

Incwadi KaPhawuli KwabaseFiliphi

¹ UPhawuli loThimothi, inceku zikaKhristu uJesu,

Lakubo bonke abangcwele kuKhristu uJesu eFiliphi kanye lababonisi labadikoni:

² Umusa lokuthula okuvela kuNkulunkulu uBaba leNkosini uJesu Khristu kakube kini.

Ukubonga Lokukhuleka

³ Ngiyambonga uNkulunkulu wami izikhathi zonke lapho ngilikhumbula.

⁴ Emikhulekweni yami yonke ngilikhulekela lonke, ngihlezi ngikhuleka ngokuthokoza

⁵ ngenxa yokuhlanganyela kwenu evangelini kusukela ngosuku lwakuqala kuze kube khathesi, ⁶ ngilethemba lokuthi lowo owaqalisa umsebenzi omuhle kini uzawuqhubekisela phambili kuze kube lusuku lukaKhristu uJesu.

⁷ Kuqondile ukuthi ngicabange ngokunjalo ngenxa yenu lonke, njengoba ngilani enhliziyweni yami njalo lanxa ngibotshiwe kumbe ngivikela ivangeli loba ngiliqinisa, lonke lihlanganyela lami emuseni kaNkulunkulu.

⁸ UNkulunkulu angafakaza ukuthi lonke ngilifiselani ngothando lukaKhristu uJesu.

⁹ Umkhuleko wami ngowokuthi uthando lwenu lwande kokuphela ekwazini lasekuzikeni kokuqedisisa ¹⁰ ukuze lenelise ukubona okuhle njalo lihlambuluke lingabi lasici kuze kube lusuku lukaKhristu, ¹¹ ligcwele izithelo zokulunga ezibuya ngoJesu Khristu ekudunyisweni lasekubongweni kukaNkulunkulu.

Ukubotshwa KukaPhawuli Kuqhubekelisa Ivangeli Phambili

¹² Bazalwane, ngifuna ukuba lazi ukuthi okwenzakale kimi kusizile impela ekuqhubekeliseni ivangeli phambili. ¹³ Ngalokho, sekube sobala kubo bonke abalindi besigodlo lakwabanye bonke ukuthi ngibotshelwe uKhristu. ¹⁴ Ngenxa yokubotshwa kwami, abazalwane abanengi sebelethemba eNkosini njalo sebelesibindi esikhulu sokutshumayela ilizwi likaNkulunkulu bengelakwesaba.

¹⁵ Kuliqiniso ukuthi abanye batshumayela uKhristu ngenxa yomona lombango kodwa abanye ngenxa yesifiso esihle. ¹⁶ Laba benza lokhu ngothando bekwazi ukuthi ngifakwe lapha ukuba ngivikele ivangeli. ¹⁷ Abakuqala batshumayela ngoKhristu ngokuzikhukhumeza, bengeqotho, becabanga ukuthi bangangidalela uhlupho ngisekubotshweni. ¹⁸ Kodwa-ke, kusizani pho? Into eqakathekileyo yikuthi ngezindlela zonke, ingabe kuyinjongo engalunganga loba eyeqiniso, uKhristu uyatshunyayelwa. Njalo ngenxa yalokhu mina ngiyathokoza.

Yebo, ngizaqhubeka ngithokoza, ¹⁹ ngoba ngiyazi ukuthi ngemikhuleko yenu langosizo lukaMoya kaJesu Khristu, okwenzakale kimi kuzaletha ukukhululwa kwami. ²⁰ Ngokutshiseka ngilindele njalo ngithemba ukuthi angiyikuyangeka langayiphi indlela, kodwa ngizakuba lesibindi esaneleyo ukuze kuthi khathesi njengenjwayelo uKhristu uzakudunyiswa emzimbeni wami, loba ngokuphila kumbe ngokufa. ²¹ Ngoba kimi, ukuphila kunguKhristu lokufa kuyinzuzo. ²² Nxa ngingaqhubeka ngiphila emzimbeni, lokhu kuzakutsho umsebenzi olezithelo kimi. Kodwa-ke, kuyini engizakukhetha? Angazi! ²³ Ngiphakathi kwakho kokubili: Ngifisa ukusuka ngibe loKhristu, okungcono kakhulu; ²⁴ Kodwa kuyasweleka kakhulu kini ukuba ngibe ngilokhu ngiphila kulumzimba. ²⁵ Sengikholwe lokhu, ngiyakwazi ukuthi ngizakuba khona, njalo ngizaqhubeka ngilani lonke ngenxa yokuthuthuka kwenu lokuthokoza ekukholweni, ²⁶ ukuze kuthi ngokuba lani kwami futhi, ukuthokoza kwenu kuKhristu uJesu kuzakwanda ngenxa yami.

