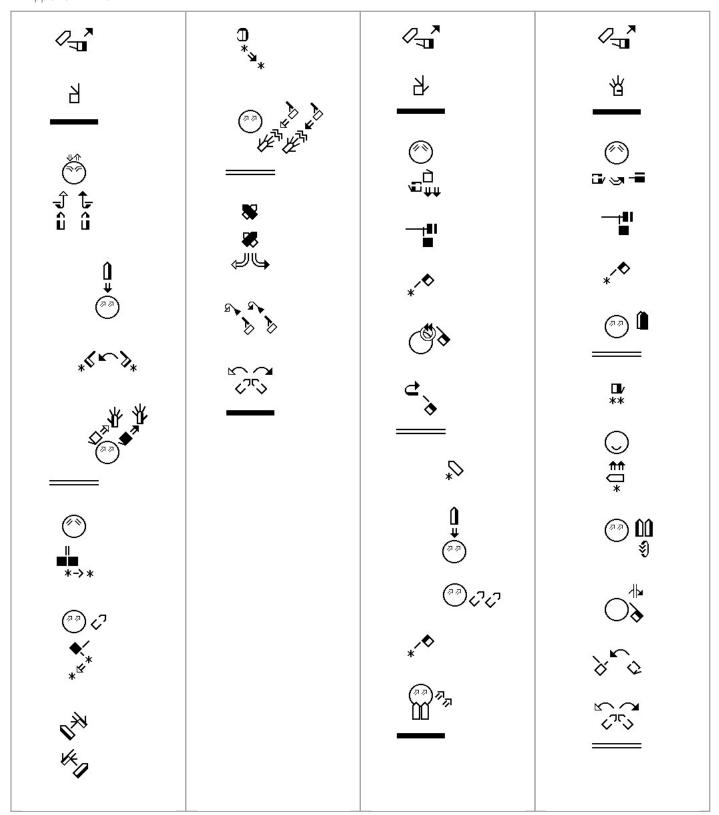


Philippians Chapter One. This letter is from Paul and Timothy, slaves of Christ Jesus. I am writing to all of God's holy people in Philippi who belong to Christ Jesus, including the elders and deacons.

