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P R E F A C E

The Bible

The words of the Bible are the very words of God our Creator speaking to us. They are completely truthful;¹ they are pure;² they are powerful;³ and they are wise and righteous.⁴ We should read these words with reverence and awe,⁵ and with joy and delight.⁶ Through these words God gives us eternal life,⁷ and daily nourishes our spiritual lives.⁸

The ESV Translation

The English Standard Version® (ESV®) stands in the classic stream of English Bible translations that goes back nearly five centuries. In this stream, accurate faithfulness to the original text is combined with simplicity, beauty, and dignity of expression. Our goal has been to carry forward this legacy for this generation and generations to come.

The ESV is an “essentially literal” translation that seeks as far as possible to reproduce the meaning and structure of the original text and the personal style of each Bible writer. We have sought to be “as literal as possible” while maintaining clear expression and literary excellence. Therefore the ESV is well suited for both personal reading and church ministry, for devotional reflection and serious study, and for Scripture memorization.

¹Ps. 119:160; Prov. 30:5; Titus 1:2; Heb. 6:18 ²Ps. 12:6 ³Jer. 23:29; Heb. 4:12; 1 Pet. 1:23

⁴Ps. 19:7–11 ⁵Deut. 28:58; Ps. 119:74; Isa. 66:2 ⁶Ps. 19:7–11; 119:14, 97, 103; Jer. 15:16

⁷John 6:68; 1 Pet. 1:23 ⁸Deut. 32:46; Matt. 4:4

The ESV Publishing Team

The ESV publishing team has included more than a hundred people. The fourteen-member Translation Oversight Committee benefited from the work of fifty biblical experts serving as Translation Review Scholars and from the comments of the more than fifty members of the Advisory Council. This international team from many denominations shares a common commitment to the truth of God's Word and to historic Christian orthodoxy.

To God's Honor and Praise

We know that no Bible translation is perfect; but we also know that God uses imperfect and inadequate things to his honor and praise. So to God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—and to his people—we offer what we have done, with our prayers that it may prove useful, with gratitude for much help given, and with ongoing wonder that our God should ever have entrusted to us so momentous a task.

To God alone be the glory!
The Translation Oversight Committee

THE LETTER OF PAUL TO THE

PHILIPPIANS

Greeting

I Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus,
To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are at Philippi, with the
overseers and deacons:

²Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord
Jesus Christ.

Thanksgiving and Prayer

³I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, ⁴always
in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy,
⁵because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day
until now. ⁶And I am sure of this, that he who began a good
work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus
Christ. ⁷It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I
hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace,
both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirma-
tion of the gospel. ⁸For God is my witness, how I yearn for you
all with the affection of Christ Jesus. ⁹And it is my prayer that
your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all
discernment, ¹⁰so that you may approve what is excellent, and
so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹filled with the
fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the
glory and praise of God.

The Advance of the Gospel

¹² I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, ¹³ so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. ¹⁴ And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

¹⁵ Some indeed preach Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from good will. ¹⁶ The latter do it out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. ¹⁷ The former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely but thinking to afflict me in my imprisonment. ¹⁸ What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice.

To Live Is Christ

Yes, and I will rejoice, ¹⁹ for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, ²⁰ as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. ²¹ For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. ²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. ²³ I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. ²⁴ But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. ²⁵ Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, ²⁶ so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.

