

# Philippians 1

Jesus

## Introduction to the Book of Philippians

<b>Author</b>	Paul the Apostle
<b>Location of Writing</b>	Roman Jail
<b>Date</b>	A.D. 62-70
<b>Recipients</b>	Church of Philippi founded by Paul 11 years prior

- **Philippi:** Roman Colony where Paul planted a church during 2<sup>nd</sup> missionary journey
- **Vision of man calling him:** Heads to Philippi in Macedonia [Greece]
- **First 3 Converts of this Gentile church ...**
  1. **Lydia:** Upper class seller of purple/Paul found praying by river received Gospel
  2. **Roman Jailer:** Paul/Silas singing/ Earthquake/Doors open: **Q.** What must I do to be saved?
  3. **Demon Possessed Fortune Teller** who was badgering Paul...W=Servants of most high didn't need endorsement

**Acts 16:18...** But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And he came out that very hour.

- These three now in front row Church of Philippi

## **Theme:** Availability of Joy and Contentment in Any Situation

- **Ch. 1 Key to Joy:** Making a conscious choice to see good in any/all situations

## I. Greeting

1 Paul and Timothy, **bondservants** of Jesus Christ, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops and deacons: **2** Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

- **From** Paul/Timothy...Bondservants of Jesus. Lit to bind w/chains/give self to another
- **To** Believers/Overseers of the Church of Philippi

### **Grace and Peace to all of you from God**

- **God's Grace leads God's Peace:** In that order...
  1. **Grace:** God's kindness leads us to...
  2. **Repentance** leading to...
  3. **Salvation** leading to...
  4. **Peace w/God** [No longer His enemy] leading to...
  5. **Peace of God** [No matter circumstances...even jail. Theme of this book]

### **Paul the encourager in Chains: Grace and Peace**

## II. Approve what is Excellent

**3** I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, **4** always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, **5** for your fellowship in the

gospel from the **first day** until now

**Every time I think of you, I can't help but thank God for the Salvation we share**

- I was there from the first day 11 Years ago

6 ...being confident of this very thing, that **He who has begun a good work in you will complete it** until the day of Jesus Christ...

**...He who has begun a good work in you will complete it**

- **Good Work began at Salvation**

**John 6:29** "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent."

- **Good Work continues with Sanctification:** Becoming more like Jesus
- **Good Work is completed at Glorification...**

**Romans 8:30** For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that [Jesus] might be the firstborn among many brethren. 30 Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified. [Past tense/done deal]

**Romans 4:17** God... calls those things which **do not exist as though they did**

- In God's economy we are already glorified; seated in heavenlies

**I know He will finish what He started in you...**

7 ...just as it is right for me to think this of you all, because **I have you in my heart**, inasmuch as both in my chains and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers with me of grace. <sup>8</sup> For God is my witness, how greatly I long for you all with the **affection of Jesus Christ...**

- **We share our lives...Knit together in love**
  1. You share my chains when you pray for
  2. I share your heart when I pray for you
  3. Together...We share in God's grace/kindness

**I long for you with the same affection Jesus has for me**

<sup>9</sup>And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in **knowledge** and all **discernment...**

- **What did Paul pray?**
  - A. That their love for would continue to grow
- **Biblical Definition of Love:** Action toward others for their good.

**1 Corinthians 13:4** Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; 5 does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; 6 does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; 7 bears all

things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 8 Love never fails.

- Love is not giving people everything they want, telling them what they want to hear

**Love is like a river; Beautiful/Refreshing within its banks**

Destructive and hurtful when it rises above its banks: **Knowledge/Discernment**

- **Knowledge:** What you already know about the person/situation. Be shrewd
  1. e.g. If previous help led to laziness...more help may be enabling and not loving
  2. e.g. If previous advice led to disregarding/ignoring you may be wasting time
- Knowledge: What you already know. Bank on other side of river...
- **Discernment:** What God is telling you to do
  1. e.g. Even with past knowledge is God overriding your conclusion?

**Proverbs 16:9** A man's heart plans his way, But the Lord directs his steps.

2. e.g. Specifying exact time/place/action[s] should take place? Should I wait?

**2 Corinthians 6:6** ...sincere love

**1 Timothy 1:5** ...love from a pure heart

**We don't coddle/commend/enable sin. That's not loving. That's self-love**  
V 9 **Let your love abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment...**

**<sup>10</sup> that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ<sup>11</sup> being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.**

- **Approve only what is excellent because...**

Approving everything anyone wants to do is not love...**it's self-love.**  
**Modern definition of tolerance is demonic/destructive**

**Romans 12:9** Let love be without hypocrisy. **Abhor what is evil.** Cling to what is good.

- **When we approve what is excellent and abhor what is evil...**
  1. We act in sincerity
  2. We will be without offence [blameless]
  3. We will bear good fruit [good change] in those who listen

God will be glorified as people turn to Him because we did not shrink back from Truth

**John 15:8** By this **My Father is glorified**, that you bear much fruit

- E.g. Jesus loved perfectly in knowledge/discernment
  1. Jesus loved the Pharisees: Your father is the devil. Don't kid yourself
  2. Jesus loved the repentant sinner: Go and sin no more. I do not condemn you

