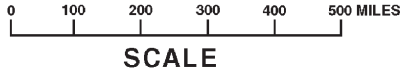




WHAT PAUL REVEALED FROM JAIL

Ekklesia - Body of Christ VS Judaizers, Letter to Phillipians, I & II Timothy, Titus, Colossians, and Ephesians



It was 62 A.D., and Paul under house arrest began to write the remainder of his letters from Rome. Philippians was, I believe, the first of these epistles. As we discussed previously, he mentioned the writings of other brethren being published as a result of his imprisonment. In Phil 1:14, Paul seemed to be proud that God prevailed on others, James, Peter and Matthew to come forth with their Word from God. As we know, James disagreed with Paul's writings as to works verses grace in salvation which was pointed out in our discussion of the letter of James (James 2:24). Paul may have had this in mind when he referred to those that preach out of a party (partisan) spirit. ***AB Phil 1:15-18. Some, it is true, (actually) preach Christ, the Messiah, (for no better reason than) out of envy and rivalry (party spirit); but others are doing so out of a loyal spirit and good will. The latter (proclaim Christ) out of love, because they recognize and know that I am (providentially) put here for the defense of the good news (the Gospel). But the former preach Christ out of a party spirit, insincerely-out of no pure motive, but thinking to annoy me-supposing they are making my bondage more bitter and my chains more galling. But what does it matter, as long as either way, whether in pretense (for personal ends) or in all honesty (for the furtherance of the Truth), Christ is being proclaimed? And in that I (now) rejoice.*** The Judaizers were a partisan crowd alright, they insisted on being treated as a separate group within Christianity, so they could continue to go to the Temple, obey the Laws, and have their own synagogues (James 2:2). Since Paul was in jail he could only write and plead as he did with his letter to the Hebrews.

Let's suppose Paul had listened to the Body of Christ and the prophecies that told him not to go to Jerusalem in the first place. What would have been the outcome? I believe Paul was the one man who could have convinced the Judaizers of their wayward ways. He showed this by his persuasive arguments in his letter to the Hebrews.

Paul told the Philippians to stand firm be united in faith and he warned them to look out for those dogs who mutilate the flesh. ***AB Phil 3:2-3.***

Look out for those dogs (the Judaizers), look out for those mischief-workers, look out for those who mutilate the flesh. For we (Christians) are the true circumcision, who worship God in spirit and by the Spirit of God, and exult and glory and pride ourselves in Jesus Christ, and put no confidence or dependence (on what we are) in the flesh and on outward privileges and physical advantages and external appearances. Even in Philippi, the Judaizers posed a threat to the ekklesia. This time Paul referred to them as dogs, a very derogatory term to the Jews. He said we spirit-filled Christians are of the true circumcision.

In the Philippians letter, he seemed to be thinking of the passage from Jeremiah he had used in the letter to the Hebrews (Jer 31:31-34), Heb 8:1-12). Here Paul reached into his innermost self to tell us about the ultimate reason behind his teachings. ***Phil 3:10 (for my determined purpose is) that I may know Him---that I may progressively become more deeply and intimately acquainted with Him, perceiving and recognizing and understanding (the wonders of His Person) more strongly and more clearly. And that I may in that same way come to know the power outflowing from His resurrection (which it exerts over believers); and that I may so share His sufferings as to be continually transformed (in spirit into His likeness even) to His death, (in the hope).*** . . . He said this will lift us up while we are on this earth (vs 11). We do this by becoming spiritually mature and this makes for a full grown mind (vs 15). The Body of Christ and the Gifts of the Holy Spirit were to cause people to better know Jesus, the Savior.

Later on in 62 A.D., James, the leader of the Christians in Jerusalem, was killed by the Jews. Festus, the Roman proconsul who detained Paul for so long in Caesarea, died in office. Before the Romans replaced him, a power vacuum developed and the Jewish officials took advantage of the situation. Ananus II, the High Priest, in Jerusalem called James before the council, tried him for breaking the Law and had him put to death .All this was reported by Josephus, the Jewish historian in his "Jewish Antiquities." This was bitter irony, because of all the Christians, the Jews killed the one who represented and associated with those that tried to be good Jews. This incident also showed how hell-bent the Jews were on destroying the Christians,

and, conversely, it also showed the protection offered by the Romans except in special situations.

