

# An Excursion Through Philippians

by Ian Paisley

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*The sermon emphasizes the importance of revival and the contrast between the church of Satan and the church of God, highlighting the destiny of the church of Satan as destruction and the focus of the church of God on heavenly things.*

**Duration:** 56:28

**Topics:** "Holy Spirit", "Christian Revival"

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## Description

This sermon emphasizes the need for a mighty outpouring of the Spirit of God in the church, highlighting the importance of revival, prayer for revival, and the eternal hope of believers. The speaker reflects on the contrast between the church of God and the church of the devil, urging believers to focus on heavenly things and stand firm in the Lord. The message encourages rejoicing in the midst of trials, unity among believers, and a focus on virtuous thoughts and actions.

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## Transcript

I'd like to say what a great pleasure it is for me to be here tonight and minister to you from God's holy and precious word. And it is also good to look back on the past and to know that we have been taught of the Lord and the Lord has led us to this day, but things have changed in the passage of the years. And what the church needs, as never before, is a mighty outpouring of the spirit of God.

And without that, there can be no blessing and no lasting blessing. And without that, there can be no true regeneration of sinners and sanctification of the saints. But God has told us to pray, and he has told us to pray that he might revive us again.

And God has revivals still in his eternal counsels, which will break forth in the glory. And we shall see the wonders of God again on this earth. Darwin hasn't taken over this country and this earth of the Lord's.

And thank God we have joy in our hearts when we think of what the Lord says in his word. And when we think of the promises of God that are yea and amen in the Lord. So let us encourage ourselves in the Lord and go forward in the name of the Lord.

I'm turning your attention tonight to the Philippians, and we're reading some verses from the third and fourth chapters of the Philippians. You know what started in Philippi? There was an earthquake. There was an earthquake among those that hated God's man and hated God's gospel that he preached.

And it ended in an imprisonment, and it ended in a wonderful service of song where two preachers sang and all the prisoners heard them. I don't know whether they were in tune or out of tune or had no tune at all. And I have met preachers that are never in tune, and they don't have any tune, but they have a joy in their heart.

You say, that's like yourself, Mr. Pearsley. That's very true. But let me just say to you tonight that God wants us to remember the past that went into our experience of Christ, that went into our knowledge of the Lord.

And of course, as we go on in the pilgrim way, we get closer to him. We come to a better understanding of his word. We have great themes of rejoicing for the Lord has done great things whereof we are glad.

And here is the Apostle Paul. He's in Rome. He's in serious trouble.

There is an ax man's weapon of murder over his neck. He's looking back. He's looking back to the service of song which brought a great earthquake, which shook the prison, and the most filthy and wicked sinner in Philippi got gloriously converted.

And the Philippine church was a great church as far as the Apostle Paul was concerned. He thought back on those days. And now he's saying goodbye to them, and he is writing to them this epistle.

And if you turn with me to the third chapter, he has things to say that are very necessary to be said. The 17th verse of Philippians chapter 3. Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as we have us for an example. For many walk of whom I told you often, and now tell you even weeping, they are the enemies of the cross of Christ, whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, whose glory is in their sheen, who mind earthly things.

For our conversation is in heaven, for whence also we look for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. Hallelujah! Jesus is coming again. And right standing out in the apostles' mind is this.

Our conversation is in heaven. Our life is hid with Christ in God, eternal in heaven. Nothing can destroy that.

No plan of hell, no working of the devil, no lying from the supreme liar, Lucifer the son of the morning, can in any way destroy that great hope that is in the hearts of God's people. Jesus is coming again. Thank God he's coming for me.

Thank God my name was written in the book from before the foundation of the world. And in the eternal counsels of the everlasting ages before the world was thought on, God thought upon his people and he gave them to his son. And his son took an infallible and holy oath that he would come down, incarnate himself in a body, and die on the cross.

What to do? To bring them all into the Father's house of love and the family of the believers. I remember well the day that I knelt at a farm in a Baptist church that was built as a result of the great 1859 revival. And as a young boy I entered into the kingdom of God.

