

Philippians

United in Joy

Outlines and Study Questions

Country Club Road church of Christ

Spring 2021

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Preface

Welcome to our study of Philippians. This small letter is chock-full of timely and applicable lessons for us as individuals and as a congregation. My hope and prayer are that we all come away with a thorough understanding of what the Bible teaches about joy and how it applies to us today at the end of this study.

To achieve this goal, let's go over a few points about how to use this material:

- Each lesson should be completed *before* class. One of my rules for teaching is, “*The success of the class depends on you!*” That means both the teacher and the student.
- The full text of Philippians is provided in the book. This is done so we as a congregation can utilize the inductive Bible study method¹ in our Bible classes. So, please make full use of the provided text by marking it up!
- The study questions should be viewed as the beginning of your study, not the whole of it. Please answer the questions but also record any other observations or questions that you have.

Each chapter of this booklet will include four things:

1. Brief chapter outline.
2. Full text of the chapter.
3. Helpful notes on parts of the chapter that can add insight to your study.
4. Study questions.

I am excited to begin this journey through Philippians with you all.

¹ Inductive method is simple careful observant reading of the text. For a fuller treatment please see our YouTube playlist on How to Study the Bible. Available on our YouTube channel “Country Club Road Church of Christ – Tucson.”

Introduction and Background

Author: The Apostle Paul **v.1**

Recipients: Saints at Philippi, including the Overseers and Deacons.

Date of Writing: Paul was sent to Rome to await his legal appeal to Caesar (see **Acts 25:9, 11, 26:32**). This was around 60 A.D. During Paul's time in prison, the church at Philippi sent a brother named Epaphroditus to Paul to help supply his needs (**Phil. 2:25, 4:10-18**). This was about two years after Paul's imprisonment, so we can say the letter was written around 62 A.D.

The church at Philippi: Read **Acts 16:9-40**.

The City of Philippi: Was in the Roman province of Macedonia. It sat along a vital trade route through the region called the *via Egnatia*. It also had natural gold and silver deposits nearby, making it an important economic center as well.

The Romans conquered in 146 B.C. during their conquest of the Macedonians and made Philippi a Roman colony. The city would decline over the next 100 years. The famous battle of Actium in which Octavian (Augustus) defeated Mark Antony was in 42 B.C.

Octavian then declared himself emperor of the Roman Empire, taking the name Augustus. Years after the decisive battle of Actium, Augustus sent many of Mark Antony's supporters and officers to live in Philippi.

As a Roman colony, Philippi enjoyed many benefits such as tax exemption status, residents enjoyed citizenship status², and Philippi was allowed self-governance. In many ways, Philippi was a Rome away from Rome.

² Citizenship was not automatic in Rome. It was either by lineage that could be traced back to a citizen of the city of Rome itself or it could have been bought with a large amount of money.



A map of Paul's Asia and European portion of the second missionary journey.

Source: <http://classic.net.bible.org/map.php?full=jp2>

Reason for Writing: Philippians is, in a way, a thank you letter from Paul to the Philippian church (**Phil. 4:10, 15-20**). Another reason for writing is to let the Philippians know that Epaphroditus is alive and okay (**Phil. 2:23-26**).

The Letter's theme: A good theme for this letter would be united in joy. Joy is a repeated theme in the letter, and Paul emphasizes the fellowship they have in the joy of the Gospel and Christ. **Philippians 4:4** can serve as our theme verse for this letter.

Study Questions:

1. Read through the letter in one sitting³ and record what you found interesting, confusing, have questions about, etc.
2. Please create a brief outline of the letter (A blank outline is provided in the back of this booklet).
3. There is a blank survey chart at the back of this booklet. After you have read through the letter, please begin to fill this chart out.
4. Since joy is a major theme of the letter, please go through the letter and list every place where *joy* or *rejoice* or synonyms are found.

³ Philippians takes about 14-15 minutes to read.

Chapter One:

- I. Greeting **vv.1-2**
 - II. Paul's prayer for the Philippians **vv.3-11**
 - III. The Gospel is Preached **vv.12-20**
 - a. The Gospel is not imprisoned **vv.12-18a**
 - b. I will rejoice **vv.18b-20**
 - IV. To live is Christ **vv.21-30**
 - a. To live is Christ; to die is gain **vv. 21-26**
 - b. Live worthily of the Gospel **vv.27-30**
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Philippians 1

¹ Paul and Timothy, servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus who are at Philippi, with the overseers and servants:
² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

³ I thank my God whenever I remember you, ⁴ always in every request of mine on behalf of you all, making my requests with joy, ⁵ for your partnership in furtherance of the Good News from the first day until now; ⁶ being confident of this very thing, that he who began a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷ It is even right for me to think this way on behalf of all of you, because I have you in my heart, because both in my bonds and in the defense and confirmation of the Good News, you all are partakers with me of grace. ⁸ For God is my witness, how I long after all of you in the tender mercies of Christ Jesus.

