

Philippians Series

Lesson #036

March 16, 2023

Dean Bible Ministries

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Philippians (Overview)

Does Regeneration Precede Faith?

Philippians 1:27–4:23



Php. 1:27, “Only continue to exercise your citizenship in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel,” [RD]

**πολιτεύομαι *politeuomai* 2 plur pres mid
impera**

to live, live as a citizen

**BDAG: ① to be a citizen, have one's
citizenship/home**

**③ to conduct one's life, live, lead one's
life**

**ἀξίως *axiōs* in
a worthy
manner**

Php. 1:29, “For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake,

Php. 1:30, “having the same conflict which you saw in me and now hear is in me.” [NKJV]

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χαρίζομαι *charizomai*

3 sing aor pass indic

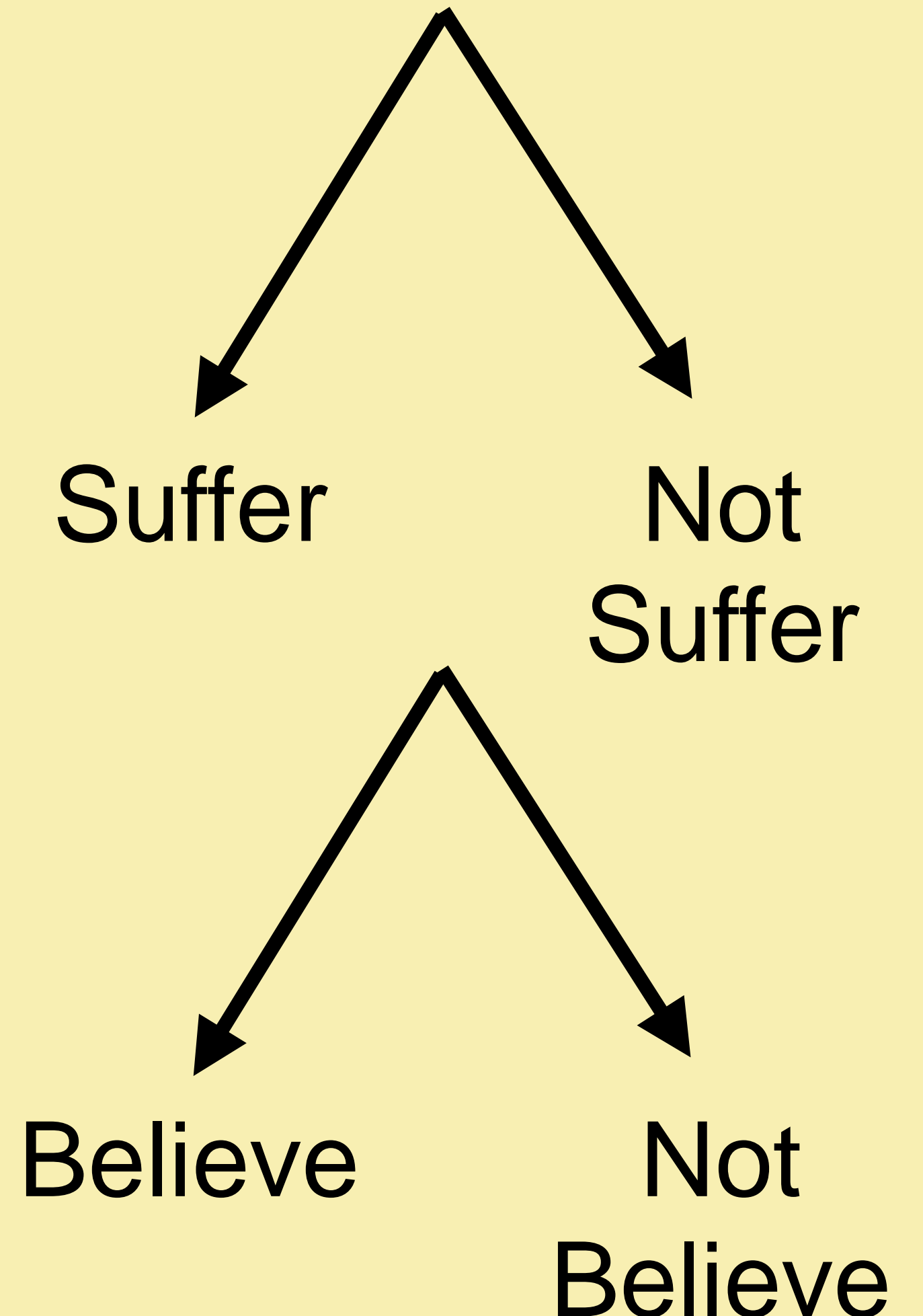
“to give; favor; forgive;” The verb form of *charis*, the noun for grace. NIDNTT: “show favor or kindness, give as a favor, to be gracious to someone, to pardon”; LSJ: “say or do something agreeable to a person, show him favour or kindness, oblige, gratify; give freely”

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Php. 1:28, “and not in any way terrified by your adversaries, which is to them a proof of perdition, but to you of salvation [deliverance], and that from God.”