## SUMMARY Approve what is Excellent

### III. Christ Is Preached

**12** But I want you to know, brethren, that the things *which happened* to me have actually turned out for the **furtherance of the gospel**, **13** so that it has become evident to the whole **palace guard**, and to all the rest, that my chains are in Christ; **14** and most of the brethren in the Lord, having become confident by my chains, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

If you think my work for the Lord has stopped because I am in Prison...**think again**

- In prison Paul wrote **Ephesians, Philippians** and **Colossians**
- Gospel is still going forth in places it never could before. Here and there...
  1. **Here:** Caesar's guards ask why I'm here...and they get an earful. Getting saved

**Philippians 4:22** [Paul concludes Philippians...] All the saints greet you, but especially those who are of Caesar's household. [i.e. Caesar Nero]

2. **There:** Those outside of Rome other believers hear of my boldness...

**... and are empowered to speak the Word without fear!**

- The Word is being preached...

**15** Some indeed preach Christ even from **envy and strife**, and some also from **goodwill**: **16** The former preach Christ from selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my chains; **17** but the latter out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel.

- Some preach the true gospel but with **wrong motives**
  1. Recognition as BGG's
  2. Selfish Ambition

People putting down Paul to lift themselves up. Saying things like...

**"Paul's in prison because he's on God's naughty list...we're taking his place"**

- Some preach the true gospel with wrong motives: Self
- **Some preach the true gospel with right motives: Love of God/man**

**Paul's attitude throughout NT:** "If you preach the true gospel, I don't care what your motives are. If your motives are bad, God will deal with you – but at least the gospel is preached. **But... if you preach a false gospel**, I don't care how good your motives are. You are dangerous and must stop preaching your false gospel, and good motives don't excuse your false message." [Galatians] [Guzik]

- True Gospel is being preached even while I am chained...

**18 What then?**

**Okay...what then? What am I saying?**

**18... Only *that* in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is preached**

- **God is working in every situation...no matter what it looks like**

**Romans 8:28** ...we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.

- God can work even using flawed people w/ wrong motives...

**Genesis 50:20** [Joe to bro's] ... you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive.

- **Christ is being preached...**people are being saved. God will deal with motives.

**18b... and in this I rejoice, yes, and will rejoice.**

**SUMMARY Christ is Preached I will rejoice.** See good. See glass ½ filled...concise e choice of mind/will. We can't change our hearts but we can change our minds. When we change our minds God can change our hearts. Jon Courson

Paul could have let things he heard in prison eat him up. He could have badmouthed the Philippians to the guards. Instead he chose to encourage others and rejoice.

#### **IV. To Live Is Christ**

**19** For **I know that this will turn out for my deliverance** through your prayer and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, **20** according to my earnest expectation and hope that **in nothing I shall be ashamed...**

#### **Don't rebel in the valley**

- If I choose self-pity, I will be ashamed later when God reveals what He is doing...

...so, I will choose to rejoice so that...**In nothing shall I be ashamed**

"...my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed..." We will all feel very much ashamed if we do not yield to Jesus the areas of our lives He has asked us to yield to Him. It's as if Paul were saying, "My determined purpose is to be my **utmost for His highest— my best for His glory.**" To reach that level of determination is a matter of the will, not of debate or of reasoning. It is absolute and irrevocable surrender of the will at that point. An undue amount of thought and consideration for ourselves is what keeps us from making that decision, although we cover it up with the pretense that it is others we are considering [**destructive Self-awareness** mine]. When we think seriously about what it will cost others if we obey the call of Jesus, we tell God **He doesn't know** what our obedience will mean. Keep to the point— He does know. Shut out every other thought and keep yourself before God in this one thing only— **my utmost for His highest.** I am determined to be absolutely and entirely for Him and Him alone. [Oswald Chambers]

I am determined to rejoice no matter How deep/long the valley...  
That when God comes through, I will not be ashamed...

**20b... but with all boldness, as always, so now [even in jail] also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death.**

My Unstoppable Determination for His Holiness. "Whether it means life or death-it makes no difference!" Paul was determined that nothing would stop him from doing exactly what God wanted. [For most of us] ...before we choose to follow God's will, **a crisis must develop** in our lives. This happens because we tend to be **unresponsive to God's gentler nudges**. He brings us to the place where He asks us to be our utmost for Him and we begin to debate. He then **providentially produces a crisis** where we have to decide— for or against. That moment becomes a great crossroads in our lives. If a crisis has come to you on any front, surrender your will to Jesus absolutely and irrevocably. [Oswald Chambers]

Paul is a bond servant of Christ...surrendered to God's will...because it is good  
**Paul's Boldness to magnify the Lord even if it means death...**

▪ **Context of Paul's Boldness in Rome? Not on the beach...**

1. Caesar Nero using Christian covered in tar and burning as lamps for his garden parties as he rode naked in his chariot screaming like a demon
2. Caesar has his games in Coliseum. Christians torn apart. [Paul Roman citizen must get trial]