I've been in many tight places in my day. I've been in prison four times. I've sat in three parliaments.

I've sucked with kings and princes and great people of the world. But I am a servant of Jesus Christ. My love is of his son.

And he's coming again. And he's not going to miss one of his people. They'll all be gathered in.

And he'll bring them all to the glory and he will say to the Father, Here am I and the children that thou has given me. Man, I'll sing in tune that day. There'll be no trouble at all.

And I'll play an instrument. Though I couldn't play even a mouth organ today. But I'll sing in that great land.

Aren't you glad you're going to heaven? God's wise child of God. Aren't you glad you're in the north path that's taking you higher every day? Closer to God every day? Nearer to the glory land. It's a wonderful thing to live on this earth and fight the battles.

But how glorious it'll be when God calls us to his heavenly mansions. I was at a house one night and the man of the house said, Well, the Lord sent an angel and took our loved one home. I said, Who told you that nonsense? He said, That's what I believe.

Well, I said, That's very strange. The Lord comes for his own people. It's not an angel he sends to the deathbed of the saints.

He comes himself. It's not angelic arms that's put out round the redeemed soul of a believer. It's the arms of Jesus.

I don't sing, See if in the arms of a coming angel. No. I sing, See if in the arms of Jesus.

See if on his gentle breath there let my soul relax. All is well. It's an evil day.

But the devil hasn't won. God the Lord will win the battle. And we're not going home to heaven victims of the devil.

We're going home victors in the fight for the faith once for all delivered to the saints. Well, that's not the reading. So I better come back to my reading.

And we come here and he says, Brethren, be followers together of me and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensemble for many walk of whom I have told you often and now tell you even weeping that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ. Listen. The words that I'm reading to you come stained in the tears of the great apostle.

He wrote these words in tears because he saw what the battle was about. He saw the power of the enemy. And he said, whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.

And then he says, for our conversation is in heaven from whence also we look for the Savior, the Lord, Jesus Christ, who shall change my vile body that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body. We used to sing in Sunday school, I would be like Jesus. One day we'll be like the Lord.

You'll be really good looking, you women folk. You'll not need a mirror or some paint to make you better looking. You're going to be like Jesus.

And we hard men, we're all going to look good when we see the Lord. We're going to be like him. We're going to bear the family like him.

Oh, that will be glory for me. And by his grace, I shall look at his face. That will be glory, be glory for me.

Who shall change our vile body that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body according to the working whereby he is evil, even to subdue all things unto himself. Therefore, my brethren, dearly beloved, and long for my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, my dearly beloved. If you go down these verses, you'll see the wonderful repetition, the expression that he uses twice, even in one of the texts.

Why is that? Because he's overflowing with the blessing that's in his heart. I beseech you, who dies, and I beseech sin today, that they be of the same mind in the Lord. And I entreat thee also, true yoke fellow, help those women which labored with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and with other my fellow laborers whose names are in the book of life.

This book of life is a very important book. And if your name's written there, you can praise God from the depths of your heart, for no man can wipe it out. It's there forever.

It's written in the infallible ink of an omnipotent God. And it's written for all eternity. There's an old hymn that says, My name from the palms of his hands eternity will not erase.

Impressed on his heart it remains and marks of indelible grace. Yes, I to them shall endure as sure as the earnest is given, not having, and not more secure than glorified with him in heaven. Talk about everlasting salvation.

It's written all over this book. God's an everlasting God. He sent an everlasting Christ who shed everlasting blood which cleansed away an everlasting pardon of all my sins and gave me a new nature in Christ and set me on the road to heaven and I have forsaken him and failed him, but he never forsook me or he never failed me.

And I know that will be to the end. Oh, how wonderful when we enter the glory land. You ever think of it? The Lord will be at the gate for you.

He will have come for you. He will have brought you and he'll be at the gate for you. And up that street we will walk that golden street of heaven and we'll be amazed at the river of life and the trees of life but we'll be amazed.