⁹ This I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and all discernment, ¹⁰ so that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense to the day of Christ, ¹¹ being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

¹² Now I desire to have you know, brothers, that the things which happened to me have turned out rather to the progress of the Good News, ¹³ so that it became evident to the whole palace guard, and to all the rest, that my bonds are in Christ, ¹⁴ and that most of the brothers in the Lord, being confident through my bonds, are more abundantly bold to speak the word of God without fear. ¹⁵ Some indeed preach Christ even out of envy and strife, and some also out of good will. ¹⁶ The former insincerely preach Christ from selfish ambition, thinking that they add affliction to my chains; ¹⁷ but the latter out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the Good News.

¹⁸ What does it matter? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed. I rejoice in this, yes, and will rejoice. ¹⁹ For I know that this will turn out to my salvation through your prayers and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, ²⁰ according to my earnest expectation and hope, that I will in no way be disappointed, but with all boldness, as always, now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death. ²¹ For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. ²² But if I live on in the flesh, this will bring fruit from my work; yet I don't know what I will choose. ²³ But I am hard pressed between the two, having the desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better. ²⁴ Yet to remain in the flesh is more needful for your sake. ²⁵ Having this confidence, I know that I will remain, yes, and remain with you all for your progress and joy in the faith, ²⁶ that your boasting may abound in Christ Jesus in me through my presence with you again.

²⁷ Only let your way of life be worthy of the Good News of Christ, that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your state, that you stand firm in one spirit, with one soul striving for the faith of the Good News; ²⁸ and in nothing frightened by the adversaries, which is for them a proof of destruction, but to you of salvation, and that from God. ²⁹ Because it has been granted to you

on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in him, but also to suffer on his behalf, ³⁰ having the same conflict which you saw in me and now hear is in me.

Helpful Notes:

- **v.10** – *Day of Christ*. i.e., Final judgment.
- **v.15** – Not false teachers here because Paul rejoices in that they are preaching the Gospel (**v.18**). He laments that these preachers are seeking to further their own interests (ex. reputation) at the expense of Paul.
- **v.18** – Rejoice (root concept *joy*) – “Positive human condition that can be either feeling or action.”⁴
- **v. 22** – Flesh – Not sin or sinful conduct (**Gal. 5:17-21; Rom. 8:13**). Rather, the flesh is used here as referring to the physical body.

⁴ Elwell, W. A., & Beitzel, B. J. (1988). [Joy](#). In *Baker encyclopedia of the Bible* (Vol. 2, p. 1224). Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House.

Philippians 1 Study Questions:

1. What do we learn about the church in **vv.1-2**?
2. List what Paul specifically prayed for the Philippian brethren:
3. How would you describe Paul's attitude in **vv.12-20**? How can a person have this same attitude?
4. How did Paul view life and death? **vv.21-26**. What or who informed Paul's views?
5. How might we "Conduct [ourselves] in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ" (**v.27a**)?

Chapter Two:

- I. Be Like Christ **vv.1-18**
 - a. Since there is a blessing in Christ **vv.1-2**
 - b. Be selfless **vv.3-5**
 - c. As Christ was selfless **vv.6-11**
 - d. Work out your own salvation **vv.12-13**
 - e. Prove yourselves children of God **vv.14-18**
 - II. Timothy, Epaphroditus: Examples of Christlikeness **vv.19-30**
 - a. I am sending Timothy and Epaphroditus **vv.1-24**
 - b. Why I am sending Epaphroditus **vv.25-30**
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Philippians 2

¹If therefore there is any exhortation in Christ, if any consolation of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any tender mercies and compassion, ²make my joy full by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind; ³doing nothing through rivalry or through conceit, but in humility, each counting others better than himself; ⁴each of you not just looking to his own things, but each of you also to the things of others.

⁵Have this in your mind, which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, existing in the form of God, didn't consider equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, being made in the likeness of men. ⁸And being found in human form, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to the point of death, yes, the death of the cross. ⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him, and gave to him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, those on earth, and those under the earth, ¹¹and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

¹²So then, my beloved, even as you have always obeyed, not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence, work out

your own salvation with fear and trembling. ¹³ For it is God who works in you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

¹⁴ Do all things without complaining and arguing, ¹⁵ that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without defect in the middle of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you are seen as lights in the world, ¹⁶ holding up the word of life, that I may have something to boast in the day of Christ that I didn't run in vain nor labor in vain. ¹⁷ Yes, and if I am poured out on the sacrifice and service of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. ¹⁸ In the same way, you also should be glad and rejoice with me.

