

Philippians 1

I have met some beautiful people
in the course of my travels.

They are my sisters and brothers in Christ,
fellow servants in the kingdom-work of God.

Every time I think about them, I do so prayerfully,
and a surge of joy fills my heart.

God spoke to me, comforted me in my despair,
and through these people challenged me in my apathy.

I pray that God will continue to use them
to reach others
even as He used them to undergird and uplift me
and that what He has begun in us He will continue
until we are brought together
in everlasting fellowship
in that dimension beyond this life and world.

It is truly amazing to me,
and it should be encouraging to all of us,
the way in which God is able
to turn the unhappy things
that happen to us,
even our foolish errors and failures,
into steppingstones toward the accomplishment
of His purposes in our world.

Even the apparent ego trips
of certain Christian evangelists,
who preach more for crowds than they do for Christ,
are sometimes utilized to promote the Gospel and
advance the cause of the Kingdom.

We have so much to celebrate.

God has not given up on our world.
He is here and sometimes because of us,
sometimes in spite of us,
He is working out His purposes in our world.

Our greatest concern at this point is
that we do not fail
to give God our all, and to risk our all,
that His purposes might be accomplished through us.
It means that we be willing
to put our lives on the line,
to live and, if need be, to die,
to fulfill our commission
as God's soldiers and servants.

We have nothing to lose and we have nothing
to be afraid of.

It is not surprising that we cling
so tenaciously to this life.

It is all that our natural senses can comprehend.
Nevertheless, if we knew what God has in store for us,
we would have no fear whatsoever of death
and whatever may follow death.

We would probably be most eager
to leave this vale of tears
for the indescribable glories of life eternal.

We are here in the valley under divine orders.
Let us be alive and courageous and joyful and obedient
as we faithfully carry out God's commission to us.