

MESSAGE

Occasion : Lighthouse Coming Together
Theme : Being Made Perfect, Stablished, Strengthened, Settled
Venue : Lighthouse BBC Tatalon / Live Streaming
Date : November 7, 2021 / November 14, 2021

TITLE : STRIVING
Text/s :

Phil 1:27

27 Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;

Bible Reading :

1 Cor 9:19-27

19 For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more.

20 And unto the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might gain the Jews; to them that are under the law, as under the law, that I might gain them that are under the law;

21 To them that are without law, as without law, (being not without law to God, but under the law to Christ,) that I might gain them that are without law.

22 To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.

23 And this I do for the gospel's sake, that I might be partaker thereof with you.

24 Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain.

25 And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.

26 I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air:

27 But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

KJV

Song/s :

- My Savior's Love
- His Grace is Greater Than My Need
- He Keeps Me Singing

Other references :

Instructions :

INTRODUCTION

Meanings of strive (strive, striving (striveth))

To make great efforts; try very hard.

- To strive to win. (verb)

To struggle in opposition; to be in contention or dispute; to contend; to contest.

- To strive against fate.
- To strive for the truth. (verb)

To exert much effort or energy; endeavor.
Verb

To be in conflict; struggle; contend; fight.
➤ To strive against oppression. (verb)

To struggle or fight forcefully; contend.
➤ Strive against injustice. (verb)

To vie; to compete as a rival.
verb

To try to achieve a result; to make strenuous effort; to try earnestly and persistently.
➤ He strove to excel. (verb)

(obsolete) An effort; a striving.
Noun

(obsolete) Strife; contention.
noun

BODY

A) Strive to preach the Gospel ...

Everything we do as a church is attached to and related to the Gospel. All ministries, all effort we extend are for the Gospel's sake. This is our default.

Rom 15:20

20 Yea, **so have I strived to preach the gospel**, not where Christ was named, lest I should build upon another man's foundation:

KJV

NT:5389

<START GREEK>filotime/omai

<END GREEK> philotimeomai (fil-ot-im-eh'-om-ah-ee); middle voice from a compound of NT:5384 and NT:5092; to be fond of honor, i.e. emulous (eager or earnest to do something): KJV - labour, strive, study.

Rom 1:16

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

KJV

2 Cor 10:14-16

14 For we stretch not ourselves beyond our measure, as though we reached not unto you: for we are come as far as to you also in preaching the gospel of Christ:

15 Not boasting of things without our measure, that is, of other men's labours; but having hope, when your faith is increased, that we shall be enlarged by you according to our rule abundantly,

16 To preach the gospel in the regions beyond you, and not to boast in another man's line of things made ready to our hand.

KJV

1 Cor 9:14-27

14 Even so hath the Lord ordained that they which preach the gospel should live of the gospel.

15 But I have used none of these things: neither have I written these things, that it should be so done unto me: for it were better for me to die, than that any man should make my glorying void.

16 For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; **yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!**

17 For if I do this thing willingly, I have a reward: but if against my will, a dispensation of the gospel is committed unto me.

18 What is my reward then? Verily that, when I preach the gospel, I may make the gospel of Christ without charge, that I abuse not my power in the gospel.

19 For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more.

20 And unto the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might gain the Jews; to them that are under the law, as under the law, that I might gain them that are under the law;

21 To them that are without law, as without law, (being not without law to God, but under the law to Christ,) that I might gain them that are without law.

22 To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.

23 **And this I do for the gospel's sake**, that I might be partaker thereof with you.

24 Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain.

25 And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.

26 I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air:

27 But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

KJV

Phil 1:3-7

3 I thank my God upon every remembrance of you,

4 Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy,

5 For **your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now;**

6 Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:

7 Even as it is meet for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart; inasmuch as both in my bonds, and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel, ye all are partakers of my grace.

KJV

1 Thess 2:8-9

8 So being affectionately desirous of you, **we were willing to have imparted unto you, not the gospel of God only, but also our own souls, because ye were dear unto us.**

9 For ye remember, brethren, our labour and travail: for labouring night and day, because we would not be chargeable unto any of you, we preached unto you the gospel of God.

KJV

Col 1:5-6

5 For the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, whereof ye heard before in **the word of the truth of the gospel;**

6 **Which is come unto you, as it is in all the world; and bringeth forth fruit,** as it doth also in you, since the day ye heard of it, and knew the grace of God in truth:

KJV

Eph 6:13-16

13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

KJV

Heb 4:1-2

1 Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it.

2 For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.

KJV

B) Strive together for the faith of the Gospel

We have a striving together, a working together for the truth of the Gospel to be in our lives. Faith is obedience, a working out... And we all need to work together so that we can all have lives consistent with the Gospel of Christ in us!

Philippians 1:27

27 Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;

KJV

NT:4866

<START GREEK>sunagle/w

<END GREEK> sunathleo (soon-ath-leh'-o); from NT:4862 and NT:118; to wrestle in company with, i.e. (figuratively) to seek jointly: KJV - labour with, strive together for.

Phil 3:16-20

16 Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing.

17 Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample.

18 (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ:

19 Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.)

20 For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:

KJV

1 Thess 2:11-13

11 As ye know how we exhorted and comforted and charged every one of you, as a father doth his children,

12 That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory.

13 For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe.

KJV

1 Thess 4:1-7

1 Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more.