ὅστις *hostis*
Pronoun (rel) indef
fem sing nom
which, feminine,
only *pistis* is a
feminine noun in
vs. 28.

σωτηρία *sōtēria*
fem sing acc
salvation, heal,
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Believe in Him

pisteuo eis

auton

John 1:12;

John 3:16–18

1. Every human is born spiritually dead, that is alienated from the life of God (Eph. 4:18) and unable to do anything to merit, to earn, God's approval (Isa. 64:6); and lacking the ability to understand the things of God.

Eph. 4:18, “having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart;”

Isa. 64:6, “But we are all like an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags; We all fade as a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.”

2. The theological term for this is “total depravity,” that is, every part of man is corrupted by sin. It does not mean that every part of man is as wicked, evil, or bad as it can be. Even fallen sinners can on their own do some things that are relatively good, but not good enough for salvation.

To His disciples Jesus said, Matt. 7:11, “If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!”

3. Faith in itself has no merit. Faith is the belief, i.e., thinking with assent that something is true. Believers and unbelievers equally believe things.

4. What we assent to is the correct salvation proposition:

Wrong: I believe the Bible says Christ died for my sins.

Right: I believe Christ died for my sins.

5. We believe with our minds, we first understand the meaning of the statements that we are sinners, we need to be saved, Christ paid the penalty for our sins, and Christ died for MY sins. Then we either believe these statements to be true, or believe them to be false.

6. The merit, the value, is in the object of faith.

Merit describes an action for which either reward or punishment is due. Meritorious is something that deserves honor, praise, or esteem.

The merit isn't in the faith or kind of faith, but in the object of faith. The object of faith is Christ's death on the cross for my sins. He paid the penalty in full, died, was buried, and rose again the third day. 1 Cor. 15:1–4

Php. 1:29, “For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake,” [NKJV]

πάσχω paschō pres act infin to experience; suffer, endure

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Does regeneration precede faith?

Regeneration = being born again

Something is added that was not there before?

This is the human spirit, which is the sharing of the life of God. Spiritual death includes being alienated from the life of God, Eph. 4:18

But also including the capacity to understand the things of God, 1 Cor. 2:14

Does regeneration precede faith?

Regeneration = being born again

Some Reformed Calvinists argue that regeneration must precede faith because a “dead man” cannot do anything, even believe.

However, spiritual death is alienation from God, not inability—only inability to do something to merit God’s favor.

Faith in Christ puts the merit on the cross, not the act of faith, not the “kind” of faith.

**Eph. 2:8, “For by grace you have been saved through faith,
and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,**

Eph. 2:9, “not of works, lest anyone should boast.”

**The Problem: What we were before we were saved.
Eph. 2:1–3**

**The Solution: God's love and mercy, grace in action,
regenerates, raises, and seats us positionally in Christ.
Eph. 2:4–9**

**The Purpose: We are saved, created in Christ Jesus, for
good works. Eph. 2:10**

**Eph. 2:5, “even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),
[NKJV]**

**“made alive together” = regeneration (being born again) =
being “saved”**

Eph. 2:8, “For by grace you have been saved (i.e., regenerated) through faith, and that not of yourselves; it (the by grace through faith salvation) is the gift of God,”

**1. Being “saved” = regeneration (being born again) =
“made alive together”**

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This salvation is “through faith”, which means faith must precede salvation.