As John Newton used to say, I have three great surprises before me in heaven. He said, I'll be surprised that some people I thought would be in heaven and never arrived. I'll be surprised at that.

I'll be surprised that people I never thought would be in heaven are there. But the greatest of all surprises will be that John Newton, a scum and reprobate is in heaven because of the blood of the Lamb. Oh, what a day that's going to be for the saints of God.

Get it into your mind and your heart that the goal of salvation is to bring many souls into glory and he'll bring them. He'll bring them. Praise his holy name.

Rejoice in the Lord always. And again I say rejoice. You're in a bad way, Paul.

Old Nero's after your blood. He takes the pen and he scratches the parchment and he reads after where it's written rejoice in the Lord always. And again I say rejoice.

Talk about Christian victory. There's the greatest Christian victory you could ever see. Wonderful thing that a man with no hope in life humanly speaking could say start rejoicing.

Rejoice. And when you're out of breath start it up again. Again I say rejoice.

Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand. Be careful for nothing but in everything by prayer and supplication.

With thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. And the peace of God which passeth all understanding shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Finally brethren whatsoever things are true whatsoever things are honest whatsoever things are just whatsoever things are pure whatsoever things are lovely whatsoever things are of good rapport if there be any virtue and if there be any praise think on these things.

These things which ye have both learned and received and heard and seen in thee do. And the God of peace shall be with you. May the God of peace be with us this night as we turn to his word.

Let's stand for prayer. Father through thy Son our Savior and aided by thy Spirit we come to thee. We don't want just a meeting.

We want a meeting with thee. Father show us thy face. Show us the face that looked down the road and smiled with joy as we the prodigal came home came back to the Father's house.

Show us thy face dear Father the fatherly face of the everlasting Father. And O Lord Jesus show us thy hands and thy feet and thy side and the head that was crowned with thorns and the back that was given to the smiter. Show us our God the wounds that thou did endure for us and the body that sweat great drops of blood in Gethsemane.

And take us up the hill called Calvary. Let us hear thy voice from the cross calling for divine forgiveness. Let us hear thy voice from the cross calling a word of assurance to a poor old sinner who said Lord remember me.

O God give us a sight O Savior of the cross tonight. And may this be a crossroads meeting for us all. We live in an evil day.

The devil's power is demonstrated and evil forces are loose in this land and this old world of ours trembles under the weight of the sin of men who walk the paths of the earth. O God come and lift us away from it all to see Beulah Land to see the garden of God to the day when there will be a return to a sinless paradise when we all get to heaven what a day of rejoicing that will be. Be with us now as we expound these words and I take the promised Holy Ghost the blessed power of Pentecost to fill me to the uttermost.

I take thank God he undertakes for me and the people of God said Amen. That's a poor Amen. The people of God said Amen.

God bless you. Sit down on the seat now. While thinking of this service tonight my mind was brought by the leading of the Divine Spirit to these words that I have read to you.

And here we have a wonderful man who had served his Lord faithfully from the day that he met him on the Damascus Road who could describe this man's soul of Tarsus a murderer of God's people a persecutor of the church hounding the people to the gallows and to the stake and to the axe man's murder weapon. And then suddenly and gloriously and wonderfully and praise God eternally he was changed.

And the man who was bloodthirsty became a meek child of God ready to suffer shame for the master's sake ready to go anywhere to serve the risen Lord ready to do anything that he was ordered to do and for the rest of his life on earth he was a great evangelist an evangelist with a heart that embraced not a village or a city or a town or a country but the whole of the continent in which he lived and the whole of the adjacent continent of Europe what a man the Apostle Paul son of God he's coming to the end of the battle he's coming to the end of his life on earth he's coming to the day of his departure and as he comes he looks out over the world in which he worked and over the continents in which he preached so powerfully and so miraculously the gospel and as he looks he sees two thrones at

