



# Valley Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Dear Friend in Christ,

Over the past several weeks we have lifted up different characters in the Bible. Our list of special bible people has included David and Goliath, Jonah, Peter, and the Bent Over Woman. Today we will consider Paul and his love for the Philippian Church.

In this magnificent letter, we will discover some thoughts from Paul that can change our lives. Great scriptures in Philippians that can build up our confidence in God and each other.

If you have not had the opportunity to join us for worship, I encourage you to do so this Sunday. The following phone numbers and links are the ones to dial between 10:15am and 10:30am. You can join in one of two ways:

**By telephone (audio only)**

1 (312) 626 6799

Meeting ID: 867 5713 3623

**By video with computer, tablet, or smartphone – click the link below**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86757133623>

(if you need a live link you can go to the homepage of our website at [www.vccbhm.org](http://www.vccbhm.org))

Paul considered the Philippians not just members of a church, but friends in his heart. I feel the same way about Valley. You are special to me. God Bless You, Edd

# Valley Christian Church

## Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost

August 23, 2020

### PRELUDE

*“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”*

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Sing to our God.  
People: Sing to God a song of joy.  
Leader: Raise your voices.  
People: With joyful praise.  
Leader: For God created this earth.  
People: With oceans, mountains, birds and flowers.  
Leader: For God created people.  
People: All ages, colors and kinds.  
Leader: For God loves us,  
People: We are special in His sight.  
Leader: So sing to our God.  
People: Sing to God a song of joy.

### HYMN OF PRAISE

*“Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”*

*Joyful, joyful, we adore thee  
God of glory, Lord of love;  
Hearts unfold like flowers before thee  
Opening to the sun above  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;  
Drive our fear and doubt away;  
Giver of immortal gladness  
Fill us with the light of day!*

*All thy works with joy surround thee  
Earth and heav'n reflect thy rays  
Stars and angels sing around thee  
Center of unbroken praise;  
Field and forest, vale and mountain  
Flowery meadow, flashing sea  
Chanting bird and flowing fountain  
Call us to rejoice in thee*

### INVOCATION

Precious God, surround us with your presence so we may celebrate this moment of worship with a fountain of joy.  
Precious God, come in song and prayer, and lead us to the heights of glory.

Precious God, visit us now with your peace and power that make all things new. Renew the earth, and renew us by your grace. In Jesus we pray. Amen.

### SCRIPTURE

*Philippians 4:4-8; 4:13; 3:12-14*

### MEDITATION

“Paul and the Philippians”  
See Insert for Meditation

### HYMN

*“Living For Jesus”*

*Living for Jesus a life that is true,  
striving to please him in all that I do,  
yielding allegiance glad hearted and free  
this is the pathway of blessing for me.  
O Jesus, Lord and Savior, I give myself to thee,  
for thou in thy atonement didst give thyself for me.  
I own no other master, my heart shall be thy throne:  
my life I give, henceforth to live,  
O Christ, for thee alone.*

*Living for Jesus, who died in my place,  
bearing on Calvary my sin and disgrace:  
such love constrains me to answer his call,  
follow his leading, and give him my all.*

*O Jesus, Lord and Savior, I give myself to thee,  
for thou in thy atonement didst give thyself for me.  
I own no other master, my heart shall be thy throne:  
my life I give, henceforth to live,  
O Christ, for thee alone.*

### SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

Our God of joy, we thank you for giving us a chance once again to celebrate your love for us in worship. We pray that you will help us share your love and joy with others as did the apostle Paul in the morning scripture. May our hearts be open to all your children – of all ages, all nations, all colors. As you sent Jesus to all the world to share the good news of your love and joy, so let us carry the good news into a divided and hurting world.

We pray for those who have never heard the story of Jesus; that they might have a chance to hear it and respond to His loving call. We pray for others whose lives at this time are so filled with hate, violence and

### PASTORAL PRAYER



fear that they are unable to believe in your love and joy. We pray for the hungry to whom the day will bring nothing but more hunger. Help us to help them, so that their suffering may be relieved and their spirit lifted with hope. We offer this prayer in the name of the Lord Jesus, the Christ, our Savior. Amen.

**CALL TO  
COMMUNION**

Let this common bread and this fruit of the vine become for us reminders of His broken body and spilled blood.

