

# Philippians Part 1 HANDOUT

11/5/23

Jesus is worth every piece of our lives. We can live for Jesus fully even when surrounded by hostility. We can thrive in difficult times and even discover joy.

God gave Paul a dream that he was to go to Philippi... and God begin to change the spiritual direction of an entire continent

**KEY:** God is the one that guides our path, whether God allows our steps or keeps us from it.

**ACTS 16:13-15** On the Sabbath we went outside the city gate to the river, where we expected to find a place of prayer. We sat down and began to speak to the women who had gathered there. 14 One of those listening was a woman from the city of Thyatira named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth. She was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message. 15 When she and the members of her household were baptized, she invited us to her home. "If you consider me a believer in the Lord," she said, "come and stay at my house." And she persuaded us.

**KEY:** It was never Paul's intention to start a church here, but it was God's intention for the Gospel to go from Asia to Europe.

Paul is writing this letter from prison in Rome - Theme of Joy.

**KEY:** No matter what it is that we're going through...if we knew what God knows, we would want to be exactly in this time and exactly in this place

**Philippians 1:1a** Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus,

- It was an honored position.

**Philippians 1:1b** To all God's holy people in Christ Jesus at Philippi, together with the overseers and deacons

- This letter is designed for everyone.

**Philippians 1:3-6** I thank my God every time I remember you. <sup>4</sup> In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy <sup>5</sup> because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, <sup>6</sup> being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

Why was Paul full of joy? Because of their partnership in the Gospel being spread

**Philippians 1:7-8** <sup>7</sup> It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me. <sup>8</sup> God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

We are designed for **relationship!**

- As followers of Christ, we are members of Christ's body (1 Cor. 12:14–21), and hence, by definition, we belong to each other.
- When we fail to connect with each other we are failing to connect with Jesus.
- Whether you are in a wounded or healthy position when it comes to the church, we can all take practical steps toward loving the Christians God has placed in our lives.

**Philippians 1:9-11** And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, <sup>10</sup> so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, <sup>11</sup> filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

**KEY:** When Christian community is healthy, we can experience the same joy, gratitude, and love Paul expresses for the Philippians

**Life POINT:** Following Jesus means we love his people.