

1 Paul and Timothy, slaves of Christ Jesus, to all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the overseers and deacons:  
2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.  
3 I thank my God upon all my remembrance of you,  
4 Always in my every petition on behalf of you all, making my petition with joy,  
5 For your fellowship unto the furtherance of the gospel from the first day until now,  
6 Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun in you a good work will complete it until the day of Christ Jesus;  
7 Even as it is right for me to think this concerning you all because you have me in your heart, since both in my bonds and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel you are all fellow partakers with me of grace.  
8 For God is my witness how I long after you all in the inward parts of Christ Jesus.  
9 And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in full knowledge and all discernment,  
10 So that you may approve by testing the things which differ and are more excellent, that you may be pure and without offense unto the day of Christ,  
11 Being filled with the fruit of righteousness, which is through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.  
12 Now I want you to know, brothers, that the things concerning me have turned out rather to the advancement of the gospel,  
13 So that my bonds have become manifest as being in Christ among the whole Praetorian guard and to all the rest.  
14 And most of the brothers, being confident in the Lord because of my bonds, are more exceedingly bold to speak the word of God without fear.  
15 Some preach Christ even because of envy and strife, and some also because of good will,  
16 These out of love, knowing that I am set for the defense of the gospel.  
17 But the others announce Christ out of selfish ambition, not purely, thinking to raise up affliction in my bonds.  
18 What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truthfulness, Christ is announced; and in this I rejoice; yes, and I will rejoice;  
19 For I know that for me this will turn out to salvation through your petition and the bountiful supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,  
20 According to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I will be put to shame, but with all boldness, as always, even now Christ will be magnified in my body, whether through life or through death.  
21 For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain

In **verse 20** Paul says, “According to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I will be put to shame, but with all boldness, as always, even now Christ will be magnified in my body, whether through life or through death.” In Paul’s bodily sufferings, Christ was magnified, that is, shown or declared great (shown to be without limitation), exalted, and extolled. His sufferings afforded him opportunity to express Christ in His unlimited greatness. Only Christ would he have magnified in him, not the law or circumcision. Philippians is concerned with the experience of Christ. To magnify Christ under any circumstances is to experience Him with the topmost enjoyment.

In **verse 20** a number of expressions are related to Paul’s statement that Christ would be magnified in him: *with all boldness, as always, even now, in my body, and whether through life or through death*. Paul does not simply say “with boldness” but says “with all boldness.” Then he specifically points out that Christ would be magnified in his body. He said this because his body was in chains. At least during the night, if not all the time, Paul was chained to a guard. Nevertheless, even though his body was in chains, Christ would be magnified in his body. Moreover, Christ would be magnified whether through life or through death. This indicates that no matter what the circumstances were, Paul expected Christ to be magnified in him.

Now we must consider what it means to magnify Christ. The word *magnify* means “to make something large to our sight.” Perhaps you are wondering how Christ can be magnified since He is already universally great. According to **Ephesians 3**, the dimensions of Christ—the breadth, length, height, and depth—are immeasurable. They are the dimensions of the universe. Although Christ is vast, extensive, and immeasurable, in the eyes of the praetorium, the imperial guard of Caesar, Christ was virtually nonexistent. In their eyes, there was not such a person as Jesus Christ. However, Paul magnified Christ; he made Him great before the eyes of others, especially before the eyes of those who guarded him in prison. As a result, some eventually turned to Christ.

At the time of Paul’s imprisonment, the Jews were despised by the Romans. The Romans were the conquerors, and the Jews were the conquered ones. Among these conquered ones there was a man named Jesus. Although He is great and most wonderful, in the eyes of the Romans, He was nothing. But as Paul was held captive in a Roman prison, he magnified Christ, making Him to appear great in the eyes of his captors.

In our daily living we also should magnify Christ, making Him great in the eyes of others. Where you work or go to school, people may look down on Christ. They may ridicule Him and take His name in vain, in violation of the third commandment. Therefore, you need to let others see Christ not in a small way but in the way of enlargement, of magnification.

## **Gospel Shark Tank**

**You have one friend on campus who you really want to share the gospel with. You finally get a chance to hang out with them one-on-one. You have 30 minutes.**