**COMMUNION  
HYMN**

*"Become to Us the Living Bread"*

*Become to us the living bread by which the Christian  
life is fed, renewed, and greatly comforted.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*Become the never-failing wine, the spring of joy that  
shall incline our hearts to bear the covenant sign.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

**COMMUNION  
PRAYER**

Pray together the Lord's Prayer

**HOLY  
COMMUNION**

Partake of the holy communion  
(Bread, juice or whatever is available to you)

**WORDS OF  
INSTITUTION**

Hear the words of Jesus when he said, "Take eat and  
take drink."

**SHARING OUR  
OFFERING  
WITH GOD**

Share your church offering with the church by mail or  
bring it by the church office. Thank you for your love  
gifts.

**OFFERTORY  
PRAYER**

O God, we work for our own good; help us to work  
even harder for your good in the world, for you have  
blessed us richly. Take these gifts offered to you in  
love this day. Amen

**BENEDICTION**

May you go out into the world with good news of great  
joy – Jesus Christ is Lord. Amen.

—PSALM 121:2 (NIV)—

My help comes from the

Lord,  
the Maker of  
Heaven & Earth.



## MEDITATION

Sunday, August 23, 2020

“Paul and the Philippians”

In the New Testament, Paul’s major ministry was starting new churches in metropolitan areas. If Paul were alive today, he would be going to places like New York, Los Angeles, Chicago and Atlanta to begin new churches. After developing a community of believers in the cities of his day, establishing leaders, and teaching them the gospel, he would then move on to begin the work again in another area. But, as a good pastor, Paul tried to stay in contact with the churches he started. The New Testament book we call Philippians is one of the churches that he stayed in touch with.

He loved the Philippian church. Philippians is the only letter that we have in the scriptures in which Paul is not trying to correct bad teaching or bad behavior in the church. Instead, the letter highlights Paul’s personal affection for the Philippian church. He considers the Philippian congregation not just members in his care but friends in his heart.

Paul wrote this letter while beaten and imprisoned in Rome, awaiting his execution. During this time in prison, he wrote to the Philippians, “Rejoice in the Lord always.” (4:4) How can Paul write that? Because long before he was thrown into prison, Paul decided how he would respond. He made up his mind how to stand firm in his faith.

I would like to offer some thoughts that Paul shared with the Philippians in order for them to stand firm in their faith. Maybe they can be helpful to us. First, Paul says to the Philippians, “Do not worry about anything”. (Philippians 4:6). Isn’t that crazy? That must be the most difficult command to obey. If someone were to come to me saying that he lost his job and was going through bankruptcy, could you imagine simply saying, “Don’t worry about it?” That would be crazy. So how does Paul get away with it? Because it is not an emotion that Paul is commanding. It is a relationship with God. When that breaks down, worry increases because most worry is not trusting God.

(over)

Second, Paul calls us to stand firm in our thoughts. He said, “Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.” (Philippians 4:8)

We become what we think. Proverbs 28.7 says, “As a man thinks in his heart, so is he.” We become what we think. This has always been an issue. Our minds are being polluted by our culture as they were in Philippi. Therefore, Paul is saying, if you want to stand firm in the Lord, then guard your thoughts. Ask yourself, “Is it true, pure, just, acceptable?”

Third, Paul calls us to stand firm in our confidence. He says, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” (Philippians 4:13) This is one of my favorite scriptures. For it lifts up that our Savior not only lives within us but that He also pours His power into us. And that alone is enough to make us confident. Sometimes we are weak and try to be confident without Christ. We try to substitute other words for Christ. Consider the following examples:

“I can do all things through education”. No

“I can do all things through money”. No

“I can do all things through friends”. No

“I can do all things through positive thinking”. No

Nothing else will fit. Only through Christ can we do all things.

Why? Because nothing and no one else is able to empower us and provide the strength we need.

Finally, Paul calls us to stand firm by forgetting the past. He says, “Forgetting those things that are past, forgetting what lies behind, I press on”. (Philippians 3:14)

Too many of us are living in the past. We are receiving too much emotional satisfaction from what went on yesterday. God is calling us to serve Him in the present and in the future. Remember that there is a reason for your windshield being bigger than the rearview mirror. Your future matters more than your past.

There are only a few scriptures in the magnificent book of Philippians that will help us stand firm in the Lord. We are grateful to Paul for his words that shape our lives in Christ Jesus.