


Philippians 1 - Joy

FOR TO ME
TO LIVE IS
CHRIST,

AND TO
DIE
IS GAIN.

PHILIPPIANS 1:21



Opening Questions

- Who is the most joyful Christian you know and why?
- What brings us our joy in Christ?
- How should we behave as Christians



Co-writer – Apostle Paul

- Born as Saul in Tarsus (on the southern coast of modern-day Turkey). Likely borne about the same time as Jesus.
- Schooled as a Pharisee under the Jerusalem religious famous Gamaliel.
- Became a traveling missionary and preacher for the early church; renamed Paul.
- Worked as an artisan who made tents – maybe subcomponents
- Was imprisoned multiple times by the Roman authorities for his religious agitation.
- Believed to have co-written 6 letters to the churches.
- Died sometime between AD 62–64; Paul, believed to be in Rome.



- **AD 33 Damascus – Direct conversion**
- **AD 33-36 Arabia – Receiving direct revelation from the Lord (Gal 1)**
- **3 missionary journeys to Asia minor**
- **AD ~55-60 Wrote Philippians on first imprisonment in Rome**
- **One of 4 Prison Epistles (Ephesians, Colossians, Philemon, Philippians)**

1 Paul and Timothy, bondservants of Jesus Christ,
To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the
bishops and deacons:

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

3 I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, 4 always
in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy,
5 for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until
now, 6 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; 7 just as it is right for me to think this of you
all, because I have you in my heart, inasmuch as both in my
chains and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel,
you all are partakers with me of grace. 8 For God is my
witness, how greatly I long for you all with the affection of
Jesus Christ.

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.

V1: How does Paul describe himself and Timothy?

- *Doulos* – willing slaves

V4: What kind of prayer does Paul cite?

- Deesis – A prayer of supplication or intercession on behalf of the Philippians

V4-7: Why does Paul have joy when praying for the Philippians?

- “I thank my God” - God was using the Philippians to support and love Paul
- Their deep-seated fellowship, or *koinonia*
- Knowing God “has begun” is used only here and in Gal 3:3 to mean complete their salvation (V6)
- Their partnership in his difficulties – The Philippians sent Epaphroditus and money to him in Rome

V8: What is longing with affection?

- This is the strongest Greek word to indicate compassionate love from your most inner parts

V9: What is Paul's prayer for them?

- Knowledge – love anchored in biblical truths, not sentiment
- Discernment – perceptive, practical application of knowledge, distinguishing the truth

V10: How do we know what is excellent?

- Testing for authenticity, to focus on the right priorities

V10: What does it mean to be sincere?

- Not “glued” together with wax (statues) that would melt in the sun

V11: Better translated “fruits that righteousness produces.” What is that?

- Means “filled to the full” by the Holy Spirit in union with Christ (John 15:4-5)
- The glory of God is every Christian's endeavor

12 But I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel, 13 so that it has become evident to the whole palace guard, and to all the rest, that my chains are in Christ; 14 and most of the brethren in the Lord, having become confident by my chains, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

15 Some indeed preach Christ even from envy and strife, and some also from goodwill: 16 The former preach Christ from selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my chains; 17 but the latter out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel. 18 What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is preached; and in this I rejoice, yes, and will rejoice.

v12: What had happened to Paul?

- Imprisoned once a again, chained to a guard 24 hours a day

v13-14: Why was Paul joyous?

- Everyone around him heard the gospel truth
- Christians all around saw that Paul's joy was not driven by his circumstances, and they didn't have to be afraid
- Paul's difficulties actually spread the gospel

v18: How could Paul be joyous when he was under constant slander and attack, even from within the church?

- In every situation where others were either trying to harm him, or help him, the gospel was preached

v18: What was Paul's motivation in life?

- To spread the truth about Christ
- To spread the gospel
- To save souls
- Not to get "credit"

19 For I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayer and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, 20 according to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so 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 mean fruit from my labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell. 23 For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better. 24 Nevertheless to remain in the flesh is more needful for you. 25 And being confident of this, I know that I shall remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy of faith, 26 that your rejoicing for me may be more abundant in Jesus Christ by my coming to you again.

V19: What will Paul be delivered from?

- Could be:
 - Prison
 - Execution
 - Salvation

V19: How was Paul empowered?

- Through others prayer and
- The Holy Spirit

V20: What was Paul expectant about?

- Anticipation of Christ's promise

V21: How is Paul's focus and life summed up?

- Christ!

V22-24: What fruit was Paul laboring for?

- To save souls and build up others to do the same

V21: How does Paul know to die is gain?

- 2 Cor 5:8 – We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.
- Location change and transformation into the likeness of Jesus, with Him

V26: Why did Paul want to stay alive?

- Progress of the Philippians faith
- Joy of their faith

27 Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel, 28 and not in any way terrified by your adversaries, which is to them a proof of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that from God. 29 For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake, 30 having the same conflict which you saw in me and now hear is in me.

v27: What conduct is Paul talking about?

- Philippi was an outpost, or colony of heaven (Philippi was a Roman outpost).
- Therefore, they should act as citizens of heaven

v27: Why is Christian unity important?

- It strengthens believers
- It demonstrates our chief aim, to please Christ

v29: What has been granted, or approved of by Christ?

- To be His children, His flock
- As part of His family, to suffer as He did, for His benefit

v30: What conflict do Christians have?

- Greek word is *agon* – or agony
- Christians can expect agony, however this is a benefit, a demonstration of who we are in Jesus

The Christian's Riches

1 Corinthians/ 2: Isa 64/65 - Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered the heart of man, The things which God has prepared for those who love Him

John 3:16 - Life that will never end

John 4:14 - A spring of spiritual water that will never dry up

John 6: 37, 39 - A gift that will never be lost

Romans 8: 39 - a love from which he can never be separated

Romans 11: 29 - a calling that will never be revoked

2 Timothy 2: 19 - a foundation that will never be destroyed

1 Peter 1: 4- 5 - An inheritance that will never diminish

Appendix