Next Paul wrote to his Christian protégés, Timothy and Titus. Timothy was in Ephesus, where Paul had taught in both homes and the public places like the Hall of Tyrannus. There were many signs and wonders at Ephesus and all of Asia heard the Word through Paul.

Right away Paul voiced concern over some individuals who had missed the mark. ***AB I Tim 1:6-7. But certain individuals have missed the mark on this very matter (and) have wandered away into vain arguments and discussions and purposeless talk. They are ambitious to be doctors of the Law-teachers of the Mosaic ritual-but they have no understanding either of the words and terms they use or of the subjects about which they make (such) dogmatic assertions.*** This sounded like a synagogue-like meeting by teachers of Mosaic rituals. The Judaizers were in Ephesus as well. Paul said the Law was not for the righteous but for the ungodly and profane. The Body of Christ-ekklesia-church went beyond the Law because of the revelations from God.

Paul told them to offer prayers for all men especially those in authority. ***AB I Tim 2:1-2. First of all, then, I admonish and urge that petitions, prayers, intercessions and thanksgivings be offered on behalf of all men, For kings and all who are in positions of authority or high responsibility, that (outwardly) we may pass a quiet and undisturbed life (and inwardly) a peaceable one in all godliness and reverence and seriousness in every way.*** Paul was again trying to discourage any talk of rebellion. He knew the Romans, thought the Christians were a sect of Judaism and if the Jews revolt, then Jesus' ekklesia-church would lose its Roman protection.

Paul continued to give instructions to Timothy about the ekklesia-church. ***AB I Tm 2:8-9. I desire therefore that in every place men should pray, without anger or quarreling or resentment or doubt (in their minds), lifting up holy hands. Also (I desire) that women should adorn themselves modestly and appropriately and sensibly in seemly apparel, not with (elaborate) hair arrangement or gold or pearls or***

expensive clothing. Men should pray in public lifting up holy hands to God. Man should pray without anger or doubt which could be translated "reason". If a man prayed without reason he was asking God to do His own will. At the ekklesia the women should dress modestly without an elaborate hair arrangement. The Hetairai sometimes called public women, participated in most public events in a city like Ephesus. They arranged banquets and the entertainment that followed in the stoas and colonnades. We must remember, Christianity was an island in a sea of paganism. Paul didn't want comparisons made between the Christian women and the public women.

Paul went on about the women. ***NIV 1 Tim 2:10-12. But with good deeds, appropriate for women who profess to worship God. A woman should learn in quietness and full submission. I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man, she must be silent.*** As we discussed in the letter to the Corinthians, Paul was very sensitive about the ekklesia meeting. The Christians had met as an ekklesia in public since Jesus taught in the colonnades of the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. It was a legal part of the democracy. Only men could belong to and speak in the ekklesia. If a woman spoke, it would raise eye brows and not be considered an ekklesia meeting by either the Roman officials or the public. Of course, the Christians met in homes as the Body of Christ and the Gifts of the Holy Spirit were manifested by both men and women. That was how Philip's four daughters became known as prophetess (Acts 21:9)

In chapter three, Paul explained what type of person should be up front in the public ekklesia. Paul had already told Timothy in the first chapter to keep the group on track and don't allow anyone to teach any different doctrine. Watch especially the Judiazers. Obviously this was a public meeting and the overseer would be like a moderator. Timothy was probably more qualified to be a leader because of his experiences with Paul for the past seventeen years, but the overseer should be someone with a family that was an elder (older) and was respected in the community. These overseers only oversaw the manifestations of the Gifts of the Body of Christ, much like Paul instructed the disciples in the fourteenth chapter of his letter to the Corinthians. In public worship (1 Corn 14:19), all things should be done with

regard to decency, and an orderly fashion (1 Cor 14:40). These men were overseers not over doers.