**Eph. 2:8, “For by grace you have been saved through faith,
and that ‘*by grace through faith salvation*’ is not of
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διὰ πίστεως

dia pistis

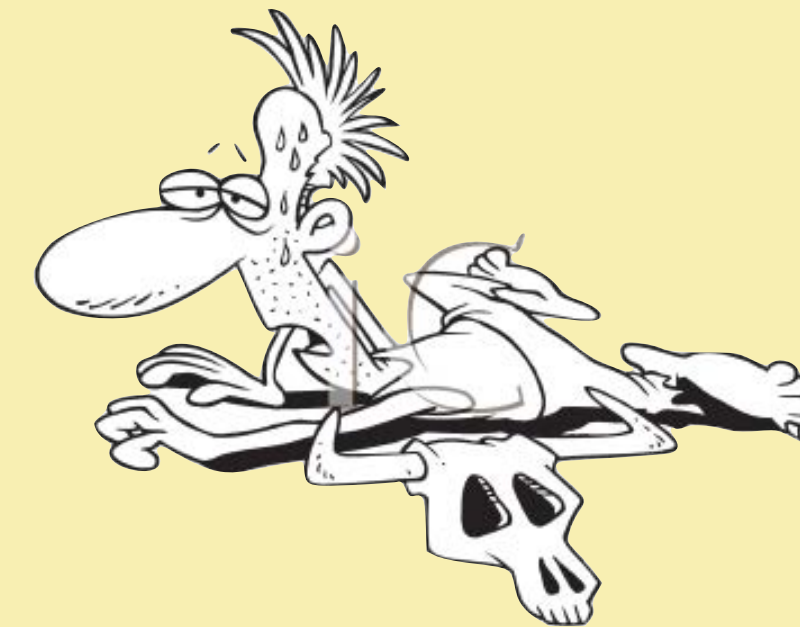
***through faith, belief,
trust***

**The Volition
Valve**

**Faith pipe must
first be opened**



**The spiritually dead
sinner separated from
the life of God, the
water of life.
The water goes through
the pipe of faith before
it “saves” the spiritually
dead person.**



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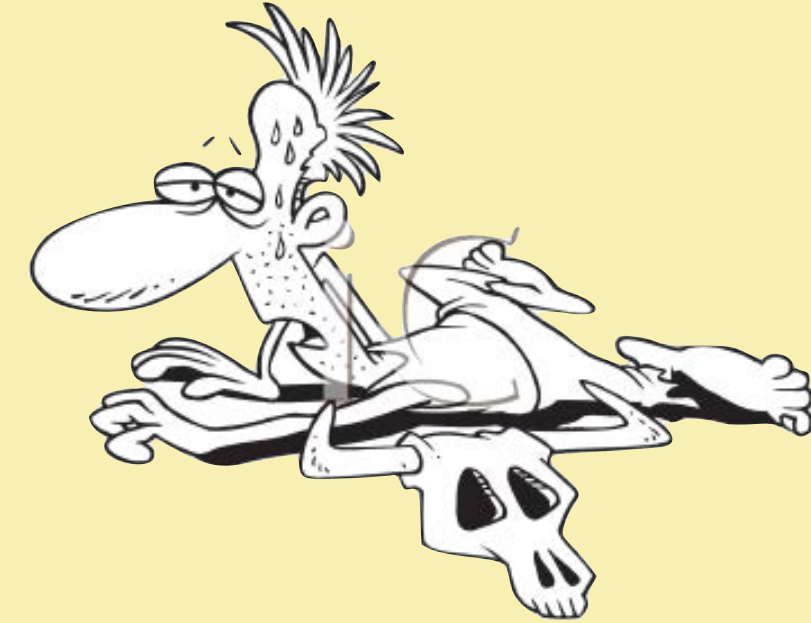


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Faith comes before life



Eph. 2:8, “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and **that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,”**

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“made alive together”**

2. What is the “that?” Is it faith? Is it grace? Is it saved?

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- 2. What is the “that?” Is it faith?**
- 3. The pronoun “that” is a neuter and must refer to a neuter noun.**
- 4. “Grace” and “faith” are feminine nouns; “saved” is a masculine participle.**
- 5. In Greek, neuter demonstrative pronouns are used to refer to phrases, clauses, sentences, and entire works of literature.**

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What are the works?

Gal. 2:16, “knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith [through faith–*dia*] in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.”

Rom. 3:22, “even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference;

Rom. 3:23, “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,”

Rom. 3:28, “Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law.”

Rom. 4:2, “For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God.

Rom. 4:3, “For what does the Scripture say? ‘Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.’

Rom. 4:4, “Now to him who works, the wages are not counted as grace but as debt.

Rom. 4:5, “But to him who does not work but believes on Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is accounted for righteousness,”

**Works of the law in the Epistles related to Jewish legalism:
Romans, Galatians**

Works of any kind: to Gentiles as in Ephesus and Titus

Titus 3:5, “not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,”