

## Philippians 1:1-5 “Praying with Joy”

### **Introduction**

- When Paul was arrested in Jerusalem for allegedly bringing a Gentile into the temple, he was brought to Caesarea in Palestine to await his trial.
- He stayed in jail in Caesarea for two years, then when he appealed, he was sent to Rome.
- While in Rome (Acts 28:30-31), he was allowed to keep his own apartment, but he was also chained to a Roman guard twenty-four hours a day. These guards were known as the Praetorian Guards, part of a group of 10,000 soldiers whose job it was to protect Caesar.
- It is under these conditions, somewhere around the years 61-63 A.D. that **Paul writes several letters known as the “Prison Epistles”**.
- These include the letters of Paul to the **Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon**.
- The Apostle Paul wrote this letter to his personal and close friends in the church of Philippi.

### **1:1 Paul and Timothy, servants of Jesus**

#### **Phil 1:1**

1 Paul and Timothy, bondservants of Jesus Christ, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops (*i.e. Elders or Overseers*) and deacons:

#### **A. Paul**

(Expound) **Acts 9** and forward in the Book of Acts.

#### **B. and Timothy:**

Timotheus (*Timotheos*) – (Timothy) “honoring God”; a resident of Lystra apparently, whose father was a Greek and mother a Jewess (**Acts 16**).

He was Paul’s traveling companion and fellow laborer and **Paul’s son in the faith**.

#### **C. bondservants of Jesus Christ**

servants (*doulos*) – a servant, a slave, bondman, (read **Exodus 21** – Bondservant is one who chooses to be a servant for life)

God desires that we all be servants of Jesus Christ.

In serving Jesus, we will be called to serve one another. But we also need to be careful about who our eyes are fixed upon. If we forget we are serving Jesus and get our eyes upon man, we will find ourselves getting disappointed over and over again.

God wants us to keep it straight. We are servants of Jesus. To whom and how Jesus chooses for us to serve, we will gladly give our lives, but our eyes must never leave the one to whom we do it all for, that is Jesus.

#### **D. To all the saints in Christ Jesus**

saints (*hagios*) – most holy thing, a saint, set-apart ones

Many think that this refers to a select group of people that the Catholic church approved to be a “saint”.

**The New Testament concept of “saints” is, all believers.**

**Every believer is a “saint”**. Every believer has been “set aside” for God’s special use (the definition of “holy”, that is to be set apart for God’s use).

Each one of us in this room who are believers in Jesus Christ are “saints” and that status is given to us as a gift by God the Father the moment we believed in Jesus as our Savior.

#### **E. who are in Philippi**

This city, **Philip of Macedonia, called it after his own name Philippi** (B.C. 359), after he fortified the old Thracian town of Crenides.

Philippi is one of the cities of Macedonia, located on or near the northern coast of the Aegean Sea, between the rivers Strymon and Nestus, and the cities Neapolis and Amphipolis.

In the time of the Cesar Augustus this city became **a Roman colony**, i.e., a military settlement of Roman soldiers.

It was a "**miniature Rome**," under the municipal law of Rome, and governed by military officers, called “duumviri”, who were appointed directly by Rome.

#### **F. with the bishops (i.e. Elders or Overseers)**

**bishops** (*episkopos*) – Literally an overseer; overseeing the spiritual aspects of the church. In our New Testament vocabulary today it is, “Pastors”.

#### **G. and deacons**

**deacons** (*diakonos*) – a servant, attendant, a waiter, one who serves food and drink; a minister; the servant of a king;

**In the New Testament Church** - a deacon, godly man (Acts 6) - One who serves the church faithfully, helping oversee the particule needs of the church. For example, he cares for the poor and has charge of and distributes the money and food collected for those in need.

### **1:2 Grace to you and peace from God the Father and from the Son Jesus**

#### **Phil 1:2**

2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

#### **A. Grace to you**

**grace** (*charis*) – grace; God’s unmerited favor, that is a favor and blessing that we don’t deserve. God’s Love, mercy, forgiveness, kindness, patience is given to us as a gift and in no way are we worthy of it, nor can we earn it.

#### **B. And Peace**

**peace** (*eirene*) – harmony, concord; security, safety, prosperity

**Of Christianity** - the tranquil state of a soul assured of its salvation through Christ (**1 John 4:18**), and so fearing nothing from God and content with its earthly lot (**Rom 8:28**).

This is a typical greeting among Christians of the first century.

The order is always “grace” and *then* “peace”. The Greek (Charis) and the Jewish (Hebrew word; Shalom) Shalom – Peace, complete health (spirit, soul and body), from a “fractured person” to a “whole person” (spirit, soul and body).

**C. Grace and Peace together:**

Chuck Smith called these the “Siamese twins” of the New Testament, because they are often together, always in this order.

You don’t have the “Peace” of God until you first have received the “Grace” of God, and that is by Faith alone.

One cannot know the “peace” of God in our lives until we first understand that our relationship with God is based upon His “unmerited favor” towards us. In particular, not because of our good works or any other origination from “ourselves”, but it a gift given to us out of God’s grace.

