerbe and to ^aLystra. And a disciple was there, named ^bTimothy, the son of a ^cJewish woman who was a believer, but his father was a Greek, ² and he was well spoken of by ^athe brethren who were in ^bLystra and ^cIconium. ³ Paul wanted this man to ¹go with him; and he ^atook him and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in those parts, for they all knew that his father was a Greek. ⁴ Now while they were passing through the cities, they were delivering ^athe decrees which had been decided upon by ^bthe apostles and ^celders who were in Jerusalem, for them to observe. ⁵ So ^athe churches were being strengthened ¹in the faith, and were ^bincreasing in number daily.

⁶ They passed through the ^{1a}Phrygian and ^bGalatian region, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in ^{2c}Asia; ⁷ and after they came to ^aMysia, they were trying to go into ^bBithynia, and the ^cSpirit of Jesus did not permit them; ⁸ and passing by ^aMysia, they came down to ^bTroas. ⁹ ^aA vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of ^bMacedonia was standing and appealing to him, and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." ¹⁰ When he had seen ^athe vision, immediately ^bwe sought to ¹go into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to ^cpreach the gospel to them.

¹¹ So putting out to sea from ^aTroas, we ran ^ba straight course to Samothrace, and on the day following to Neapolis; ¹² and from there to ^aPhilippi, which is a leading city of the district of ^bMacedonia, ^ca Roman colony; and we were staying in this city for some days. ¹³ And on ^athe Sabbath day we went outside the gate to a riverside, where we were supposing that there would be a place of prayer; and we sat down and began speaking to the women who had assembled.

First Convert in Europe

¹⁴ A woman named Lydia, from the city of ^aThyatira, a seller of purple fabrics, ^ba worshiper of God, was listening; ¹ and the Lord ^copened her heart to respond to the things spoken by Paul. ¹⁵ And when she and ^aher household had been baptized, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house and stay." And she prevailed upon us.

¹⁶ It happened that as we were going to ^athe place of prayer, a slave-girl having ^ba spirit of divination met us, who was bringing her masters much profit by fortune-telling. ¹⁷ Following after Paul and us, she kept crying out, saying, "These men are bond-servants of ^athe Most High God, who are proclaiming to you ¹the way of salvation." ¹⁸ She continued doing this for many days. But Paul was greatly annoyed,

and turned and said to the spirit, "I command you ^ain the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her!" And it came out at that very ¹moment.

¹⁹ But when her masters saw that their hope of ^aprofit was ¹gone, they seized ^bPaul and Silas and ^cdragged them into the market place before the authorities, ²⁰ and when they had brought them to the chief magistrates, they said, "These men are throwing our city into confusion, being Jews, ²¹ and ^aare proclaiming customs which it is not lawful for us to accept or to observe, being ^bRomans."

Paul and Silas Imprisoned

²² The crowd rose up together against them, and the chief magistrates tore their ¹robes off them and proceeded to order ²them to be ^abeaten with rods. ²³ When they had struck them with many blows, they threw them into prison, commanding ^athe jailer to guard them securely; ²⁴ ¹and he, having received such a command, threw them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in ^athe ²stocks.

²⁵ But about midnight ^aPaul and Silas were praying and ^bsinging hymns of praise to God, and the prisoners were listening to them; ²⁶ and suddenly ^athere came a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison house were shaken; and immediately ^ball the doors were opened and everyone's ^cchains were unfastened. ²⁷ When ^athe jailer awoke and saw the prison doors opened, he drew his sword and was about ^bto kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. ²⁸ But Paul cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here!" ²⁹ And he called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before ^aPaul and Silas, ³⁰ and after he brought them out, he said, "Sirs, ^awhat must I do to be saved?"

The Jailer Converted

³¹ They said, "^aBelieve in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and ^byour household." ³² And they spoke the word of ¹the Lord to him together with all who were in his house. ³³ And he took them ^athat *very* hour of the night and washed their wounds, and immediately he was baptized, he and all his *household*. ³⁴ And he brought them into his house and set ¹food before them, and rejoiced ²greatly, having believed in God with ^ahis whole household.

³⁵ Now when day came, the chief magistrates sent their policemen, saying, "Release those men." ³⁶ And ^athe jailer reported these words to Paul, *saying*, "The chief magistrates have sent to release you. Therefore come out now and go ^bin peace." ³⁷ But Paul said to them, "They have beaten us in public without trial, ^amen who are Romans, and have thrown us into prison; and now are they sending us away secretly? No indeed! But let them come themselves and bring us out." ³⁸ The policemen reported these words to the chief magistrates. ^aThey were afraid when they heard that they were Romans, ³⁹ and they came and appealed to them, and when they had brought them out, they kept begging them ^ato leave the city. ⁴⁰ They went out of the prison and entered *the house of* ^aLydia, and when they saw ^bthe brethren, they ¹encouraged them and departed.