



The Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the PHILIPPIANS

Chapter 1:1-7

“REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS!”

> **AUTHOR:** Paul was in Rome, in prison, when he wrote this epistle to the church in Philippi.

> **Date:** 60 - 62A.D.

> **THEME:** “*REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS!*”

> **KEY VERSE:** “*For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.*” – Philippians 1:21

> **KEY WORD:** “*REJOICE or JOY*” is used in Philippians some 16 times, in the whole Bible we find “rejoice or joy” some 357 times! That’s almost enough for every day of the year!

- To have *JOY* you must put things in order:

<i>J- JESUS</i>		<i>Me</i>
<i>O- OTHERS</i>	<i>not</i>	<i>Myself</i>
<i>Y- YOU</i>	<i>&</i>	<i>I</i>

- *The word REJOICE speaks of being "cheerful", i.e. calmly happy or well-off. The word REJOICE is used throughout the New Testament in the following way: As to this verb, the following are grounds and occasions for "rejoicing," on the part of believers: in the Lord, <Phil. 3:1; 4:4>; His incarnation, <Luke 1:14>; His power, <Luke 13:17>; His presence with the Father, <John 14:28>; His presence with them, <John 16:22; 20:20>; His ultimate triumph, <8:56>; hearing the gospel, <Acts 13:48>; their salvation, <Acts 8:39>; receiving the Lord, <Luke 19:6>; their enrollment in Heaven, <Luke 10:20>; their liberty in Christ, <Acts 15:31>; their hope, <Rom. 12:12> (cf. <Rom. 5:2; Rev. 19:7>); their prospect of reward, <Matt. 5:12>; the obedience and godly conduct of fellow believers, <Rom. 16:19>, RV, "I rejoice" (KJV, "I am glad"); <2 Cor. 7:7,9; 13:9; Col. 2:5; 1 Thes. 3:9; 2 John 4; 3 John 3>; the proclamation of Christ, <Phil. 1:18>; the gospel harvest, <John 4:36>; suffering with Christ, <Acts 5:41; 1 Pet. 4:13>; suffering in the cause of the gospel, <2 Cor. 13:9> (1st part); <Phil. 2:17> (1st part); <Col. 1:24>; in persecutions, trials and afflictions, <Matt. 5:12; Luke 6:23; 2 Cor. 6:10>; the manifestation of grace, <Acts 11:23>; meeting with fellow believers, <1 Cor. 16:17>, RV, "I rejoice"; <Phil. 2:28>; receiving tokens of love and fellowship, <Phil. 4:10>; the "rejoicing" of others, <Rom. 12:15; 2 Cor. 7:13>; learning of the well-being of others, <2 Cor. 7:16>.*

> **CHAPTER OUTLINE:**

CHAPTER 1 - “CHRIST—OUR CONFIDENCE!”

CHAPTER 2 - “CHRIST—OUR UNITY!”

CHAPTER 3 - “CHRIST—OUR HOPE!”

CHAPTER 4 - “CHRIST—OUR STRENGTH!”

> *Back to the future: SALVATION AT PHILIPPI – Acts 16:6-40*

➤ **HIS VISION (v6-10) – WILLING HEARTS!**

➤ **HIS MISSION (v11-29) – FAITHFUL HEARTS!**

- Lydia & household—**SAVED!**

- *Demon possessed girl set free!* (Literally she believed she was possessed of the spirit of Apollo, spirit of divination literally reads a *python*, which was the sacred serpent of Apollo. Apollo means “god of divine distance.” Have heard of the Apollo space program. Paul in dealing with this girl may have said “Houston, we have a problem!” Better put, “Jesus, we have a problem!”)

- *What does God say about spiritism?* (Deut. 18:9-14; Rev. 9:20,21; Rev. 21:7,8)

Satan’s work is:

Deceiving

Distracting

Disturbing

Disrupting

Devastating

Divisive

God’s work is:

Revealing

Realizing

Refreshing

Regenerating

Releasing

Reuniting

➤ **HIS SALVATION (v30-34) - “Don’t be held under your circumstances, get above them through prayer and praise!”**

- Philippian Jailer and household is **SAVED!**

- *Bishop John Taylor Smith used to tell how when he was Chaplain-General of the British Army, during WWII, the candidates for chaplaincy were brought to him and always had to answer one question: “Now, I want you to show me how you would deal with a man. We will suppose I am a soldier who has been wounded on the field of battle. I have three minutes to live, and I am afraid to die because I do not know Christ. Tell me, how may I be saved and die with assurance that all is well?” If the applicant began to beat about the bush and talk about the true Church and ordinances and so on, the good Bishop would say, “That won’t do. I have only three minutes to live. Tell me what I must do.” And as long as Bishop Smith was Chaplain-General, unless candidate could answer that question, he could not become a chaplain in the Army.*

➤ **HIS VINDICATION (v35-40) - Keep government in check. Right is right & wrong is wrong! America is a government of the people, by the people and for the people!**

CHAPTER 1 - "CHRIST—OUR CONFIDENCE!"

(v1-7) REJOICE AND BE CONFIDENT!

(v1a) Bondservants – What makes a bondservant? Matthew 20:26-28 - "*whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave-- just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.*"

(v1b) Bishops & Deacons – What are the qualifications of a bishop and deacon? – 1 Timothy Ch. 3

(v2) All Christians must embrace fully and completely God's GRACE and PEACE.
- GRACE - Ephesians 2:8-9 - *For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.*

- PEACE - Romans 5:1,2 - *Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.*

(v3-5) ACTION POINTS OF PRAYER: Be a man or woman of PRAYER!

> PRAY with THANKSGIVING to GOD, for EVERYTHING and EVERYONE!

> PRAY for OTHERS!

- FELLOWSHIP - "*to have in common*" – Notice that our fellowship is in the "gospel!" Here's the Biblical blueprint for great fellowship - Acts 2:37-47

> We observe EIGHT CHRISTIAN DISCIPLINES OF THE EARLY CHURCH:

#1 – STUDY THE WORD OF GOD (2 Timothy 2:15)

#2 – FELLOWSHIP WITH OTHER BELIEVERS (CHURCH) (Hebrews 10:24-25)

#3 – BREAKING OF BREAD (COMMUNION) (1 Corinthians 11:23-34)

#4 – PRAYER (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

#5 – GIVING (sharing with one another) (2 Corinthians 9:6-8)

#6 – PRAISING GOD (Hebrews 13:15; 1 Peter 2:9-10)

#7 – Having FAVOR with all the people (UNITY) (Ephesians 6:6-8)

#8 – SOUL-WINNING (Mark 16:15-16)

(v6-7) 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!

- *The work God does for us is salvation;*
- *The work God does in us is sanctification;*
- *The work God does through us is the opportunity to serve.*

> **GOOD WORK:**

W - Worship of God (prayer & praise)

O - Obedience to the Word (disciple) – Psalm 1

R - Reconciling Sinners - 2 Corinthians 5:18-1 - And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.

K - Kingdom Work – Notice Paul writes in verse 7 in the “DEFENSE and CONFIRMATION of the GOSPEL!” (Observations: 2 Corinthians chapter 11; Galatians 1:6-8; 2 Timothy 3 – 4:1-7)

> Memory verses: Philippians 1:6; 1:21; 2:9-11; 3:13,14; 4:6,7; 4:8; 4:13; 4:19

“Let’s be CONFIDENT IN CHRIST and let’s GO 4 GOD!”