2 For ye know what commandments we gave you by the Lord Jesus.

3 For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication:

4 That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour;

5 Not in the lust of concupiscence, even as the Gentiles which know not God:
6 That no man go beyond and defraud his brother in any matter: because that the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also have forewarned you and testified.
7 For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness.
KJV

Col 1:10-12

10 That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;
11 Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness;
12 Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:
KJV

Col 2:6-8

6 As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him:
7 Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving.
8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.
KJV

Eph 5:15-17

15 See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise,
16 Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.
17 Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.
KJV

Gal 5:1

1 Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.
KJV

C) Strive together in prayer

Romans 15:30

30 Now I beseech you, brethren, for the Lord Jesus Christ's sake, and for the love of the Spirit, that ye **strive together with me in your prayers to God for me;**
(KJV)

NT:4865

<START GREEK>sunagwni/zomai

<END GREEK> sunagonizomai (soon-ag-o-nid'-zom-ahee); from NT:4862 and NT:75; to struggle in company with, i.e. (figuratively) to be a partner (assistant): KJV - strive together with.

2 Thess 3:1-2

1 Finally, brethren, pray for us, **that the word of the Lord may have free course**, and be glorified, even as it is with you:
2 And that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men: for all men have not faith.
KJV

Eph 6:19-20

19 And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel,
20 For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

KJV

Col 4:12-13

12 Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth you, always labouring fervently for you in prayers, that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.

13 For I bear him record, that he hath a great zeal for you, and them that are in Laodicea, and them in Hierapolis.

KJV

D) Strive being temperate in all things

We strive in diligence, discipline, in temperance, in humility, in patience and endurance.

1 Corinthians 9:25 (KJV) And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.

NT:75

<START GREEK>a)gwni/zomai

<END GREEK> agonizomai (ag-o-nid'-zom-ahee); from NT:73; to struggle, literally (to compete for a prize), figuratively (to contend with an adversary), or genitive case (to endeavor to accomplish something): KJV - fight, labor fervently, strive.

1 Cor 9:25-27

25 And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.

26 I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air:

27 But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

KJV

1 Cor 6:12

12 All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any.

KJV

2 Cor 6:4-10

4 But in all things approving ourselves as the ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses,

5 In stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labours, in watchings, in fastings;

6 By pureness, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Ghost, by love unfeigned,

7 By the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armour of righteousness on the right hand and on the left,

8 By honour and dishonour, by evil report and good report: as deceivers, and yet true;

9 As unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and, behold, we live; as chastened, and not killed;

10 As sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.

KJV

1 Tim 6:12

12 Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

KJV

Eph 6:10-18

10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.
13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.
14 Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;
15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;
16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.
17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:
18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;
KJV

1) Strive not using words that are of no profit...

2 Timothy 2:14 (KJV) Of these things put them in remembrance, charging them before the Lord that they **strive not about words to no profit, but to the subverting of the hearers.**

NT:3054
<START GREEK>logomaxe/w
<END GREEK> logomacheo (log-om-akh-eh'-o); from a compound of NT:3056 and NT:3164; to be disputatious (on trifles): KJV - strive about words.

2 Tim 2:16

16 But **shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness.**
KJV

2 Tim 2:23-26

23 But **foolish and unlearned questions avoid, knowing that they do gender strifes.**
24 And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient,
25 In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth;
26 And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.
KJV

Titus 3:9

9 But **avoid foolish questions, and genealogies, and contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and vain.**
KJV

Heb 13:9

9 Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. For it is a good thing that the heart be established with grace; not with meats, which have not profited them that have been occupied therein.
KJV

1 Tim 4:6

6 If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained.
KJV

2) Strive against sin and all its effects

Hebrews 12:4 (KJV) Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin.

NT:464

<START GREEK>a)ntagwni/zomai

<END GREEK> antagonizomai (an-tag-o-nid'-zom-ah-ee); from NT:473 and NT:75; to struggle against (figuratively) ["antagonize"]: KJV - strive against.

Heb 12:2-4

2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

3 For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.

4 Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin.

KJV

2 Tim 4:6-8

6 For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.

7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:

8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

KJV

1 Cor 10:13

13 There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

KJV

E) Strive according to the law of Christ in us...

We strive according to the law of Christ, His love being in us. This is the highest law in us.

2 Timothy 2:5 (KJV) And if a man also strive for masteries, **yet is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully.**

NT:118

<START GREEK>a)qle/w

<END GREEK> athleo (ath-leh'-o); from athlos (a contest in the public lists); to contend in the competitive games: KJV - strive.

Gal 6:2

2 Bear ye one another's burdens, and so **fulfil the law of Christ.**

KJV

John 13:14-17

14 If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet.

15 For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.

16 Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him.

17 If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.
KJV

John 13:34-35

34 A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.

35 By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.
KJV

John 15:12-14

12 This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.

13 Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.

14 Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.
KJV

Rom 13:10

10 Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

KJV

Rom 13:8

8 Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.

KJV

Eph 3:17-19

17 That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,

18 May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;

19 And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.

KJV

2 Cor 5:14

14 For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead:

KJV

1 Cor 12:31-13:3

31 But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way.

13 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.

2 And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.

3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.

KJV

F) Strive according to how God works in us, according to the love of Christ that constrains and His grace that enables...

Colossians 1:29 (KJV) Whereunto I also labour, **striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily.**

NT:75

<START GREEK>a)gwni/zomai

<END GREEK> agonizomai (ag-o-nid'-zom-ahee); from NT:73; to struggle, literally (to compete for a prize), figuratively (to contend with an adversary), or genitive case (to endeavor to accomplish something):

1 Cor 15:10

10 But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.

KJV

1 Cor 4:7

7 For who maketh thee to differ from another? and what hast thou that thou didst not receive? now if thou didst receive it, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received it?

KJV

Eph 3:7-8

7 Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power.

8 Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ;

KJV

2 Cor 12:9-10

9 And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

KJV

CONCLUSION