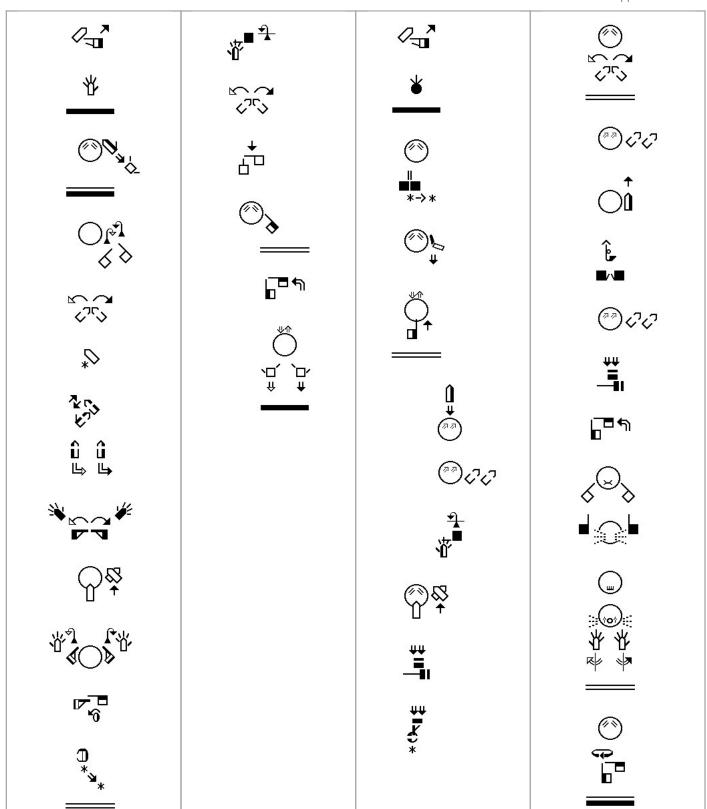
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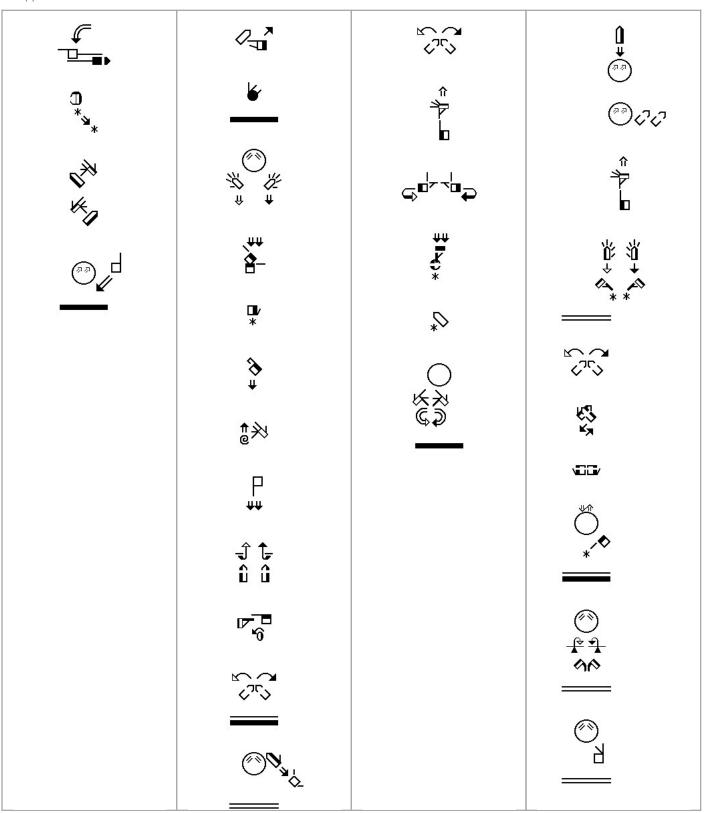


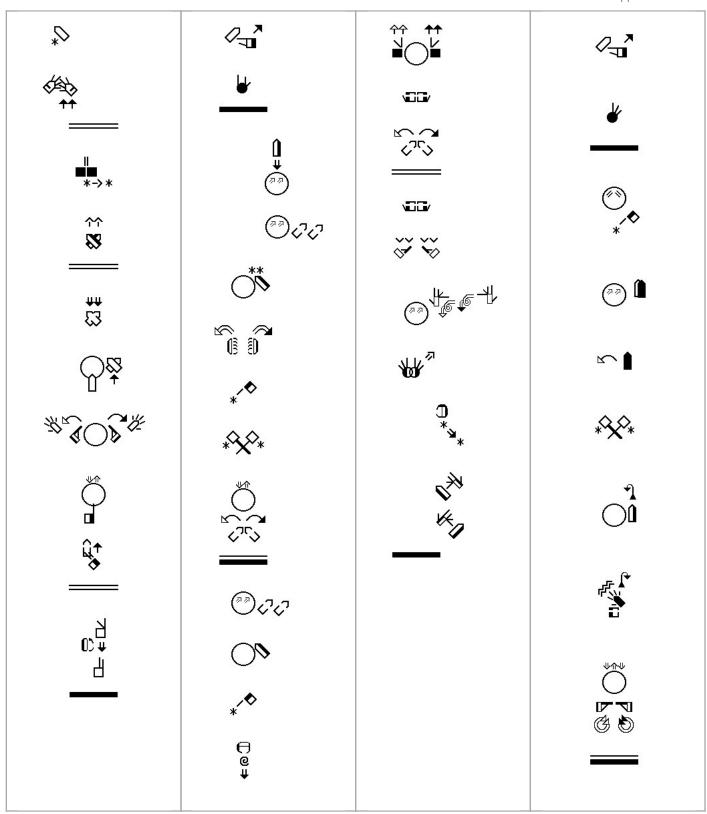
Verse 2. May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace. Verse 3. Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God. Verse 4. Whenever I pray, I make my requests for all of you with joy,