Impilo Efanele Ivangeli

²⁷ Loba kusenzakalani, lina ziphatheni ngendlela efanele ivangeli likaKhristu. Ngakho, langabe ngiyeza ukuzalibona loba ngizwe nje kuphela ngani ngingekho, ngizakwazi ukuba liqinile ngaMoya munye, lilwela ukholo lwevangeli njengomuntu munye, ²⁸ kungekho kwethuswa langayiphi indlela yilabo

abaliphikisayo. Lokhu kuyisibonakaliso kubo ukuthi bazachithwa, kodwa lina lizasindiswa nguNkulunkulu. ²⁹ Ngoba kunikelwe kini ngenxa kaKhristu kungasikukholwa kuye kuphela, kodwa lokumhluphekela, ³⁰ njengoba lilwisa hlupho lunye elabona ngilalo, lakhathesi liyezwa ukuba ngilokhu ngilalo.

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Ukulingisela Ukuthobeka KukaKhristu

¹ Nxa kukhona okukhuthazayo ngokuhlangana loKhristu, nxa kulenduduzo evela ethandweni lwakhe, nxa kulobudlelwano loMoya, nxa kulozwelo lesihawu, ² phelelisani intokozo yami ngokuba ngqondo nye, lilothando lunye, limunye emoyeni njalo linjongo yinye. ³ Lingenzi lutho ngokuzikhukhumeza loba ukuziphakamisa okuyize. Kodwa ngokuthobeka khangelani abanye njengabangcono kulani ⁴ lingazikhathaleli izifiso zenu lodwa kodwa likhathalele lezifiso zabanye.

⁵ Ekuphilisaneni kwenu, isimo sengqondo yenu kumele sifanane lesikaKhristu uJesu,

⁶ Yena okwathi ngemvelo enguNkulunkulu, kacabanganga ukulingana loNkulunkulu kuyilutho olungafinyelelwa,

⁷ kodwa wazithoba, wathatha isimo senceku, yena elesimo somuntu.

⁸ Wathi ebunjwe wabonakala njengomuntu, wazehlisa walalela kwaze kwaba sekufeni, ukufa kwasesiphambanweni!

- 9 Ngakho-ke, uNkulunkulu wamphakamisela endaweni ephezulu kakhulu,
wamnika ibizo elingaphezu kwamabizo wonke,
- 10 ukuba amadolo wonke aguqe ebizweni lika-Jesu,
ezulwini lasemhlabeni kanye langaphansi komhlaba,
- 11 lezindimi zonke zivume ukuthi uJesu Khristu uyiNkosi,
kube ludumo lukaNkulunkulu uYise.

Ukucwebezela Njengezinkanyezi

12 Ngakho-ke, bangane bami abathandekayo, njengoba lihlezi lilalela kungayisikho ukuthi ngikhona kuphela kodwa ikakhulu nxa ngingekho, qhubekani lisebenzela ukusindiswa kwenu ngokwesaba langokuthuthumela ¹³ ngoba nguNkulunkulu osebenzayo phakathi kwenu ukuba lifune njalo lenze okumthokozisayo.

14 Yenzani konke kungela kusola kumbe ukuphikisana ¹⁵ ukuze libe ngabantwana bakaNkulunkulu abangelasici labahlambulukileyo, abamsulwa phakathi kwesizukulwane esonakeleyo lesixhwalileyo, lina elicwebezela phakathi kwaso liletha ukukhanya emhlabeni ¹⁶ ligagadlala ilizwi lokuphila. Ngalokho ngizazincoma ngosuku lukaKhristu ukuthi kangigijimelanga kumbe ngasebenzela ize.

17 Kodwa lanxa ngithululwa njengomnikelo wokunathwa phezu komhlatshelo lenkonzo evela ekukholweni kwenu, ngiyathaba

ngithokoza lani lonke. ¹⁸ Ngakho-ke, lani njalo thabani lithokoze lami.

UThimothi Lo-Ephafrodithusi

¹⁹ Ngiyethemba eNkosini uJesu ukuba ngizathuma uThimothi kini masinyane ukuba lami ngithokoze lapho ngisamukela izindaba ngani. ²⁰ Kangilaye omunye onjengaye, othakazelela inhlalakahle yenu ngobuqotho. ²¹ Ngoba abantu bonke bazifunela okwabo, hatshi okukaJesu Khristu. ²² Kodwa lina liyakwazi ukuthi uThimothi usezifakazele ngoba njengendodana eloyise usesebenze lami emsebenzini wevangeli. ²³ Ngakho-ke, ngithemba ngizamthuma masinyane lapho sengibonile ukuba izinto zingihambela njani. ²⁴ Njalo ngiyathemba eNkosini ukuthi lami uqobo ngizakuza masinyane.