After he instructed Timothy about the overseers and deacons' role in the ekklesia, Paul seemed to have a sense, he may not be around much longer. **AB I Tim 3:15. *If I am detained, you may know how people ought to conduct themselves in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and stay-the prop and support--of the Truth.*** He said the ekklesia of the living God was the prop in support of the Truth. It was the mystic secret.

Paul reminded Timothy, there are people teaching others to abstain from certain kinds of foods (1 Tim 4:3). We see here the tracks of the synagogue-like meetings which were attended by the Judaizers. He told them to keep in shape spiritually by exercising the spiritual Gifts. **AB I Tim 4: 8. *For physical training is of some value-useful for a little; but godliness (spiritual training) is useful and of value in everything and in every way, for it holds promise for the present life and also for the life which is to come.*** The more spiritual you are now, the better able to cope spiritually, in your life which is to come. (Get use to it because God is a Spirit)

Timothy was told not to neglect his spiritual Gift. **AB I Tim 4:14. *Do not neglect the gift which is in you, (that special inward endowment) which was directly imparted to you (by the Holy Spirit) by prophetic utterances, when the elders laid their hands upon you (at your ordination).*** This Gift was imparted by Paul and the elders when they laid hands on him. Paul continued to speak to Timothy about old memories such as Timothy's mother and grandmother back in Lystra. This entire family was probably part of a group that formed a circle and prayed for Paul as he lay on the ground supposedly dead (Acts 14:20). This convinced Paul about the power of the Body of Christ. He encouraged Timothy to rekindle the embers and fan the flame. **AB II Tim 1:6-7. *That is why I would remind you to stir up-rekindle the embers, fan the flame and keep burning-the (gracious) gift of God, (the inner fire) that is in you by means of the laying on of my hands (with those of the elders at your ordination). For God did not give us a spirit of timidity-of cowardice, of craven and cringing and fawn-***

ing fear-but (He has given us a spirit) of power and of love and of calm and well-balanced mind and discipline and self-control. The public ekklesia was no place for the timid or faint of heart.

The synagogue-like meetings were evidently creeping into places like Ephesus and detracting from the efforts of the ekklesia. **AB II Tim 3:5. For (although) they hold a form of piety (true religion), they deny and reject and are strangers to the power of it-their conduct belies the genuineness of their profession. Avoid (all) such people-turn away from them.** They looked and acted like real Christians but they denied the power of the Holy Spirit. This meant they weren't participating in the Gifts of the Holy Spirit manifested in the ekklesia-church. They were meeting in synagogue-like groups.

Paul prophesied about the coming problems of the ekklesia. He said a time was coming when they will follow one teacher after another chosen to satisfy their own liking. They will wander off into myths and man-made fictions (heresies). **AB II Tim 4:4-5. And will turn aside from hearing the truth and wander off into myths and man-made fictions. As for you, be calm and cool and steady, accept and suffer unflinchingly every hardship, do the work of an evangelist; fully perform all the duties of your ministry.** Here again we see the results of the synagogue-like meetings without the Holy Spirit. Timothy's Gift must have been as an evangelist to the ekklesia-church.

Titus, who was in Crete, received a letter from Paul in 63 A.D. He also told Titus about the overseers in the ekklesia-church. He said they need to know the Word of God. **AB Tit 1:9-10. He must hold fast to the sure and trustworthy Word of God as he was taught it, so that he may be able both to give stimulating instruction and encouragement in sound (wholesome) doctrine, and to refute and convict those who contradict and oppose it-showing the wayward their error. For there are many disorderly and unruly men who are idle (vain, empty) and misleading talkers and self-deceivers, as well as deceiving others. (This is true) especially of those (who have come over from Judaism) of the circumcision party.** The overseer would have to stand against those Judaizers who were invading their ekklesia. The Judaizers were also a problem in Crete. Paul then told Titus to remind the people to

be submissive to the magistrates (Tit 3:1) and be good citizens. Don't be a party to the revolt.

As we look at the Pastoral Epistles, we can see a real battle going on between good and evil. The main problem for the ekklesia was these Judaizers seemed to be everywhere not just in Jerusalem and they were trying to convince other Christians to join them. This would be a tremendous temptation because the synagogue-like meeting would be much easier and probably involved less risk.