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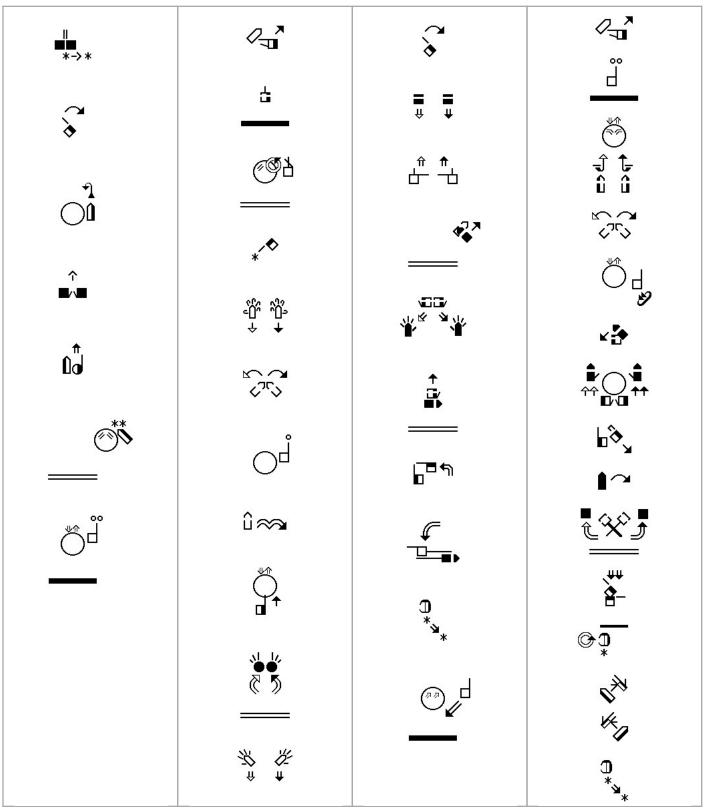


Verse 5. for you have been my partners in spreading the Good News about Christ from the time you first heard it until now. Verse 6. And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished NLT