¹⁹ But I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, that I also may be cheered up when I know how you are doing. ²⁰ For I have no one else like-minded, who will truly care about you. ²¹ For they all seek their own, not the things of Jesus Christ. ²² But you know that he has proved himself. As a child serves a father, so he served with me in furtherance of the Good News. ²³ Therefore I hope to send him at once, as soon as I see how it will go with me. ²⁴ But I trust in the Lord that I myself also will come shortly.

²⁵ But I thought it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother, fellow worker, fellow soldier, and your apostle and servant of my need, ²⁶ since he longed for you all, and was very troubled because you had heard that he was sick. ²⁷ For indeed he was sick nearly to death, but God had mercy on him, and not on him only, but on me also, that I might not have sorrow on sorrow. ²⁸ I have sent him therefore the more diligently, that when you see him again, you may rejoice, and that I may be the less sorrowful. ²⁹ Receive him therefore in the Lord with all joy, and hold such people in honor, ³⁰ because for the work of Christ he came near to death, risking his life to supply that which was lacking in your service toward me.

Helpful Notes:

- **v.1** – The word “if” in the verse is not used to express doubt. “If” here carries the idea of “since,” i.e., “Since there is...” The verse is not conveying doubt but assurance.
- **v.6** – “grasped” NASB has the footnote of “i.e., utilized or asserted.” What Paul is saying here is that Jesus did not regard His position in heaven as something to *cling* to. That is, He did not regard Himself as being above service.
- **v.7** – “emptied” – Lit. He laid aside His privileges.
- **v.12** – “Work out your salvation.” Brother Forest Moyer offers this helpful note:
 - “Christians are to “work out” – carry to its conclusion – God’s work in us. Human agency is absolutely essential in our salvation just as Divine agency is essential” (Moyer 1978, 31).

Philippians 2 Study Questions:

1. What attitude is presented in **vv.1-5** that we are to have? How is it described?
2. How can we be of the same mind? **v.2**
3. In what ways did Christ show Himself as an example of this attitude? **vv.5-11**
4. How are Timothy and Epaphroditus examples of Christlikeness? **vv.19-30**
5. What do we learn about Epaphroditus and his character from **vv.25-30**?

Chapter Three:

- I. No trouble for me **v.1**
 - II. Warning about false teachers **vv.2-6**
 - III. The greatness of Christ **vv.7-15**
 - a. All things counted as loss **vv.7-11**
 - b. I press on **vv.12-16**
 - IV. Walk according to the pattern **vv.17-21**
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Philippians 3

¹ Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord! To write the same things to you, to me indeed is not tiresome, but for you it is safe.

² Beware of the dogs; beware of the evil workers; beware of the false circumcision. ³ For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh; ⁴ though I myself might have confidence even in the flesh. If any other man thinks that he has confidence in the flesh, I yet more: ⁵ circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ concerning zeal, persecuting the assembly; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, found blameless.

⁷ However, I consider those things that were gain to me as a loss for Christ. ⁸ Yes most certainly, and I count all things to be a loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus, my Lord, for whom I suffered the loss of all things, and count them nothing but refuse, that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own, that which is of the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith, ¹⁰ that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, becoming conformed to his death, ¹¹ if by any means I may attain to the resurrection from the dead. ¹² Not that I have already obtained, or am already made perfect; but I press on, that I may take hold of that for which also I was taken hold of by Christ Jesus.

¹³ Brothers, I don't regard myself as yet having taken hold, but one thing I do: forgetting the things which are behind and stretching forward to the things which are before, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ Let us therefore, as many as are perfect, think this way. If in anything you think otherwise, God will also reveal that to you. ¹⁶ Nevertheless, to the extent that we have already attained, let's walk by the same rule. Let's be of the same mind.

¹⁷ Brothers, be imitators together of me, and note those who walk this way, even as you have us for an example. ¹⁸ For many walk, of whom I told you often, and now tell you even weeping, as the enemies of the cross of Christ, ¹⁹ whose end is destruction, whose god is the belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who think about earthly things. ²⁰ For our citizenship is in heaven, from where we also wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who will change the body of our humiliation to be conformed to the body of his glory, according to the working by which he is able even to subject all things to himself.

