



FIVE TRUTHS

About Who We Are In Christ

Philippians 1:1-6

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All Scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted. • When Pastor Joe's commentary is added, God's Word will be printed in regular faced text with commentary in the smaller faced text. • Biblical words, underlined with dots, are explained in the brackets. Pastor Joe's email is Joe@SouthReno.com.

Introduction to Philippians

- Philippians is a "prison epistle" written from a Roman jail by Paul
- At 104 verses long, it's not a treatise on theology but a letter to dear friends
- "He doesn't give an equation to analyze, but an emotion (Joy) to express!" -J. Phillips
- Theme: **Joy is to be chosen!** It is said that as Benjamin Franklin concluded a stirring speech on the guarantees of the Constitution, a heckler shouted, "Aw, them words don't mean nothin' at all. Where's all the happiness you say it guarantees us?" Franklin smiled and replied, "My friend, the Constitution only guarantees the American people the right to pursue happiness; you have to catch it yourself." Paul sure did! *Paul pursued joy and caught it, now he shares it with us.*
- Paul uses "joy" and/or "rejoice" 16 times in his letter and in all four chapters.
- Point: True Joy comes from the fellowship of unity in **furthering the Gospel** (ie., the sharing of our total dependence on Christ.)
- Key Verses: "For me, to live is Christ and to die, is gain." (Phil. 1:21); "Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say, Rejoice!" (Phil. 4:4).
- The Apostle Paul wrote this letter.
 - "His speeches are really bad" – 2 Cor. 10:10 (just ask Eutychus [Acts 20:9ff])
 - A Fiery Pharisee—who met Christ on the road to Damascus
 - He denied Christ three times at The House of Caiaphas
 - He started more churches and wrote more of the NT than anyone.

Five Truths about Who We Are in Christ – Philippians 1:1-6

1. We _____ as 'servants' and 'saints.'

Philippians 1:1a, NASB - ¹Paul and Timothy, bond-servants [lit., bound together] of Christ Jesus, To all the saints [lit., a declared holiness] in Christ Jesus...

Lydia • A Poor Slave-girl • The Roman Jailer • Many Other People

2. We are _____ at a specific place.

Philippians 1:1b, NASB - ¹...To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi [Paul went there after experiencing a vision calling him to Macedonia—a Roman province in what is now northern Greece], including the overseers and deacons:

3. We have been _____ 'grace' and 'peace.'

Philippians 1:2, NASB - ²Grace [a Greek greeting, here indicating a 'divine, saving gift' to you and peace [a Hebrew greeting, here indicating 'an everlasting gift' of peace] from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

4. We are _____ a 'Paul-like Joy' because of Jesus.

Philippians 1:3-4, NASB - ³I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, ⁴always offering prayer with joy in my every prayer for you all...

'Happiness' comes from circumstances • 'Joy' comes from Christ.

5. We are _____ in His Gospel process.

Philippians 1:5-6, NASB - ⁵in view of your participation in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.

Philippians 1:5, NLT - ⁵for you have been my partners in spreading the Good News about Christ from the time you first heard it until now.

Philippians 1:5, TLB - ⁵because of all your wonderful help in making known the Good News about Christ from the time you first heard it until now.

Life Application Section



True Joy comes from the unity found in furthering the Gospel with our total dependence on Christ.

We are servants (bound together) and saints (declared righteous) of God.

We have God's saving grace, everlasting peace, and a Paul-like joy.

We are called, in this place, to be stewards of the Gospel of Christ so choose joy now.

'Everything that has happened to me here has helped to spread the Good News.'

- Philippians 1:12

Answers: 1. Persevere, 2. Positioned, 3. Presented, 4. Permitted, and 5. Partners