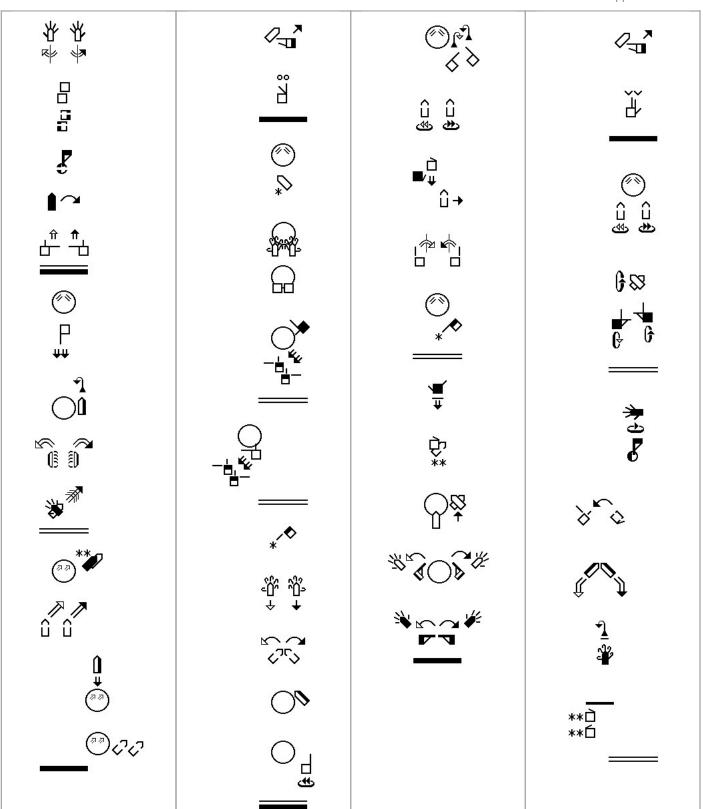




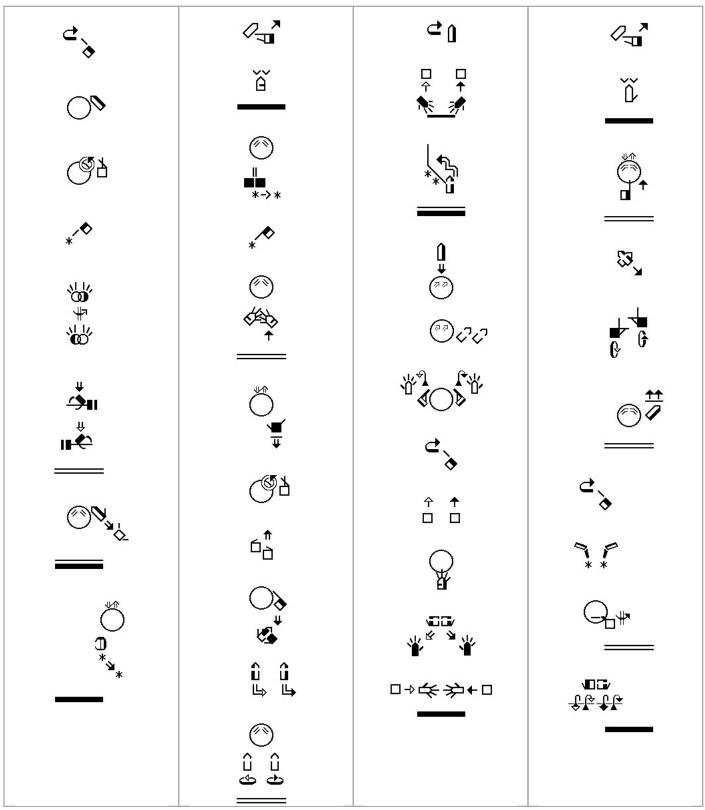
both in my imprisonment and in defending and confirming the truth of the Good News. Verse 8. God knows how much I love you and long for you with the tender compassion of Christ Jesus. Verse 9. I pray that your love will overflow more and more, NLT



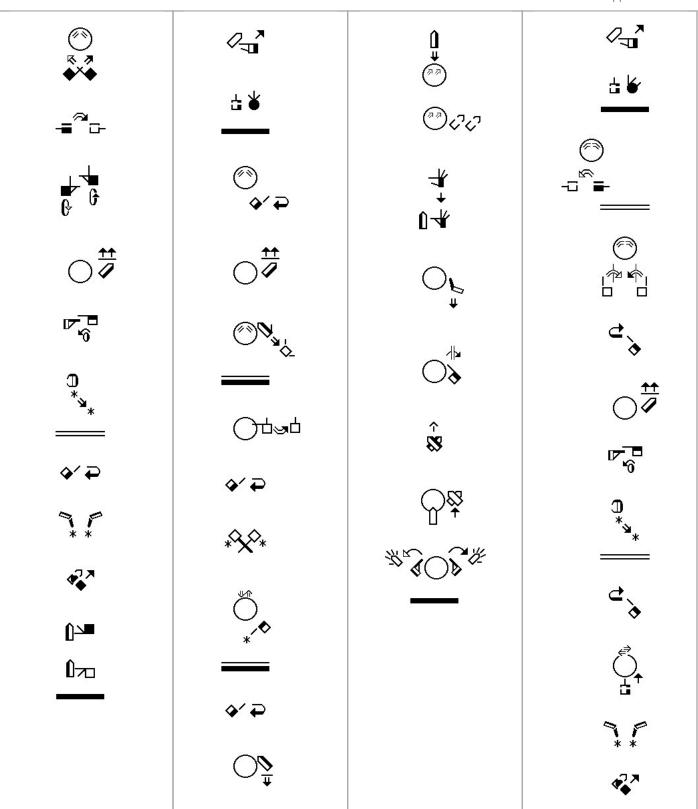
and that you will keep on growing in knowledge and understanding. Verse 10. For I want you to understand what really matters, so that you may live pure and blameless lives until the day of Christ's return. Verse 11. May you always be filled with the fruit of your salvation -- the righteous character



produced in your life by Jesus Christ -- for this will bring much glory and praise to God. Verse 12. And I want you to know, my dear brothers and sisters, that everything that has happened to me here has helped to spread the Good News. Verse 13. For everyone here, including the whole palace guard,

