

Joy

Introduction to Philippians
Philippians 1:1–11

Philippians 1:3–4

I thank my God upon every
remembrance of you,

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

Philippians 1:6

He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:

Philippi The Place

- Founded by Phillip of Macedonia.
- On a Roman Trade Road
- It was a Roman Military outpost.

Philippi The Church

- Founded by Paul (2nd missionary Journey)
- It was the 1st church established in Europe
- The church was a financial supporter of Paul

Philippi The Letter

- Paul is in prison in Rome
- Epaphroditus sent to Rome with a gift
- Fell ill, when he recovered, he took the letter back to the church at Philippi

Philippi Paul and the Church

- Paul Greatly loved this church
- Paul Gives Warnings
 - 1) Personal Ambition
 - 2) Judaizers
 - 3) Perfectionism
 - 4) Antinomianism (not saved by keeping the law)

Philippi the People

- Luke Joined the mission team (Acts 16:10)
- Lydia's conversion
- The possessed girl and the merchants
- The Jailer and his house

How Paul Arrived

- The Spirit redirected his journey. (Not Asia)
- At Troas he received a call to Macedonia.
- He traveled on to Philippi.

Why Paul Wrote Philippians

- Thank the church for their support.
- Caution about potential of false teachers.
- Encourage them in the unity of the Spirit.

Paul was a prisoner, yet his letter overflows with thanksgiving, love, and confidence in the Lord.

Philippians 1:1

Paul and Timotheus, the servants of
Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ
Jesus which are at Philippi, with the
bishops and deacons:

Philippians 1:2

Grace be unto you, and peace,
from God our Father, and from the
Lord Jesus Christ.

Philippians 1:5

“For your **fellowship** in the gospel
from the first day until now”

I. I Have You in My Mind

Philippians 1:3–6

Philippians 1:3

I thank my God upon every
remembrance of you,

1) Be Thankful For The People God Has Put In Your Life

Behind the names were faces,
testimonies, and experiences
they had shared.

Remember The Changed Lives

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- **Lydia:** a heart God had opened

Remember The Changed Lives

- **Lydia:** a heart God had opened
- **A Jailer:** a family God had reached

Remember The Changed Lives

- **Lydia:** a heart God had opened
- **A Jailer:** a family God had reached
- **A Church:** a ministry God had established

Remember Your Own Blessings

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- A praying parent

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- A praying parent
- A faithful teacher

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- A praying parent
- A faithful teacher
- An encouraging friend

Remember Your Own Blessings

- A praying parent
- A faithful teacher
- An encouraging friend
- A church family that stood with you

Have A Thankful Memory

We can become so occupied with people's shortcomings that we forget their blessings.

2) Be Thankful for the Partnership God Has Established

The Philippians shared in Paul's ministry through prayer, generosity, and concern.

Philippians 1:4

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

Every Believer Can Contribute

Every Believer Can Contribute

- Some preach and teach.

Every Believer Can Contribute

- Some preach and teach.
- Some give and serve.

Every Believer Can Contribute

- Some preach and teach.
- Some give and serve.
- Some encourage and pray.

The work of Calvary Church
advances as we serve and
work together.

3) Be Thankful for the Progress God Has Promised

Paul's confidence rested in
God's faithfulness.

Philippians 1:6

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:

How God Works In Us

How God Works In Us

- **Salvation:** bringing us to Himself

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- **Salvation:** bringing us to Himself
- **Sanctification:** shaping us like Christ

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How God Works In Us

- **Salvation:** bringing us to Himself
- **Sanctification:** shaping us like Christ
- **Service:** God blesses others through us
- **Success:** God finishes His work in us

God Is Still Working

You may see an unfinished life, but
God has not abandoned His work.

II. I Have You in My Heart

Philippians 1:7–8

Philippians 1:7

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 defense and confirmation of the gospel, ye all are partakers of my grace.

1) A Love That Includes Every Believer

1) A Love That Includes Every Believer

Paul loved the congregation across differences in age, background, personality, and ability.

Christian love must extend
beyond the people who are
easiest for us to enjoy.

2) A Love That Shares Another's Burdens

2) A Love That Shares Another's Burdens

The Philippians' concern became practical help through their gift and the ministry of Epaphroditus.

We should ask these questions

We should ask these questions

- Who needs encouragement?

We should ask these questions

- Who needs encouragement?
- Who needs a visit?

We should ask these questions

- Who needs encouragement?
- Who needs a visit?
- Who needs a meal?

We should ask these questions

- Who needs encouragement?
- Who needs a visit?
- Who needs a meal?
- Who needs help carrying a burden?

Love becomes visible when **concern**
becomes **service**.

3) A Love That Flows from Jesus Christ

The Lord teaches His people to
care, forgive, and show patience.

Philippians 1:8

For God is my record, how greatly
I long after you all in the bowels
(with the deepest love) of Jesus
Christ.

1 John 3:18

My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.

How This Love Works

How This Love Works

- Love the person you find difficult.

How This Love Works

- Love the person you find difficult.
- Forgive the person who hurt you.

How This Love Works

- Love the person you find difficult.
- Forgive the person who hurt you.
- See the person who feels forgotten

III. I Have You in My Prayers

Philippians 1:9–11

Philippians 1:9

And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment;

1) Pray for Growing Love

However long we have known the Lord, there is room to grow in love.

Think about Room to Grow

More compassionate toward the hurting

More patient with one another

More concerned for the lost

More generous in serving others

2) Pray for Godly Discernment

Love must be guided by truth.

We need wisdom to choose what truly matters.

Philippians 1:10

That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ;

Questions That Guide Us

Questions That Guide Us

- Will this help me grow in Christ?

Questions That Guide Us

- Will this help me grow in Christ?
- Will this strengthen another believer?

Questions That Guide Us

- Will this help me grow in Christ?
- Will this strengthen another believer?
- Will this honor the Lord?

3) Pray for Steady Character

Paul wanted their conduct to agree with their confession.

A Clear Testimony

A Clear Testimony

- Sincere in our motives
-

A Clear Testimony

- Sincere in our motives
- Faithful in our conduct

A Clear Testimony

- Sincere in our motives
- Faithful in our conduct
- Careful about our influence

A Clear Testimony

- Sincere in our motives
- Faithful in our conduct
- Careful about our influence
- Are You Ready for Christ's return

Our testimony should be trustworthy
both inside the church and throughout
the week.

4) Pray for Fruitful Lives

- Christlike character
- Holy living
- Loving service
- A faithful witness

Philippians 1:11

Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God.

Our dependence remains on Christ.

Our desire is that God receives the glory.

- Paul was confined, but thankful.

- Paul was confined, but thankful.
- He was separated, but loving.

- Paul was confined, but thankful.
- He was separated, but loving.
- He could not visit, but he could pray.

How Our Joy Grows

- 1) I Have You in My Mind
- 2) I Have You in My Heart
- 3) I Have You in My Prayers

How do I respond this week?

- Whom will you thank God for?
- Whom will you show love to?
- Whom will you pray for faithfully?

The fellowship described in this passage begins with knowing Jesus Christ as your Saviour.