Helpful Notes:

- **v.2** – “the dogs...evil workers... false circumcision.” Paul refers to the group of false teachers known as the Judaizers. They taught that part of the Old Testament law was still necessary for Christians, such as circumcision. They trusted in their ability to keep law (i.e., what they did) rather than in the work of Jesus.
- **v.3** – “True circumcision.” Not literal but spiritual. Just as physical circumcision marked Israel as members of the Old Covenant, the “true circumcision” marks believers as members of the New Covenant. This spiritual circumcision is done by the Holy Spirit (**Rom. 2:28-29**) in baptism (**Titus 3:5; Col. 2:11-12**).
- **v.12** – Paul, as spiritually minded and mature as he was, did not believe that he had yet obtained perfection. He, too, had to continue to grow, study, learn, put off the old man, and actively seek to put on the new.
- **v.15** – “Perfect.” **τέλειος** (from **τέλος**, ‘final end’), (a) *full-grown, mature, complete*, having reached its utmost development.”⁵

⁵ Souter, A. (1917). [*A Pocket Lexicon to the Greek New Testament*](#) (p. 258). Oxford: Clarendon Press.

Philippians 3 Study Questions:

1. List how Paul describes himself to the Judaizers **vv.4-6**
2. What are the characteristics of the true circumcision? **v.3**
3. How does true righteousness come? **v.9**
4. What did Paul say that he had not obtained? And what did he resolve to do? **vv.12-16**
5. Whose example should we follow? **vv.17-21**

Chapter Four:

- I. Think of Excellence **vv.1-9**
 - a. Stand firm in the Lord **v.1**
 - b. Live in harmony **vv.2-3**
 - c. Rejoice always **vv.4-7**
 - d. Think on these things **vv.8-9**
 - II. God provides **vv.10-23**
 - a. The secret of contentment **vv.10-14**
 - b. Thank you for your gift **vv.15-20**
 - c. Final greeting and blessing **vv.21-23**
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Philippians 4

¹ Therefore, my brothers, beloved and longed for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

² I exhort Euodia, and I exhort Syntyche, to think the same way in the Lord. ³ Yes, I beg you also, true partner, help these women, for they labored with me in the Good News with Clement also, and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always! Again I will say, "Rejoice!" ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord is at hand. ⁶ In nothing be anxious, but in everything, by prayer and petition with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus.

⁸ Finally, brothers, whatever things are true, whatever things are honorable, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report: if there is any virtue and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹ Do the things which you learned, received, heard, and saw in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

¹⁰ But I rejoice in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your thought for me; in which you did indeed take thought, but you lacked opportunity. ¹¹ Not that I speak because of lack, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content in it. ¹² I know how to be humbled, and I also know how to abound. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret both to be filled and to be hungry, both to abound and to be in need. ¹³ I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. ¹⁴ However you did well that you shared in my affliction. ¹⁵ You yourselves also know, you Philippians, that in the beginning of the Good News, when I departed from Macedonia, no assembly shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving but you only. ¹⁶ For even in Thessalonica you sent once and again to my need. ¹⁷ Not that I seek for the gift, but I seek for the fruit that increases to your account. ¹⁸ But I have all things and abound. I am filled, having received from Epaphroditus the things that came from you, a sweet-smelling fragrance, an acceptable and well-pleasing sacrifice to God. ¹⁹ My God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. ²⁰ Now to our God and Father be the glory forever and ever! Amen.

²¹ Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The brothers who are with me greet you. ²² All the saints greet you, especially those who are of Caesar's household.

²³ The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

Helpful Notes:

v.5 – *Gentle spirit*. “L.H. Marshall gives a full description of its meaning as ‘fairmindedness, the attitude of a man who is charitable towards men’s faults and merciful in his judgment of their failings because he takes their whole situation into his reckoning.’”⁶

v.6 – *Anxious* – To be troubled with excessive care.

v.8 – *Dwell* – Literally to ponder these things.

⁶ Martin, Ralph P. (1987). *Philippians*. Tyndale New Testament Commentaries (p. 170). Grand Rapids, MI: IVP Eerdmans.

Philippians 4 Study Questions:

1. How can I let my gentle spirit be known to all people? **v.5**

2. What solutions do we find in the text for the problem of anxiety?
What other passages might we consider on this topic?

3. Why are our thoughts important?

4. How can we apply **Philippians 4:8**?

5. What is the secret that Paul learned? What is the key for us to learn this secret as well? **vv.12-13**

6. What is God able to do for us? **v.20**

Outline of Philippians:

- I. _____
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____

- II. _____
 - a. _____
 - b. _____

- III. _____
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____

- IV. _____
 - a. _____
 - b. _____

Philippians At A Glance:

Author: Date: Purpose: Theme:

Key Words: *Imprisonment, Christ Jesus, Joy (rejoice), Mind (attitude), Gospel, Prayer.*

Chapters:	1	2	3	4
Chapter Titles:				
¶ Titles:				

Additional Notes:

[illegible]

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