war he sees the throne of the devil and he sees the throne of the Holy God of Israel he sees two churches the church of the living God whose names are written in heaven but he sees the false church of Satan the church of God brought sinners to heaven the church of Satan damned sinners in hell and as he looked out he said I must issue a warning and as he is there in that place of hardship what does he say he says I'm going to tell you something through my tears I'm going to talk to you about something that I need to weep over the punctuation of my sentences must be not with commas or full stops or question marks it must be my tears do you see him choking on his own tears and what does he say he says I want you to look at Satan's church and Satan's kingdom and note its destiny and what is

its destiny and you will read there in that portion of scripture he says whose end is destruction what a terrible destruction the devil brings to the Christless soul a destruction so bad that God must order that destroyed soul into the great prison house of the damned and the lake of fire for all eternity you can measure the darkness of sin by the length of God's great eternity and the judgment of souls always remember that whose end is destruction its destiny is destruction and let man stick to the devil's church and the devil's creed and the devil's theology and it will take them to hell and to destruction that's why Christ said when you go preaching cry flee from the wrath to come or imagine the wrath to come go to Calvary and see the agony of the God man on the cross why has he that

agony because he bore our sins up in his own body to the tree I learn more about the terrors of hell at Calvary than anywhere else I learn more about the pressures of a lost soul when I go to Gethsemane where he sweat great drops of blood why because he had taken my place and he was dying for me the wrath of God that was our Jew upon the Lamb was laid who by the shedding of his blood for us the debt has paid whose end is destruction yes brethren the destiny of hell's religion is destruction the end is destruction and then we had the deity of this church of the devil and those that take membership there in the deity listen to this whose God is there that that's the deity that's worshipped in the church of the devil awful words that they are carried away with the terrors of a terrible state

of sin that the only God they know is the God of their bellies the God of their fleshly lusts that war against the soul the God of the power that destroys mankind and makes him a devil doomed for the great eternity of the lost awful thought we see here the destruction the destiny of the false church we see here its deity whose God is their belly we see here their delight whose glory is in their shame what an expression that the only delight the soul knows what is it? it is shame piled upon shame piled upon shame and that's the glory that is the delight that the devil's church produces in a man's ruined soul in a woman's ruined heart in a child's whole being and then let's look at something more her mind earthly thing there is a domination of this church it's an earthly church it's bound

to the things of earth it's bound to the ways of the world it's bound to the things that are the fruit of the tree of rebellion is the false church that is the production of hell that is the organ that Satan uses to blind and

muddle the minds of lost souls the mind earthly thing they haven't any idea of spiritual things of heavenly things no, all they know is earthly things but then the apostle turns the page over and he says I want you to look at Christ's church I want you to look at the church that he loved and gave himself for the false church minds earthly things but this church our conversation is in heaven that's the difference the altitude of Christianity is the heaven and all that is in heaven the father the son and the holy spirit supreme the triune God the maker of all things

the preserver of all things the keeper of all things that's the church this message our conversation our citizenship is in heaven we're not looking for a visa to heaven we have a guaranteed passport to heaven that's where our citizenship is we're not of this world this world is not for us we're the only thing I'm doing in the world is to get sinners out of the world and get them into Christ and see them born again of the spirit of God and wash in the blood of the Lamb that's why the Lord child of God lets you live to be a living witness if you witness to anybody today leave your hand upon them and say to them dear precious soul I'm thinking about you I'm praying for you you say you don't expect us to do that, I do I mix with people because of my political position, prime ministers kings

and queens and people in high places of affairs but I don't leave them without knowing they often say to me Ian, you wear a badge I remember the first time I went into the White House to meet the former president your former president and he said to me he said I like that badge I said yes it's a good badge I said it just says Jesus is Lord that's my message for all men and women Jesus is Lord he looked at me and he said I believe Jesus is Lord he says I never leave my bed room in the morning but I die and commit my day to God I said that's wonderful glad to hear it Jesus is Lord I was at a political meeting when the head of the Roman Catholic hierarchy in Ireland was present and he said to me he said Mr.