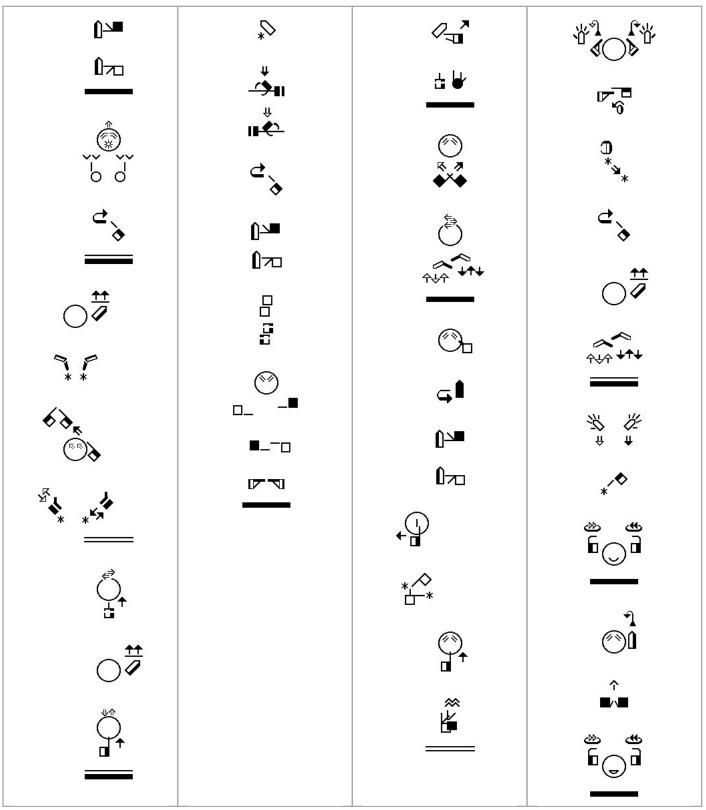


knows that I am in chains because of Christ. Verse 14. And because of my imprisonment, most of the believers here have gained confidence and boldly speak God's message without fear. Verse 15. It's true that some are preaching out of jealousy and rivalry.

