

Philippians

Contents

Philippians 1	2
Philippians 1:1-7	3
Philippians 1:8-11	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Philippians 1:12-18	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Philippians 1:19-30	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Philippians 2	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Philippians 3	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Philippians 4	Error! Bookmark not defined.

Philippians 1

Scriptures:

1 Corinthians 2:2 - For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.

Ephesians 3:14-19 - For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, 15 from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, 16 that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, 17 that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height—19 to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

Notes:

Philippi was a city in the area of Macedonia – modern day Greece. Was known for gold mines. Paul visited Philippi in about 51 AD on his second missionary journey ([Acts 16](#)) and it is believed that the church formed here was the first one in Europe.

Philippi is where Paul met Luke – the writer of the gospel of Luke. He was trained in medicine. Luke joined Paul on his journey from Philippi.

Reason why Paul wrote the letter. It was in response to a gift of support that had arrived for Paul while he was in prison in Rome. The date of the letter is between 61 and 63 AD. The gift was carried by Epaphroditus to Paul. At some point Epaphroditus got very ill (almost died). After he recovered, he carried Paul's letter back to the church in Philippi.

Philippi got its name from Philip II – the father of Alexander the Great.

Philippi was a Roman city in Macedonia.

There are some who believe that we should teach children how to think and not what to think. The bible disagrees – both are equally important to teach.

“One’s manner of life is truly a reflection of what occupies his mind.” (Lightner, 2004) page 647

Theme:

The adequacy or sufficiency of Christ and the resulting joy that Christ’s sufficiency brings into the life of a believer.

“Christ gives joy and triumph whatever may come, if He is allowed to be the center of life.” (Unger, 1967) page 685

Key verses of Philippians:

[Philippians 4:4](#) - Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!

[Philippians 1:21](#) - For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

Series Title ideas:

The Joy of Knowing Christ!
Living in the Joy of Knowing Christ!
Knowing Christ – Knowing Joy!
The Joy of Faith!

Title ideas:
The Joy of Knowing His
Good Work!

Scriptures:

Matthew 1:21 - And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins."

John 4:24-25 - The woman said to Him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When He comes, He will tell us all things." 26 Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am He."

Romans 1:16-17 - For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. 17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith."

Galatians 3:28 - There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 4:11-12 - And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ...

Acts 6:1-4 - Now in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. 2 Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, "It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. 3 Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; 4 but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word."

Philippians 1:1-7 - The Joy of Knowing His Good Work!

1 Paul and Timothy, bondservants of Jesus Christ,

1401 – "slave n. — a person who is legally owned by someone else and whose entire livelihood and purpose was determined by their master.

Notes:

'Paul and Timothy' – Timothy had been with Paul when he founded the church in Philippi. It is likely that Paul dictated the letter to Timothy.

'bondservant' – 'doulos' = servant or slave – either voluntarily or involuntarily. Occurs 127 times in the New Testament.

to all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi,

40 – holy, pure, God's people, Set apart as holy unto the Lord

Paul did not feel he needed to use his title of Apostle as there was no need for significant correction in this letter.

'Jesus' – the name given to Him before He was conceived ([Matt. 1:21](#)).

'Christ' – The Greek translation of the Hebrew word for Messiah. The promised and expected deliverer of the Jewish people. When the Christ appeared, the Jews expected to be delivered from the oppression of the Roman empire. Jesus didn't come the first time to do that, but to deliver them from the oppression of their own sins.

Jesus was and claimed to be the Messiah ([John 4:24-25](#)).

Jesus did not come to be the Messiah only for the Jews ([Rom. 1:16](#)).

'saints' – "One must not seek for saints in heaven only, but find them already upon earth. He who does not become a saint here will not be one there." Starke - Logos

'bishops' = literally 'overseers' – Everyone is equal in the church ([Gal. 3:28](#)) but not everyone has the same role ([Eph. 4:11](#)). Bishops, elders, overseers, and pastors are appointed by God through the church for the purpose of maintaining order in the church in accordance with His Word and the leading of the Holy Spirit.

'deacons' – have the role of ministering to the physical needs of the body of Christ in the church ([Acts 6:1-4](#)).

Within the church we are all 'saints'

with the bishops and deacons:

1985 – 'overseers'


1249 – 'servant, one who serves, without necessarily having the office of deacon', 'deacon, one entrusted to serve the needs of believers', "deacon n. — a person in the office of deacon who cares for the needs and livelihood of an assembly of believers.

Scriptures:
John 14:27 - Peace I leave
with you; My peace I give
to you; not as the world
gives do I give to you. Let
not your heart be troubled,
neither let it be afraid.

² Grace to you  and peace from God our Father

Notes:
'peace' was the common greeting
when Christians encountered one
another. This is not a worldly peace
but a heavenly peace ([John 14:27](#)).

"Before there can be any genuine
peace there must be a personal
response to God's grace, His
unmerited favor manifested
climactically at Calvary." (Lightner,
2004) page 649

and the Lord Jesus  Christ.

Scriptures:

Galatians 3:1 – O foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you that you should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed among you as crucified?

³ I thank my God upon every remembrance of

3417 – remember
and mention

you,

Notes:

With the exception of the introduction this letter is written in the first person singular. This is Paul's heart being expressed to the Philippians.

'thank my God' – Paul is thankful for the work God has accomplished in the Philippians. Paul was realistic in his thoughts about the churches he was involved with. Not all of the were acting in a manner that he could 'thank my God' (Gal. 3:1).