As the revolt talk became more and more rampant, the Jewish Christians in Jerusalem became more and more nervous about their situation. During these days, there were Jews called "zealots", who were nothing more than terrorists. Josephus, the Jewish historian, called them "dagger men". They would hide a dagger in their cloak and stab some official in a crowded area and escape during the melee. These zealots were probably making life in Jerusalem intolerable for anyone proclaiming to believe in Jesus. In fact, these zealots took control of Jerusalem three years later in 66 A.D.

Whatever the reason, these Judaizers became scattered throughout the Christian world. The battle between the forces of Satan and God was raging over the welfare of Jesus' ekklesia. At the beginning, the ekklesia was what Jesus wanted to spread the salvation of man and show the world the power of the Holy Spirit. It was a legal entity, one that the Jewish officials were powerless to destroy. At this time, the ekklesia was coming under attack from one of the old Jewish institutions, the synagogue. Paul used the synagogue of the Jews to evangelize the Jews and convince them Jesus was the Messiah. Some would believe, but invariably he would be forcibly removed by the leadership. In a weird turn of events, the synagogues of the Judaizers were now offering an alternative to the public ekklesia. You can see how Satan worked, if he could not destroy the threat, he worked around it and made the threat of no effect by removing its power. The ekklesia was the main threat to Satan because it worked through the power and manifestations of the Holy Spirit. The Judaizers from Jerusalem, who wanted to be separate, were making inroads into the ekklesia itself. That was why Paul in (Titus 1:9-10) instructed the overseers of the

ekkleisia to refute and oppose those who contradicted and deceived others, especially those of the circumcision party. These Judaizers were actually proselytizing the Christians over to the synagogue-like meetings.

The letters to the Colossians and Ephesians were probably the last of Paul's writings. They were probably written during the first half of 64 A.D. The big fire of Rome happened in July 64 A.D. and after that Nero went on the war path against the Christians in Rome. Both of the epistles, especially Ephesians, were a compilation of all Paul believed and preached during his ministry. I think he knew these would be his final communications to his Christian brothers. They were hand delivered by Tychicus, a fellow servant in Rome (Col 4:7, Eph 6:21)

To the Colossians, he told them the whole world was bearing fruit and the Gospel was growing by its own inherent power. **AB Col 1:8-9.** *Also he has informed us of your love in the (Holy) Spirit. For this reason we also, from the day we heard of it, have not ceased to pray and make (special) request for you, (asking) that you may be filled with the full (deep and clear) knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom (that is, in comprehensive insight into the ways and purposes of God) and in understanding and discernment of spiritual things;* The Colossians understood and appreciated the spiritual things. The ekklesia-church was working through the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. By discerning these spiritual things, they were growing and increasing in knowledge of God. He went on and said this spiritual knowledge was a part of their inheritance. **AB Col 1:12-13.** *Giving thanks to the Father, Who has qualified and made us fit to share the portion which is the inheritance of the saints (God's holy people) in the Light. (The Father) has delivered and drawn us to Himself out of the control and dominion of darkness and has transferred us into the kingdom of the Son of His love.* God brought them out of darkness by the Light which was Jesus. This was the ultimate redemption of man who had been reconciled back to Him by His blood on the cross (Col 1:20).

Paul told them more about the Body of Christ-ekkleisia. **AB Col 1:18.** *He also is the Head of (His) body, the church; seeing He is the Beginning, the First-born from among the dead, so that He alone in*

everything and in every respect might occupy the chief place-stand first and be pre-eminent. The ekklesia-church was brought here by Jesus. **AB Col 1:26-27. The mystery of which was hidden for ages and generations (from angels and men), but is now revealed to His holy people (the saints), To whom God was pleased to make known how great for the Gentiles are the riches of glory of this mystery, which is, Christ within and among you the hope of (realizing) the glory.** This mystery that was hidden for ages, the ekklesia-Body of Christ, which is Christ in and among us. Because Christ is within us we can all instruct each other and make every person full grown in Christ. It was to make them full-grown, complete, and perfect in Christ. From the ekklesia-church, they were to learn from Him. **AB Col 2:3-4. In Him all the treasurers of (divine) wisdom, (of comprehensive insight into the ways and purposes of God), and (all the riches of spiritual) knowledge and enlightenment are stored up and lie hidden. I say this in order that no one may mislead and delude you by plausible and persuasive and attractive arguments and beguiling speech.** Because Jesus taught through the disciples by the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, they had no need for someone to teach them with beguiling speech, such as the Judaizers.