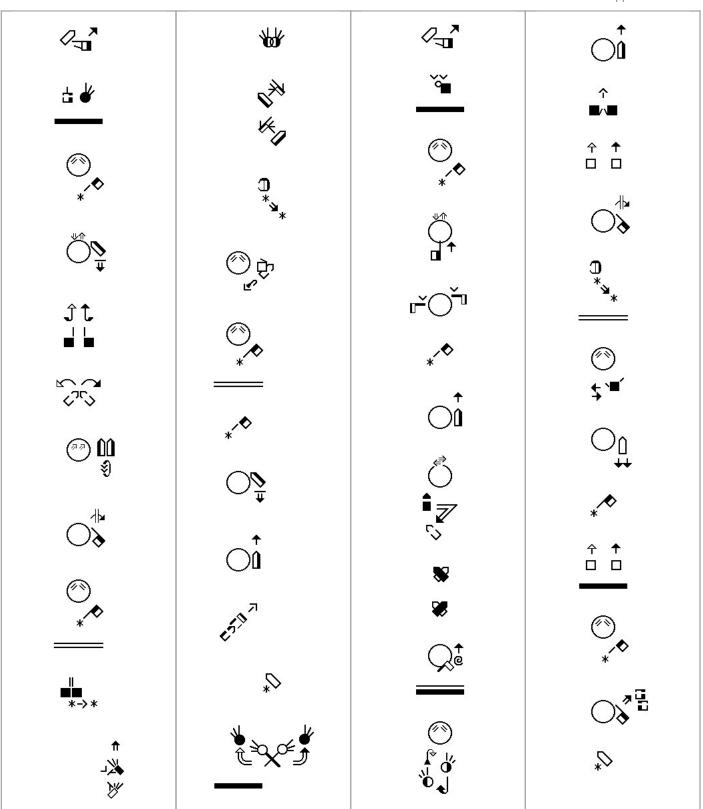


But others preach about Christ with pure motives. Verse 16. They preach because they love me, for they know I have been appointed to defend the Good News. Verse 17. Those others do not have pure

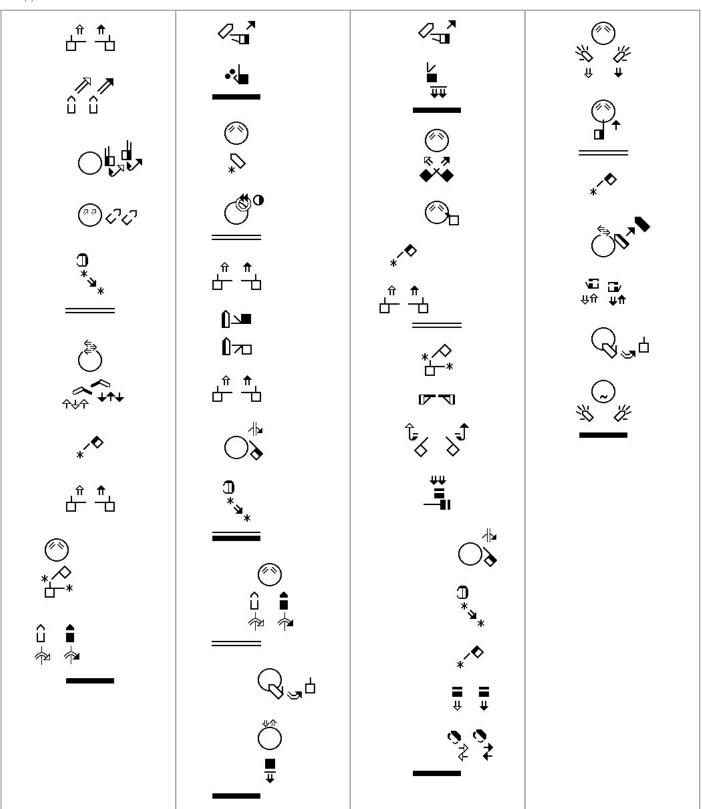
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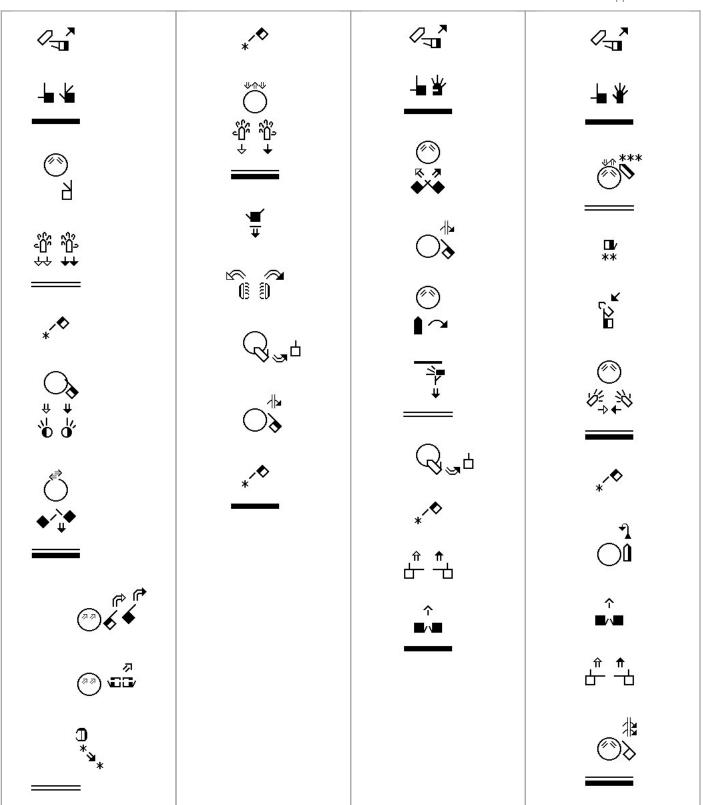
motives as they preach about Christ. They preach with selfish ambition, not sincerely, intending to make my chains more painful to me. Verse 18. But that doesn't matter. Whether their motives are false or genuine, the message about Christ is being preached either way, so I rejoice. And I will continue to rejoice.