**D. From God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ**

-From the Father and completed by the Son, by Him being punished for our sins.

**John 3:16**

16 "For God (*i.e. referring to the Father*)so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son (i.e. Jesus), that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

**John 5:24**

24 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.

**John 1:12-13**

12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:

13 who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, **but of God.**

**Matt 10:40** (NLT)

“Anyone who receives you receives me, and anyone who receives me receives the Father who sent me.

**1 John 5:11-13**

11 And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son.

12 He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.

13 These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.

<b>1:3 Remembering you cause me to praise God</b>
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**Phil 1:3**

3 I thank my God upon every remembrance of you,

### A. I Thank my God

I thank (*eucharisteo*) – to be grateful, feel thankful; give thanks

You might of heard of the “Eucharist” a word the Catholics use for the taking of Communion (i.e. the term the Protestants use)

The word is not incorrect in its usage because it focuses on the great desire and joy our Lord Jesus when He has communion with us. **“A communion table of Thanks and Joy”**

#### Luke 22:15-19

15 Then He said to them, **“With fervent desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you** before I suffer; 16 "for I say to you, I will no longer eat of it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." 17 Then He took the cup, and **gave thanks**, and said, "Take this and divide it among yourselves; 18 "for I say to you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes." 19 And He took bread, **gave thanks** and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, "This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me."

### B. upon every remembrance of you

Paul looked back **fondly at his memories of the church in Philippi.**

- This was a church that Paul had founded, along with the help of Silas and Timothy. (**Acts 16:12-40**)
- The church began with a group of folks meeting down by a river.
- A wealthy woman named Lydia got saved, and they began meeting in her house.
- This became the first church in Europe.
- A young slave girl who told fortunes by being possessed with a demon began to follow Paul around until after several days, Paul turned and cast the demon out of the girl.
- When her masters found out what had happened, they had Paul and Silas beaten and thrown into jail.
- At midnight, Paul and Silas were singing praises to God when an earthquake struck.
- And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them. (**Acts 16:25**)
- The jailer was going to kill himself because he expected all the prisoners to have fled, but when he found that they were all still there, he ended up getting saved.
- Later, when the city officials found out that Paul was a Roman citizen, they had Paul released and asked him to leave the city.
- It appears that later, when Paul had gone on to Berea and Thessalonica, he sent Silas and Timothy back through Macedonia to strengthen the churches. (**Acts 17:14; 18:5**)

1:4 I pray for you with Joy in my heart
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**Phil 1:4**

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

#### A. always in every prayer of mine making request for you

prayer (*deesis*) – supplication, request out of need and a want; a seeking, an asking, an entreating to God.

**B. making request for you all**

making request (*deesis*) – same word translate as “prayer”.

We'll be looking at some of the things that Paul prayed for the Philippians.

**Phil 1:9-11**

9 And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment,

10 that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ,

11 being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

**C. with joy**

joy (*chara*) – joy, gladness

One of the main words you'll see through Philippians is joy and rejoicing.

**18 Times** Paul uses the word **Joy**, **Rejoice**, **Gladness**, **Thanks** and **Thanksgiving**.

**Phil 1:4** ....making (prayer) request for you all **with joy**,

**Phil 1:25** ... for your progress and **joy of faith**,

**Phil 2:2**

2 **fulfill my joy** by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.

**Phil 4:1**

1 Therefore, my beloved and longed-for brethren, **my joy and crown**, so stand fast in the Lord, beloved.

**D. Acronym – “J.O.Y.”**

Many use the Acronym – “J.O.Y.” – **Jesus**, then **Others**, then **You**.

Meaning that **Paul explains that Joy comes in the life of a Believer** when he learns to put **Jesus first**, **Others next**, and **Yourself last**.

<b>1:5 Paul is thanking the church for Partnering with Paul in his evangelist ministry</b>
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**Phil 1:5**

5 for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now,

**Phil 1:5 (NLT)**

**5 because you have been my partners in spreading the Good News about Christ from the time you first heard it until now.**

**A. for your fellowship in the gospel**

fellowship (*koinonia*) – fellowship, joint participation, partnership.

From the very beginning of the Philippian church, these folks had helped to support Paul financially. For this he is grateful.

**Phil 4:10-19**

10 But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at last your care for me has flourished again; though you surely did care, but you lacked opportunity.

11 Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content:

12 I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.

13 I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

14 Nevertheless you have done well that you shared in my distress.

15 Now you Philippians know also that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church shared with me concerning giving and receiving but you only.

16 For even in Thessalonica you sent aid once and again for my necessities.

17 Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that abounds to your account.

18 Indeed I have all and abound. I am full, having received from Epaphroditus the things sent from you, a sweet-smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God.

19 And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

**B. from the first day until now**

They were a church willing to “DO” the Christian life. In particular in supporting the evangelistic ministry of the Apostle Paul.

<b>Conclusion</b>
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