

# *Set For The Defense of* **The Gospel**



**Philippians 1:3-18**

# Set For The Defense of The Gospel

## Is The Gospel Worth Defending?



- ✦ **Many do not see the need to defend the truth –**
- ✦ **Many are unable to defend the truth –**
- ✦ **Many are afraid of defending the truth –**
- ✦ **Many believe that it is wrong to critique false doctrine –**



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## Philippians 1:3-18 (NKJV)

<sup>3</sup> I thank my God upon every remembrance of you,  
<sup>4</sup> always in every prayer of mine making request  
for you all with joy, <sup>5</sup> for your fellowship in the  
gospel from the first day until now, <sup>6</sup> being  
confident of this very thing, that He who has  
begun a good work in you will complete *it* until  
the day of Jesus Christ; <sup>7</sup> just as it is right for me to  
think this of you all, because I have you in my  
heart, . . .

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## Philippians 1:3-18 (NKJV)

... inasmuch as both in my chains and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers with me of grace. <sup>8</sup> For God is my witness, how greatly I long for you all with the affection of Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup> And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, <sup>10</sup> that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ,

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## Philippians 1:3-18 (NKJV)

<sup>11</sup> being filled with the fruits of righteousness which *are* by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God. <sup>12</sup> But I want you to know, brethren, that the things *which happened* to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel, <sup>13</sup> so that it has become evident to the whole palace guard, and to all the rest, that my chains are in Christ; <sup>14</sup> and most of the brethren in the Lord, having become confident by my chains, . . .

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## Philippians 1:3-18 (NKJV)

... are much more bold to speak the word without fear. <sup>15</sup> Some indeed preach Christ even from envy and strife, and some also from good will: <sup>16</sup> The former preach Christ from selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my chains; <sup>17</sup> but the latter out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel. <sup>18</sup> What then? Only *that* in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is preached; and in this I rejoice, yes, and will rejoice.





- ✦ First - 1,400 miles
- ✦ Second - 2,800 miles
- ✦ Third - 2,700 miles
- ✦ Fourth to Rome - 2,250
- ✦ Approximate total - 9,150 miles



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## Paul As A Preacher



- ✦ **Paul's conversion** – 9:1-25 –  
(Immediately preached Christ . . .  
Confounded the Jews – receives his first  
death threat - 9:20-25)
- ✦ **Confronts Elymas the sorcerer** – 13:4-12
- ✦ **Reasoning with the Jews** - Use of the  
OT scriptures to prove that Jesus is the  
promised Messiah – Jews rejection &  
turning to the Gentiles – 13:13-52
- ✦ **Divided the city of Iconium** – 14:1-7
- ✦ **Escapes stoning in Lystra to Derbe** –  
14:8-20



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- ✦ **Controversy in Jerusalem** – Acts 15:1-29
- ✦ **Imprisoned in Philippi** – Acts 16:11-40
- ✦ **Trouble in Thessalonica** – 17:1-9
- ✦ **Jews stir up those in Berea** – 17:10-15
- ✦ **Paul in Athens** – 17:16-34
- ✦ **Reasoning from the scriptures in Corinth** – saying to the Jews “*your blood be upon your own heads*” – 18:1-17
- ✦ **Riot in Ephesus** – Acts 19:1-41
- ✦ **Paul in Macedonia, Troas & Miletus** – 20:1-38



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- ✦ **His return to Jerusalem and arrest** – 21:1-23:22
- ✦ **Paul before Felix** – 23:23-24:27
- ✦ **Paul before Festus** – appeals to Caesar – 25:1-12
- ✦ **Paul before Agrippa** – 25:13-26:32
- ✦ **Paul goes to Rome** – 27:1-28:31



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**Acts 9:29 (NKJV)**

<sup>29</sup> And he spoke boldly in the name of the Lord Jesus and disputed against the Hellenists, but they attempted to kill him.

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## Paul As A Preacher



**Acts 17:2-3 (NKJV)**

<sup>2</sup> Then Paul, as his custom was, went in to them, and for three Sabbaths reasoned with them from the Scriptures, <sup>3</sup> explaining and demonstrating that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and *saying*, "This Jesus whom I preach to you is the Christ."



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## Paul As A Preacher



### Acts 17:16-17 (NKJV)

<sup>16</sup> Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him when he saw that the city was given over to idols. <sup>17</sup> Therefore he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and with the *Gentile* worshipers, and in the marketplace daily with those who happened to be there.

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## Paul As A Preacher



- ◆ **Preached baptism in the name of Jesus - Acts 19:1-5**
- ◆ **Didn't hold anything back – proclaimed the whole council of God – Acts 22:17-32**
- ◆ **Reasoned about righteousness, self control and the judgment to come before Felix – 24:25**
- ◆ **Paul's wise defense before Agrippa – 26:19-29**
- ◆ **From prison – Phil 3:7-18**



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## Paul As A Preacher



- ◆ **Warned that there would be those who would teach and receive error**  
– Acts 20:29-31; 2 Tim. 4:3,4
- ◆ **Confronted immorality** – 1 Cor. 5:1-13; 6:9-11; Gal. 5:19-21
- ◆ **Confronted false teachers, even calling names** – Gal. 2:5; 5:7-12; 1 Tim. 1:19,20; 2 Tim. 2:18
- ◆ **Confronted those not walking worthy of the gospel** – Gal. 2:11-14

# Set For The Defense of The Gospel

## Things Necessary



- ◆ **Love** – Eph. 4:15
- ◆ **Knowledge** – Heb. 5:12-14
- ◆ **Strength** – Eph. 6:10-18
- ◆ **Confidence** – Rom. 1:16;  
Phili 4:13
- ◆ **Courage** – Josh. 1:5-9;  
1 Cor. 16:13
- ◆ **Zeal** – Titus 2:14



# Set For The Defense of The Gospel

## Our Mission - Our Charge



**Mark 16:15-16 (NKJV)**

<sup>15</sup> And He said to them, "**Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.** <sup>16</sup>

**He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.**

# Set For The Defense of The Gospel

## Our Mission - Our Charge



**Jude 1:3 (NKJV)**


<sup>3</sup> Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.



# Thoughts Of An Atheist

If I firmly believed, as millions say they do, that a knowledge and practice of Christianity in this life influenced destiny in another world, Christianity would be to me everything. I would cast aside earthly thoughts as vanities and earthly feelings as follies. Christianity would be my first waking thought and my last image before sleep sank me into unconsciousness. I would labor in its cause alone. I would take thought for tomorrow and eternity alone. Earthly consequences would never stay my hands nor seal my lips. I would esteem one soul gained for heaven worth a lifetime of effort. I would go forth and preach Christ to the world, and my theme would be, "What shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul."

*Norman Grubb, 1972 - Written by an Atheist*



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**Philippians 1:3-18**





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Prepared March 25-27, 2010

Preached March 28, 2010

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