²⁵ Kodwa ngibona kufanele ukuthi ngimthume kini futhi u-Ephafrodithusi, umzalwane wami, obambisane lami umsebenzi lolibutho kanye lami, oysisithunywa senu futhi, elamthumayo ukuthi angisize ngendingeko zami. ²⁶ Ngoba uyalilangatha lonke njalo ukhathazekile njen-goba lezwa ukuthi wayegula. ²⁷ Ngempela wayegula njalo waphose wafa. Kodwa uNkulunkulu waba lesihawu kuye, kungayisikho kuye kuphela kodwa lakimi ukuba angiphephise osizini phezu kosizi. ²⁸ Ngakho-ke, ngitshisekela kakhulu ukumthuma ukuze kuthi lapho limbona futhi lithokoze lami ngikhathazeke okunganeno. ²⁹ Mamukeleni eNkosini ngokuthokoza okukhulu njalo libahloniphe abantu abanjengaye ³⁰ ngoba waphosa wafela umsebenzi kaKhristu, wafaka

impilo yakhe engozini ukuze angiphe usizo elingangiphanga lona.

3

Akulathemba Emzimbeni

¹ Okokucina, bazalwane, thokozani eNkosini! Akusihlupho kimi ukulilobela ngezinto ezifanayo futhi ngoba lokho kuyisivikelo kini.

² Qaphelani izinja lezo, abantu labo abenza okubi lalabo abalimaza umzimba. ³ Ngoba thina yithi abokusokwa, thina esikhonza uNkulunkulu ngoMoya wakhe, esiziqhenya ngoKhristu uJesu njalo esingabeki ithemba kokwenyama ⁴ lanxa nje mina ngokwami ngilezizatho zethemba elinjalo.

Nxa kulomuntu ocabanga ukuthi ulezizatho zokuthemba okwenyama, mina ngilezinengi: ⁵ ngasokwa ngosuku lwesificaminwembali, ngingowako-Israyeli, owesizwana sakoBhenjamini, umHebheru wamaHebheru; ngokomthetho, ngingumFarisi; ⁶ ngokutshiseka, ngahlukuluza ibandla; ngokulunga okugxile emthethweni, angilacala.

⁷ Kodwa loba kuyini okwakuyinzuzo kimi khathesi ngikubala njengokulahlekelwa ngenxa kaKhristu. ⁸ Phezu kwalokho, konke ngikubona kuyize lapho kulinganiswa lobukhulu obumangalisayo bokwazi uKhristu Jesu iNkosi yami esengilahlekelwe yizinto zonke ngenxa yakhe. Ngikubona kuyimfucuzo ukuze ngizuze uKhristu ⁹ njalo ngitholakale kuye, ngingelakulunga okungokwami okuvelela emthethweni, kodwa lokho

kungenxa yokukholwa kuKhristu, ukulunga okuvela kuNkulunkulu njalo okungokukholwa. ¹⁰ Ngifuna ukumazi uKhristu lamandla okuvuka kwakhe ekufeni lobudlelwano bokuhlanganyela ekuhluphekeni kwakhe, ngibe njengaye ekufeni, ¹¹ ukuze ngenye indlela, ngithole ukuvuka kwabafileyo.

¹² Akusikuthi sengikuzuzile konke lokhu loba ukuthi sengiphelelisiwe kodwa ngilwisa ukuba ngibambe lokho uKhristu Jesu angibambela khona. ¹³ Bazalwane, angikazibali njengosekubambile lokho. Kodwa yinye into engiyenzayo, ngiyakukhohlwa okusemuva ngizama ngamandla ukufinyelela kokuphambili, ¹⁴ ngilwisa ukuthi ngiyefinyelela ekucineni ukuba ngithole umvuzo uNkulunkulu angibizela wona ezulwini ngoKhristu uJesu.

Ukulingisa Isibonelo SikaPhawuli

¹⁵ Sonke thina esesiphelele kumele sikhangele izinto ngengqondo enjalo. Nxa kokunye lica-banga ngokwehlukileyo, lalokho uNkulunkulu uzakwenza kucace kini. ¹⁶ Kuphela nje kasiqhubekeni ngalokho esesikuzuzile.