Paisley I have something I want to ask you every time I see you on television and I see you in the news press he says you have this little badge in your press I want to go around and look into your lapel and read it I said you're very welcome he was almost struck dead when he read what was on my little badge Jesus is Lord he had nothing to say for Jesus is Lord and he will reign until all enemies kiss his feet and I tell you I will shout the loudest in heaven when they see them kiss the feet of my blessed Lord and Jesus Jesus Christ Jesus is Lord I've sat in the prison cell, the prison cell in which I was in myself for some many days and I talked to poor prisoners jammed in the devil's vice and held by the devil's power and they said Mr.

Paisley what's the badge I said Jesus is Lord and I have seen many of those men the toughest, hardest terrorists changed by the power of God I led two men to the Lord, one was a Protestant one was a Roman Catholic one was in one side of the terrorist screen and the other in the other side I led both of them to Christ and in a prison service I started when I was a prisoner and it still went on as long as the prison walls were there and it was opened and those two men came to Christ and were gloriously converted to the Lord and I saw them sit together at the little communion service we had for God's saints in that prison and I saw the tears of two murderers now these were real murderers they didn't kill once they didn't kill twice they didn't kill three times they didn't kill four times they didn't kill five times they didn't kill six times they didn't kill seven times they killed eight times think of it and the one of the other man he wasn't sure about the many people he killed but he wouldn't mention it because the police would eventually catch up with him as an evil man and I saw the tears of those two murderers now redeemed running into the communion cup and I said to myself I'm glad I have a gospel that can change men like that and give them a change they both did their times and got out the terrorists on one side when one of them got out the man that had killed eight times they shot him dead but he went home to heaven the other man was changed and got a new identification and he's still living and he's still serving the Lord Jesus they're going to meet in the glory

land and I will shout when they cast their crowns at Jesus feet for only God can do these things this gospel that we have brethren and sisters is a miracle gospel it is a gospel it has before it the might of God, God is a spirit infinite, eternal and unchangeable in his being wisdom, power, holiness justice, goodness and truth it's all in the gospel that's why the gospel can't be defeated and here we read in this portion of scripture after Paul talks about their shame and their sin and their deity being their own bellies and the destruction they're headed for he says for our conversation is in heaven, what a difference what a contrast from whence also we look for the saviour the Lord Jesus Christ did you look for the saviour today? did you?

I had a very godly grandmother a good woman she was a Scotch lady and she was a great lover of the saviour and she used to during the day she would go away into her room and she would shut the door and we always wondered what she did in the room and one day she was asked the question what do you do in the room everyday? after dinner you go into the room she says I go and I look up into the sky and I say Lord are you coming today? is this going to be the day of your coming?

I'm waiting here you know that woman's life was heaven on earth her testimony was a testimony of a sweet woman changed by the power of the gospel our conversation is in heaven from whence we look for the saviour doesn't say we look for Jesus Christ first we look for the saviour because we're sinners and we have to meet him as the saviour first and then he's the Lord and he's Jesus and he's Christ who shall change our vile bodies we know our bodies is vile we know our body is stained with the fall of Eden and the birthright of Adam we know that Christ's body was glorious, a glorious body according to the working whereby he is evil even to subdue all things unto himself but he's going to fashion our body like unto his glorious body what a prize talk about the prize of the high calling of

God in Christ Jesus who could measure this wonderful gift of God therefore my brethren beloved and longed for my joy and crown so stand fast in the Lord my dearly beloved here in this verse he uses the title dearly beloved twice in the little verse for these verses are crammed full of the love of God so great and wondrous my brethren that brings in the family truth why are we brethren because we have all had the same birth into the same family the second birth Jesus said to Nicodemus except a man be born again he cannot see the kingdom of God he cannot see it but when you're born from above you can see the kingdom of God that's the first thing God does when he saves us he opens our eyes and we see the kingdom of God what a kingdom of the redeemed of the Lord and then he goes on and he