Paul saw as they moved away from the spiritual things, they regressed into philosophical and intellectual discussions. He was probably referring to the synagogue-like meetings (James 2:2) with all the trappings, like leaders and endless discussions about Jesus and the Law. Paul said the spiritual circumcision stripped off the flesh and carnal. In the ekklesia, what you saw was what you got. The manifestations of the Holy Spirit were apparent and not subject to someone's opinion.

He told them, let no man judge you about what you can eat (Col 2:16) and no one should be an umpire declaring you unworthy (Col 2:18), because the legal decrees were no more. **NIV Col 2:14 . . . having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and they stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross.** After a statement such as this about the Law, I'm sure Paul remembered having succumbed to the wishes of James and group some six years before in Jerusalem (Acts 21:23-24). These shortcomings have been cancelled by nailing them to His cross. Therefore hold onto the

Head (Jesus) from Whom the entire Body was supplied and knit together (Col 2:19). This was the Body of Christ ministry.

During this time there was nothing more important to Paul than preserving the ekklesia-Body of Christ ministry. He told them in order to protect themselves and the ekklesia, they must renew and remold themselves into a new spiritual self by the Holy Spirit. ***NIV Col 3:10-11 . . . and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. Here there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.*** There cannot be a partisan group where Christ was not all and in all, neither Jew nor Greek and without distinction of person. This went back to what Jesus said in Luke 10:21, where he thanked God that He revealed this to the babes and not the learned.

Paul went on and told the Colossians they were to teach and train one another. ***NIV Col 3:16. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.*** The intelligence and wisdom in spiritual things came from the Gifts of the Holy Spirit and they were to sing spiritual songs (tongues) as praises to God. They were to admonish and train one another which was what the Body of Christ was supposed to do and be like here on earth.

The letter to the Ephesians was meant for all Christians because Paul knew by this time all of his letters were distributed to the various ekklesia-churches. In this epistle, he conveyed his inner-most beliefs and explained clearly why the ekklesia-church was put on this earth. We can believe what we want, but if the church in our time is not like the one described in the letter to the Ephesians, we are missing the mark.

Paul saw to it that they were all spirit-filled as he had the first disciples he met in Ephesus some ten years before in 54 A.D. He laid his hands on the twelve and the Holy Spirit came on them and they spoke in tongues and prophesied (Acts 19:6). Paul knew how the Ephesians

had been blessed by the Holy Spirit. By the ekklesia-church, Jesus would unify all things in Him both in heaven and on earth. This confirmed what Jesus said in Matt 16:19 when He said, "I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven, whatever you bind on earth is already bound in heaven..." He was referring to His ekklesia (Matt 16:18). Paul summed up the totality of what happens to a born-again spirit-filled believer. ***NIV Eph 1:13-14. And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession---to the praise of his glory.*** First we heard, then we believed, and then we were stamped with the authority of the Holy Spirit. This Holy Spirit was a portion, a down payment from God of the total we are to receive when we go to be with Him. Why, oh why, do people refuse to take advantage of this Gift?

Paul prayed to God that they receive a revelation from God. ***AB Eph 1:17. (For I always pray) the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of Glory, that He may grant you a spirit of wisdom and revelation-of insight into mysteries and secrets-in the (deep and intimate) knowledge of Him.*** This was what Jesus' ekklesia was built on as he said in Matt 16:18, "Upon this rock (huge rock) which was revelation from God, I will build my ekklesia." At this point, Paul knew this was how the ekklesia-church operated from all his experiences over the past twenty seven years.