▪ **Paul also wrote Ephesians from prison...**

**Ephesians 6:19** [Pray for me...] that utterance may be given to me, that **I may open my mouth boldly** to make known the mystery of the gospel, **20 for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.**

▪ **Magnify Christ in my body:** Make God big to those Listening/Watching

1. **Words of Faith:** Gospel is Words
2. **Actions of Faith:** Words are [should be] adorned by our lives

**I am determined to magnify the Lord even if it means my death...**

**<sup>21</sup> For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.**

**What are they going to do...kill me?**

**Romans 14:8** For if we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, **we are the Lord's.**

- **To live is Christ** With Jesus here. Victory in Tribulation in this world
- **To die is gain?** With Jesus there. NO Tribulation...ever again. **War over.**

**<sup>22</sup> But if I live** on in the flesh, this *will mean fruit* from *my* labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell. **<sup>23</sup> For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better.**

- If I live, I will continue bear fruit. She lives changed but...
- Death is far better for me...

**Psalms 16:11b** [David]... In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

- So much for soul sleep

**2 Corinthians 5:8** We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be **present with the Lord**. Not just a taste but a banquet

<sup>24</sup> Nevertheless to remain in the flesh *is* more needful for you. <sup>25</sup> And being confident of this, **I know that I shall remain and continue** with you all for your progress and joy of faith, <sup>26</sup> that your rejoicing for me may be more abundant in Jesus Christ by my **coming to you again**.

- You still need me. I think the Lord is going to keep me here
- Paul was set free and eventually visited Philippians

**SUMMARY To Live is Christ**

## **V. Striving and Suffering for Christ**

<sup>27</sup> Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ,

- **While you wait for me...**Practice what you preach...not just talk but walk

**Ephesians 4:1** [I beg you...] **walk worthy of the calling with which you were called**, [What does that look like?] <sup>2</sup> with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love...

**Conduct worthy of a saved forgiven heaven bound child of God**

- **Conduct:** Lit. to live as a citizen. Here, citizen of Kingdom of God
- **I was your example...**

**1 Thessalonians 2:10** You are witnesses, and God also, how devoutly and justly and blamelessly we behaved ourselves among you who believe; <sup>11</sup> as you know how we **exhorted, and comforted**, and charged every one of you, as a **father does his own children**, <sup>12</sup> that you would **walk worthy of God** who calls you into His own kingdom and glory. Follow our example

**What you Say vs What you do:** Equal weight on each side of a scale  
**God saved you from your sins...Let it be reflected in your lives**

- Let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ
  1. The One who loved you
  2. The One who forgave you
  3. The One who died for you

**27b...**so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you **stand fast in one spirit**, with **one mind** striving together for the faith of the gospel, <sup>28</sup>and not in any way terrified by your adversaries, which is to them a proof of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that from God.

- Be one with each other: God hates division... Paul addressing women fighting

**1 Corinthians 1:10** Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be **no divisions among you**, but that you be perfectly joined together in the **same mind** and in the same judgment.

- **One Spirit:** Seek unity through commonality of the Holy Spirit

**Ephesians 4:3** endeavor... to keep the **unity of the Spirit** in the bond of peace. [How? Word]

- One Spirit...
- **One mind:** Think the same...biblically truthfully soundly. Not crazy like the world

**Romans 12:2...** not be conformed to this world, but **be transformed** by the renewing of your mind [How? Word]

**We all need to be brainwashed by the Word of God:** Same Spirit/Same Mind of Christ striving together to see people saved even in the midst of persecution

**28** and not in any way terrified by your adversaries, which is to them a proof of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that from God.

- **Bold in the face of adversity:** Proof to God's enemies of their fate if they keep it up
- Nana story: Saved by the blood of Jesus Christ. **What are they going to do kill me?**

When our spiritual enemies fail to make us afraid, they have failed completely because they really have no other weapon than **fear and intimidation**. [Guzik]

- **One Father, One Spirit, One Savior:** Sweet Fellowship between believers  
Strive together for the common purpose of the Gospel  
Don't fight with one another ... Your brothers and sisters are not the enemy
- But we will have enemies Jesus said he did not come to bring peace but the sword...

**29** For to you it has been **granted** on behalf of Christ, not only to **believe** in Him, but also to **suffer** for His sake, **30** having the same conflict which you saw in me and now hear *is* in me.

- **We have the same conflict:** Stay suffer/bear fruit **or** die and be with Christ?

**Common to all true believers? Salvation and Suffering  
Sharing the Good News and getting a Bad Reaction**

**Matthew 5:11 Blessed are you when they revile** and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. **12** Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for **great is your reward in heaven**

- Suffering for an obedient Christian is sure to happen ...should not take us by surprise...

**1 Peter 4:12 Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial** which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; **13** but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy.

- Don't fight/contend w/one another. Suffer with one another. Comfort one another  
Book of Philippians dares us to thank God in the midst of suffering



Book of Philippians will challenge us to expect/experience Joy in the midst of trials

- How to in Chapter 2

**SUMMARY Striving and Suffering for Christ**

**Ch. 1 Key to Joy?** Making a conscious choice to see good in any/all situations