says brethren dearly beloved you're in the family I long after you you're my joy and crown for I pointed you to Christ stand fast in the Lord that's what the Christian church needs to do today is stand fast don't get excited don't worry as if the cause is lost as if God almighty is dead as if the Holy Spirit is no more as if the blood of Christ has lost its power the gospel is the same as it was in the day of Pentecost Christ can save to the very honorable all that come unto God by him seeing he ever liveth Christ is alive he's a living savior you can go to as many places where they say Christ is buried he's not buried at all no one could bury the risen hallelujah Christ arose he's a living Christ and he arose and took his place in heaven 40 days after he sent down the blessed Holy Spirit

of God and Pentecost became a reality 3000 souls were saved and he has been saving souls ever since and if you're saved you should in your heart say hallelujah I'm part of the harvest that Jesus died to gather into the father's house the harvest that Jesus Christ brought to his father but he goes on to say even though they're Christians they have differences and there were two people here and they weren't of the same mind and there's a lot of God's people are not of the same mind as others of God's people but he says I beseech you to be of the same mind there's far too many things you agree on to fall out over a few

things that you don't agree on the child of God is indwelt by the same spirit there's a union between all the children of the Lord I entreat thee true yoke fellows help those

women which labored with me in the gospel those women that were true yoke fellows there's some people in some churches wouldn't let the woman do anything well they don't know what they're losing because a woman can get her word in when a man would feel completely women are best at their best with the children and what would they do if all our Sunday schools had no women teachers in them many a child would never have the opportunity of hearing the gospel explained it was my dear mother that led me to Christ and I thank God for the true yoke women who labor with God's men in the gospel fellow laborers but their names are in the book of life they're written there is my name written there in that page bright and fair tell me Jesus my Savior is my name written there and then he says this

rejoice in the Lord only keep rejoicing the night may be very dark keep rejoicing the day may be very stormy keep rejoicing the opposition may be very stiff keep rejoicing the darkness of a world that's to and fro in the financial crisis that has hit this old godless sphere in which we live keep rejoicing the kingdom and the gold is God's and the cattle on a thousand hills God doesn't need to print paper money God gives his money real good gold real good silver and real good copper what a difference between God's affairs and the evil affairs of men let your moderation be known unto all men why the Lord is at hand there's one thing we're nearer to the second coming of the Lord than ever we've been before oh the crowning day is coming it's coming by and by and we're nearing that day I don't

know I often wonder where I'll be when the Lord comes if I'm still living he might come and I could be sitting in the house of common in case they disappear they'll say where did he go to and there'll be old reprobates they'll say we're glad he got rid of that fella we're glad he's gone and I'll be gone forever passing beyond the stars passing to see my Lord and on the way up I'll be changed and made like unto him and my body will be fashioned like unto his body wonderful day are you ready for that day would you be a left behinder of that day for two shall be in the bed the one shall be taken on the other left two shall be working the one shall be taken on the other left two shall be in the field the one shall be taken on the other left be ye also ready for in such an hour as you think

not the Son of Man cometh and then he says rejoice in the Lord always and again I say rejoice let your moderation be known unto all men be careful for nothing get on your knees in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your request be made known unto God whatever verse that is you want steel in your veins tonight think of it everything by prayer and supplication and with thanksgiving with a thankful heart let your request be made known unto God and the peace of God which passeth all understanding shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus finally brethren whatsoever things are true whatsoever things are honest whatsoever things are just whatsoever things are pure whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report, if there be any virtue and

if there be any praise think on these things, those things which ye have both learned and received and heard and seen in me do and the God of peace be with you I trust tonight that the God of peace will be with us and that every man, woman, boy and girl will have the God of peace Christ within you the hope of glory let's bow our heads Father in heaven we thank thee tonight for thy word thy word is truth we thank thee for the joy it brings to our hearts and we pray that tonight there may be new names written down in heaven that men and women that are lost will be found that men and women that are owed to hell will change paths and start on the road to heaven Lord bless this church and its ministry and bless it as I was blessed in the past, blessed in the future and we pray the future may

be even brighter as it never was before be with us we pray in Jesus name, Amen

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