¹⁷ Bazalwane, hlanganyelani labanye ekulandeleni isibonelo sami, libananzelele labo abaphila ngokwesibonelo esalitshengisa sona. ¹⁸ Ngoba, njengoba ngangihlala ngilithela kuqala lakhathesi ngiyatsho futhi langezinyembezi ukuthi abanengi baphila njengezitha zesiphambano sikaKhristu. ¹⁹ Isiphetho sabo yikubhubha, unkulunkulu wabo yisisu sabo, lodumo lwabo lusehlazweni

labo. Inggqondo yabo isezintweni zasemhlabeni. ²⁰ Kodwa elethu ikhaya lisezulwini. Njalo simlindele ngokutshiseka uMsindisi evela khonale, iNkosi uJesu Khristu, ²¹ yena okuzakuthi ngamandla amenza abeke izinto zonke ngaphansi kwakhe, uzaguqula imizimba yethu elesimo esiphansi ibe njengomzimba wakhe olenkazimulo.

4

Isicelo Sokuma Ngesibindi Lokubambana

¹ Ngakho-ke bazalwane bami, lina engilithandayo lengilikhumbulayo, liyintokozo yami lomqhele wami, kumele liqine kanjalo eNkosini bangane abathandekayo!

² Ngiyamncenga uYuwodiya loSintikhe ukuba bavumelane eNkosini. ³ Ngiyakucela mhlobo wami oqotho, siza abesifazane labo abasebenza lami kanzima ngenxa yevangeli, kanye loKlementi labanye engisebenza labo, abalamabizo abo asencwadini yokuphila.

Ukukhuthaza Kokucina

⁴ Thokozani eNkosini kokuphela. Ngiyatsho futhi ngithi: Thokozani! ⁵ Ukuthobeka kwenu kakubonakale kubo bonke. INkosi isiseduze. ⁶ Lingakhathazeki kodwa ngazo zonke izikhathi bikani izicelo zenu kuNkulunkulu ngokukhuleka, ngokuncenga langokubonga. ⁷ Ukuthula kukaNkulunkulu okudlula ukuqedisisa konke kuzabusa inhliziyi zenu lezingqondo zenu kuKhristu uJesu.

⁸ Okokucina bazalwane, konke okuliqiniso, lokulesithunzi, lokulungileyo, lokuhlambuluki-leyo, lokuhle, lokubukekayo, nxa ulutho luluhle kakhulu loba lubongeka, cabangani ngezinto ezinje. ⁹ Loba kuyini elikufundileyo loba elikwamukeleyo loba elikuzwileyo kuvela kimi, loba elikubonileyo kimi, kwenzeni. UNkulunkulu wokuthula uzakuba lani.

Ukubonga Izipho Zabo

¹⁰ Ngiyathokoza kakhulu eNkosini ngokuthi khathesi selize lavuselela ukungikhathalela kwenu. Impela kade likhathazeka kodwa lingelalo ithuba lokukubonakalisa. ¹¹ Kangitsho lokhu ngenxa yokuthi ngiyaswela ngoba sengafunda ukwaneliseka kuyo yonke imimo. ¹² Ngiyakwazi ukuba ukuswela kuyini njalo ngiyakwazi ukuba kuyini ukuba lokunengi. Sengafunda imfihlo yokwaneliseka kuzozonke izimo, langabe ngiyasutha loba ngilambile, loba ngilokunengi kumbe ngiswela. ¹³ Ngingazenza zonke izinto ngaye onginika amandla.

¹⁴ Kodwa kwakukuhle ukuthi lihlanganyele lami ekuhluphekeni kwami. ¹⁵ Phezu kwalokho, lina bantu baseFiliphi liyakwazi ukuthi ensukwini elaqala ngazo ukwazi ivangeli ngesikhathi ngisuka eMasedoniya, akukho lalinye ibandla elahlanganyela lami endabeni yokupha lokwamukela ngaphandle kwenu kuphela; ¹⁶ ngoba langesikhathi ngiseThesalonika langithumela usizo kanengi lapho ngidinga uncedo. ¹⁷ Akusikuthi ngifuna isipho kodwa ngifuna okuzakuba yinzuzo

kini. ¹⁸ Sengamukele umvuzo ogcweleyo lodlulisileyo; ngiphiwe okwaneleyo njengoba khathesi sengamukele ku-Ephafrodithusi izipho elazithumelayo. Zingumnikelo wephunga elimnandi, umhlatshelo owamukelekayo lothokozisa uNkulunkulu. ¹⁹ UNkulunkulu wami uzakugcwalisa konke ukuswela kwenu ngenkazimulo yenotho yakhe kuKhristu uJesu.

²⁰ Udumo kalube kuNkulunkulu uBaba kuze kube nini lanini. Ameni.

Ukuvalelisa

²¹ Bingelelani bonke abangcwele abakuKhristu.

Abazalwane abalami bayalibingelela.

²² Abangcwele bonke bayalibingelela, ikakhulu labo abangabendlu kaKhesari.

²³ Umusa weNkosi uJesu Khristu kawube lo-moya wenu.

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