'my God' – A right relationship with God is intimate and personal. In the same way that when I refer to Kelly as my wife – I am differentiating my relationship with her from other people.

Paul is in a Roman prison and rather than thinking of himself and his circumstances he is thinking of others, like the Philippians.

What do you do when God brings someone to your remembrance?

Scriptures:

⁴ always in every prayer of mine making request

1162 – plea,
prayer, petition

Notes:

Hardships, difficulties, and trials can work in us to make us better or they can make us bitter. It is faith in God that will determine which is true for you. Paul, in a Roman prison where one of the possible outcomes was death did not become bitter.

for you all with joy,

5479 – gladness,
state of rejoicing,
happiness – “joy
(emotion) n. —
the emotion of
great happiness
and pleasure.”

Scriptures:

⁵ for your fellowship in the gospel from the first

2842 - fellowship, close mutual association, share, participation, willing contribution, gift – “participation fellowship n. — the act of sharing in the activities or privileges of an intimate association or group; especially used of marriage and churches.

2098 – the good news –
“gospel of Jesus n. — good
news concerning the now
present instantiation of
Jesus’ divine dominion and
way of salvation by His death
and resurrection.

Notes:

‘fellowship’ – may be referring to the gift the Philippians had sent to support Paul in his work.

‘fellowship in the gospel’ – fellowship carries the idea of sharing, specifically sharing life. When Paul refers to fellowship in the gospel He is referring to sharing in the labor of the ministry of the gospel. True fellowship is sharing in the community and in the labor, whether it be physically or financially.

day until now,

Scriptures:

John 6:28-29 - Then they said to Him, "What shall we do, that we may work the works of God?"

29 Jesus answered and said to them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in Him whom He sent."

Romans 8:29 - For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

1 Corinthians 1:30-31 - But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption—31 that, as it is written, "He who glories, let him glory in the LORD."

Romans 12:1-2 - I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.
2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

1 John 2:2-3 - Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. 3 And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

1 Corinthians 15:51-53 - Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. 53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

⁶ being confident of this very thing, that He who

3982 – be
convinced

has begun a good work in you will complete it

1728 -

18 –
morally
good
John 6:29

2041 -

2005 – finish,
attain a goal

until the day of Jesus Christ;

891 -

Notes:

"Blessed be God, the work of grace is in the hands of one who never leaves His work unfinished."

(Spurgeon, 2015) page 10

Once God pours out the grace of salvation into a human, He will finish the work of salvation and bring that person ultimately to Him in heaven. No power in heaven or on earth can prevent God from finishing His work.

"Does the sinner take the first step? How can he? He is dead in sin. If he takes the first step apart from the Spirit of God, he can take all the rest without God." (Spurgeon, 2015) page 11

'good work' = salvation. The process of completing the good work is called sanctification. It is the process by which God transforms us from lost sinners into the image of His Son Jesus Christ (Rom. 8:29). There are three stages of sanctification – initial, progressive, and ultimate. Initial sanctification happens at the moment of salvation. Through faith in Christ, we are covered by the righteousness of Christ (1 Cor. 1:30). The second stage is progressive sanctification. This stage is the process of changing believer's thoughts, attitudes, and behavior to more reflect the perfection of Christ. It is a gradual, moment-by-moment process (Rom. 12:1-2). The more we cooperate in the process, more good comes into and out of our lives. The third and final stage is ultimate sanctification. Once we leave this earth we will be perfected (1 John 2:2-3). That verse also has the idea of our cooperation with the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

"Conversion is a work comparable to the making of a world. He only who fashioned the heavens and the earth could create a new nature." (Spurgeon, 2015) page 12

Scriptures:

John 4:7-10 - A woman of Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give Me a drink." 8 For His disciples had gone away into the city to buy food. 9 Then the woman of Samaria said to Him, "How is it that You, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?" For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans. 10 Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water."

Psalms 34:8 -

Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good; Blessed is the man who trusts in Him!

⁷ just as it is right for me to think this of you all,

1342 - proper

Notes:

'defense' – "apologia" – we get the word 'apologetics' from this word.

Paul's affection for the Philippians is a response to the grace of God that he sees operating in them.

'confirmation of the gospel' – the lives of the Philippians proved the truth of the gospel message.

"A living argument is invincible." (Spurgeon, 2015) page 15

Every believer should live as a confirmation of the gospel.

Imagine, someone comes to you and tells you that they know of a lake where the purest water on earth exists. This water refreshes and satisfies even into your soul. Our response might be, 'Take me to this lake so that I might taste it and be satisfied.' He responds and tells you that he can't take you to the lakes but he can take you to one of the streams and rivers that flows from this lake. You go to first one, dip in a cup and lift it up to the light and see that it is swimming all forms of creatures. You wouldn't drink it. He takes you to another, in goes your cup and the water is an orange color – not very appealing. The next stream contains water that smells nasty. Stream after stream has water that is not drinkable. You would quickly doubt the truth the perfect lake exists.

Jesus said that anyone who comes to Him by faith would have 'rivers of living water flowing' (John 4:7-10) out of their lives. Sin in our lives corrupts and pollutes the living waters of Christ. God is calling us all to live lives that help others to taste and see that God is good (Psa. 34:8).

because I have you in my heart, inasmuch as both

in my chains and in the defense and confirmation

627 – "apologia"

951 - verification

of the gospel, you all are partakers with me

4791 – partner, companion, sharer

of grace.

5485 – "grace n. — goodwill freely disseminated (by God); especially to the benefit of the recipient regardless of the benefit accrued to the disseminator."

[Top of Section](#) [Top of Chapter](#)