Here Paul told them, the ekklesia was the personification of Jesus Himself. ***AB Eph 1:22-23. And He has put all things under His feet and has appointed Him the universal and supreme Head of the church (a headship exercised throughout the church), Which is His body, the fullness of Him Who fills all in all--for in that body lives the full measure of Him Who makes everything complete, and Who fills everything everywhere (with Himself).*** These ekklesias were supposed to be like Jesus Himself. Through all the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, the ekklesia-church would minister as if Jesus had never left and He would be present at all the meetings.

Paul went beyond the Judaizer problem and told them they must be unified in the Spirit. **NIV Eph 2:15-18, 22. *By abolishing in his flesh the law with its commandments and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new man out of the two, thus making peace, and in this one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility. He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit. And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit . . .*** This Body of Christ formed a fixed abode for God in and by the Holy Spirit which replaced the Temple. Both Jews and Gentiles were to be fellow heirs and joint partakers in the glad tidings of the Gospel.

The purpose of the ekklesia was to show the power and wisdom of God to the world. **AB Eph 3:10, 12. *(The purpose is) that through the church, the complicated, many-sided wisdom of God in all its infinite variety and innumerable aspects might now be made known to the angelic rulers and authorities (principalities and powers) in the heavenly sphere . . . In Whom, because of our faith in Him, we dare to have the boldness (courage and confidence) of free access-an unre-served approach to God with freedom and without fear.*** Because of Jesus we can approach God and know His will through the indwelling Holy Spirit. Paul told them that the ekklesia-church was a practical mechanism for their benefit. **AB Eph 3:19, 21. *That you may really come) to know-practically, through experience for yourselves-the love of Christ, which far surpasses mere knowledge (without experience); that you may be filled (through all your being) unto all the fullness of God-(that is) may have the richest measure of the divine Presence, and become a body wholly filled and flooded with God Himself! . . . To Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations for ever and ever. Amen-so be it.*** This brings to mind the old adage, "Truth divorced from Experience lies in the realm of Doubt". We must go beyond knowledge and know by experience that God will manifest Himself through His Body of Christ. By participating in the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, God's power could be at work within us and we would be able to carry out His purposes.

This was what the ekklesia-church Body of Christ was supposed to do in this world.

Next, Paul told about Gifts from God for the various ekklesias as a group. These were traveling gifts manifested by people who visited and strengthened the various ekklesias. **AB Eph 4:11-12. *And His gifts were (varied; He Himself appointed and gave men to us,) some to be apostles (special messengers), some prophets (inspired preachers and expounders), some evangelists (preachers of the Gospel, traveling missionaries), some pastors (shepherds of His flock) and teachers. His intention was the perfecting and the full equipping of the saints (His consecrated people), (that they should do) the work of ministering toward building up Christ's body (the church).*** These gifts were for the perfecting and fully equipping of the saints. They were to firmly knit together the various ekklesias in love and the assurance they were doing the will of God.

It was no secret what the will of God was according to Paul. **NIV Eph 5:17-20. *Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.*** They were to be filled with the Holy Spirit and sing praises to the Lord through psalms, hymns, and singing in tongues. This was a spiritual battle and they were not battling flesh and blood but rather against powers and rulers of the present darkness (Eph 6:11). He told them to pray at all times. **AB Eph 6:18. *Pray at all times-on every occasion, in every season-in the Spirit, with all (manner of) prayer and entreaty. To that end keep alert and watch with strong purpose and perseverance, interceding in behalf of all the saints (God's consecrated people).*** They were in a spiritual battle so they should pray in the Spirit (tongues) at all times. We are to stay in touch spiritually with God.

Paul asked them to intercede for him with prayers. **AB Eph 6:19-20. *And also for me, that (freedom of) utterance may be given me, that I may open my mouth to proclaim boldly the mystery of the good news***

(of the Gospel), for which I am an ambassador in a coupling chain (in prison. Pray) that I may declare it boldly and courageously as I ought to do. Although he was in chains, he prayed that he would do what he ought to do as a minister for God. He probably knew this was close to the end of his ministry.