

INTRODUCTION TO PHILIPPIANS: The First Prison Epistle

MAJOR THEMES

Key to Joy in All Circumstances | Mind of Christ | Picture of a Mature Church |
A life worthy of the Gospel

KEY VERSES

“For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.” 1:21

“Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God.” 1:27-28

OCCASION FOR WRITING

People | Prayer | Provision

“Inward peace springs from a sense of divine favor.” - Matthew Henry

“Peace is essentially harmony, an adjustment. Here it denotes the enjoyment of harmony with God; His reconciled favor, resulting in the Christian's and the Church's inward rest and happiness.” - H. C. G. Moule

FOR THE CHURCH TODAY

“There is a joyous bond of fellowship that is available to every Christian through partnering in the Gospel.”

Philippians 1:1-11 | JOY THROUGH THE MIND OF CHRIST |

vv 1-2 JOY in **CHURCH**

There is a heavenly design when the people of God submit to godly leadership and when godly leadership serves sacrificially those entrusted to them.

vv 3-5 JOY in **PARTNERING IN THE GOSPEL**

[gr. koinonia]: a gift jointly contributed, a collection, a contribution, as exhibiting an embodiment and proof of fellowship

vv 6-8 JOY in **DEEP FRIENDSHIP**

“carry you on my heart...” as an allusion to the ephod worn by the Levitical Priesthood

vv 9-10 JOY in other's **SANCTIFICATION**

v 11 JOY in **GOD RECEIVING GLORY**

Greeting

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

³ I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, ⁴ always
in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with
joy, ⁵ because of your partnership in the gospel from the
first day until now. ⁶ And I am sure of this, that he who
began a good work in you will bring it to completion
at the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷ It is right for me to feel this
way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for
you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my
imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the
gospel. ⁸ For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all
with the affection of Christ Jesus. ⁹ And it is my prayer
that your love may abound more and more, with
knowledge and all discernment, ¹⁰ so that you may
approve what is excellent, and so be pure and
blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹ filled with the fruit of
righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the
glory and praise of God.

Acts 16 (ESV)

The Macedonian Call

⁶ And they went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been
forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia. ⁷ And when they
had come up to Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit
of Jesus did not allow them. ⁸ So, passing by Mysia, they went down to
Troas. ⁹ And a vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia
was standing there, urging him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and
help us." ¹⁰ And when Paul¹⁰ had seen the vision, immediately we sought
to go on into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the
gospel to them.

The Conversion of Lydia

¹¹ So, setting sail from Troas, we made a direct voyage to Samothrace,
and the following day to Neapolis, ¹² and from there to Philippi, which is a
leading city of the¹² district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We
remained in this city some days. ¹³ And on the Sabbath day we went
outside the gate to the riverside, where we supposed there was a place of
prayer, and we sat down and spoke to the women who had come
together. ¹⁴ One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of
Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The
Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul. ¹⁵ And
after she was baptized, and her household as well, she urged us, saying,
"If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and
stay." And she prevailed upon us.

Paul and Silas in Prison

¹⁶ As we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl
who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners much gain by
fortune-telling. ¹⁷ She followed Paul and us, crying out, "These men
are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of
salvation." ¹⁸ And this she kept doing for many days. Paul, having become
greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the
name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour.
¹⁹ But when her owners saw that their hope of gain was gone, they seized
Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the
rulers. ²⁰ And when they had brought them to the magistrates, they said,
"These men are Jews, and they are disturbing our city. ²¹ They advocate
customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to accept or
practice." ²² The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates tore
the garments off them and gave orders to beat them with rods. ²³ And
when they had inflicted many blows upon them, they threw them into
prison, ordering the jailer to keep them safely. ²⁴ Having received this
order, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the
stocks.

The Philippian Jailer Converted

²⁵ About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God,
and the prisoners were listening to them, ²⁶ and suddenly there was a
great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken. And
immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone's bonds were
unfastened. ²⁷ When the jailer woke and saw that the prison doors were
open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the
prisoners had escaped. ²⁸ But Paul cried with a loud voice, "Do not harm
yourself, for we are all here." ²⁹ And the jailer²⁹ called for lights and
rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and
Silas. ³⁰ Then he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to
be saved?" ³¹ And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be
saved, you and your household." ³² And they spoke the word of the Lord
to him and to all who were in his house. ³³ And he took them the same
hour of the night and washed their wounds; and he was baptized at once,
he and all his family. ³⁴ Then he brought them up into his house and set
food before them. And he rejoiced along with his entire household that he
had believed in God.

³⁵ But when it was day, the magistrates sent the police, saying, "Let those
men go." ³⁶ And the jailer reported these words to Paul, saying, "The
magistrates have sent to let you go. Therefore come out now and go in
peace." ³⁷ But Paul said to them, "They have beaten us
publicly, uncondemned, men who are Roman citizens, and have thrown us
into prison; and do they now throw us out secretly? No! Let them come
themselves and take us out." ³⁸ The police reported these words to the
magistrates, and they were afraid when they heard that they were Roman
citizens. ³⁹ So they came and apologized to them. And they took them out
and asked them to leave the city. ⁴⁰ So they went out of the prison and
visited Lydia. And when they had seen the brothers, they encouraged
them and departed.