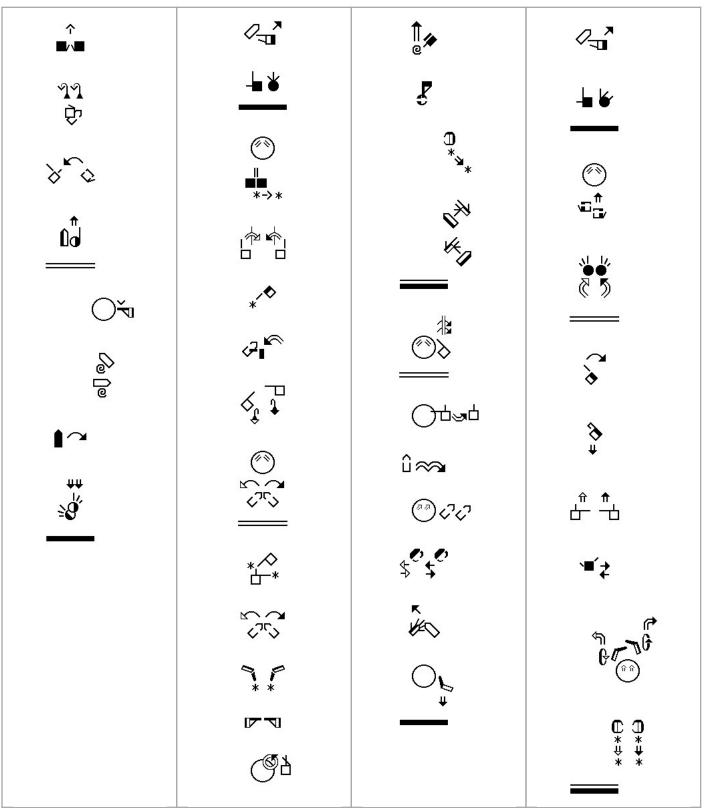
Verse 19. For I know that as you pray for me and the Spirit of Jesus Christ helps me, this will lead to my deliverance. Verse 20. For I fully expect and hope that I will never be ashamed, but that I will continue to be bold for Christ, as I have been in the past. And I trust that my



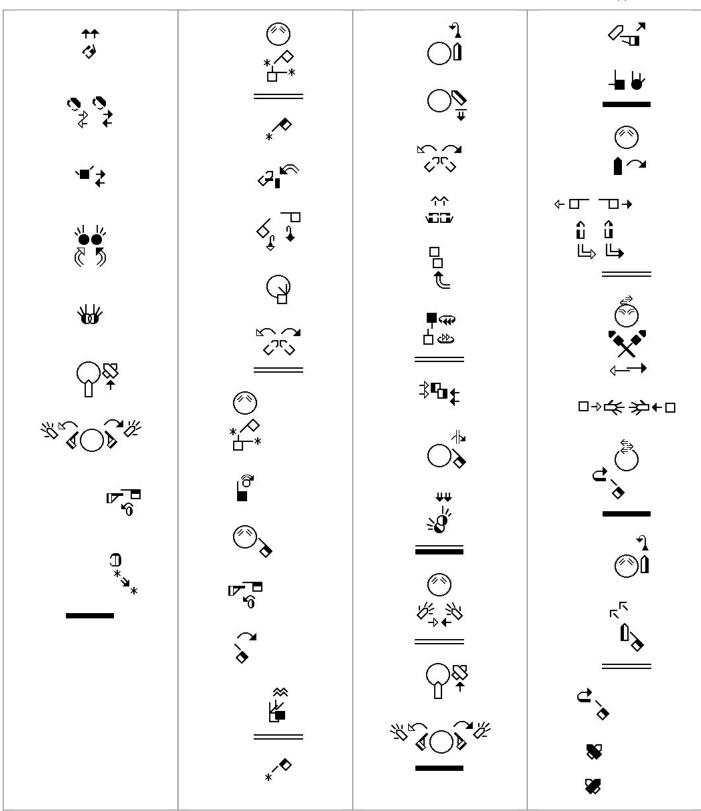
life will bring honor to Christ, whether I live or die. Verse 21. For to me, living means living for Christ, and dying is even better. Verse 22. But if I live, I can do more fruitful work for Christ. So I really don't know which is better.



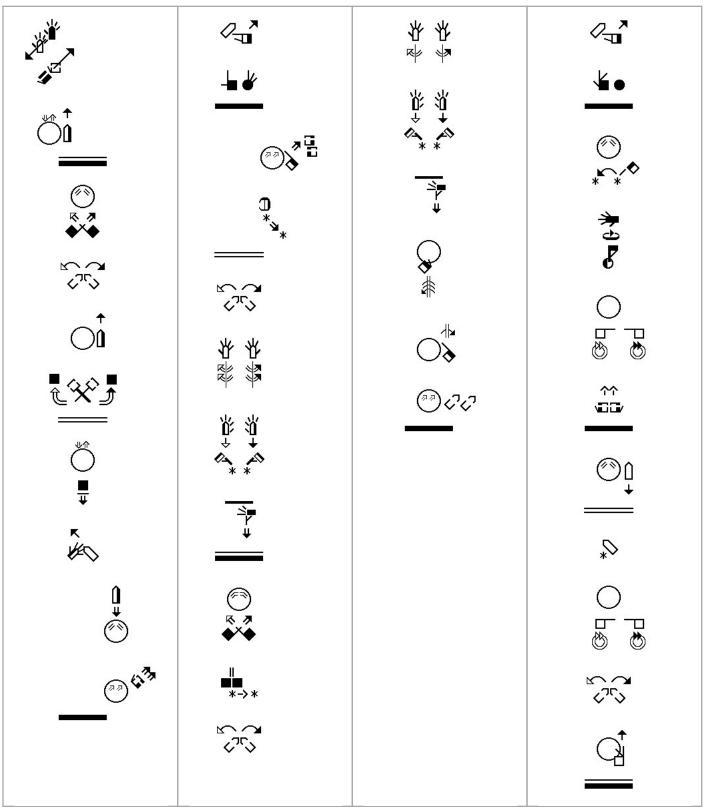
Verse 23. I'm torn between two desires: I long to go and be with Christ, which would be far better for me. Verse 24. But for your sakes, it is better that I continue to live. Verse 25. Knowing this, I am convinced that I will remain alive



so I can continue to help all of you grow and experience the joy of your faith. Verse 26. And when I come to you again, you will have even more reason to take pride in Christ Jesus because of what he is doing through me. Verse 27. Above all, you must live as citizens of heaven,



conducting yourselves in a manner worthy of the Good News about Christ. Then, whether I come and see you again or only hear about you, I will know that you are standing side by side, fighting together for the faith, which is the Good News. Verse 28. Don't be intimidated in any way by your enemies. This will be a sign to them that they



are going to be destroyed, but that you are going to be saved, even by God himself. Verse 29. For you have been given not only the privilege of trusting in Christ but also the privilege of suffering for him. Verse 30. We are in this struggle together. You have seen my struggle in the past,

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