



GLC  PRESENTS:

JOY FOR ALL SEASONS

PHILIPPIANS: A BOOK STUDY

SESSION 1

Pastor Jonathan Bradford

NAME

CONTACT INFO:

PHILIPPIANS: A BOOK STUDY
SESSION 1

Copyright © 2016 by Global Leadership Center

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means - electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording, or any other, without the prior permission of GLC.

INTRODUCTION

Paul and Timothy, bond-servants of Christ Jesus, to all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, including the overseers and deacons: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. (Philippians 1:1-2)

As we begin this remarkable letter we find Paul in prison for his faith. In fact he was held for two years in Rome, chained to a guard 24/7, while awaiting a decision regarding his future. Would his life end here at the hands of Nero's soldiers? Or, would he be released to once again continue his missionary work and visit the churches he cared so much about? He did not know, but the uncertainty of his situation didn't seem to unsettle him. Paul believed in an all-powerful, sovereign God and he knew that if God wanted him free, he would be free!

He knew that God had work for him to do there in Rome and with his Roman guard being replaced every six hours he had 4 new soldiers to share the gospel with each day. His joy and absolute confidence in the Lord was infectious and you can almost imagine the twinkle in his eye as he reports that the gospel was advancing through the whole Praetorian Guard and even into Emperor Nero's household. (Philippians 1:12-14, 4:22)

While busy making disciples and strengthening the church in Rome he received a visit from a man called Epaphroditus and he came bearing gifts from the church at Philippi. They had heard about his situation and being greatly concerned for him they sent all they could to meet his daily needs. (Philippians 1:5, 4:10-19) So with a thankful heart Paul writes back to the church in Philippi and under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit he pens this rare gem of a letter. In it he calls them to rejoice in the Lord at all times and under all circumstances, a truly remarkable theme from a man in such a desperate situation.



A. The City of Philippi

We first hear about the Philippians during Paul's second missionary journey. Paul having parted ways with Barnabas and Mark (Acts 15:36-41) added Timothy to his team in Lystra (Acts 16:1-3) and they headed out with Silas to strengthen and encourage the churches. It was a period of great growth (Acts 16:5) and they desired to see it continue in Asia but the Holy Spirit refused to allow them to go and instead send Paul a vision of a man calling to them for help from Macedonia. (Acts 16:6-10)

This was exciting, there were no churches in Europe at this time. So they immediately got on a ship in Troas and headed for the port city of Neapolis, from there it was just 10 miles inland to Philippi, an important City in the area and a Roman Colony. In those days Rome would take 300 veteran soldiers near retirement and settle them with their families in colonies like this. They would be self-governing, free from tax and the people there were given Roman citizenship. These colonies were proud of their status and were like little versions of Rome scattered throughout the empire. Philippi was famous for its gold and silver mines and was situated on one of the main routes between Europe and Asia so it was a city of great strategic position from both a military perspective and a church planting one. (Acts 16:11-12)

B. The Church at Philippi

Upon arrival in Philippi, Paul and his team waited for the Sabbath day and then headed for the riverside outside the city gates. Being a military town there was not a strong Jewish presence and there was no synagogue for them to visit but since the captivity in Babylon it had become customary for Jews in exile or far from home to meet by the river when they lacked the 10 men needed to form their own synagogue. (Psalm 137:1) So Paul knew that if there were any Jews in Philippi he could start by sharing the gospel with them and they would be by the river on Saturday. On that day there was a group of women gathered together for prayer so they preached the gospel to them and a woman called Lydia and her entire household believed in the Lord Jesus Christ and were saved. (Acts 16:14-15)

A short time later Paul delivered a slave girl from demon possession. Her masters had been using her as a fortune teller and now that their hopes of making more money were gone they incited the crowd and had them arrested. (Acts 16:16-21) The magistrates ordered their clothes torn off and they were beaten over and over again with rods before being thrown in prison and then placed in stocks. (Acts 16:22-23) Things looked bad once again from a human perspective but they knew that God was in absolute control and spent their time rejoicing and singing hymns to God.

At midnight God ordered an earthquake and all the doors opened and all the chains fell off. The jailor thinking everyone had escaped was about to kill himself, but Paul stopped him, assuring him that they were all still there. This was all part of God's plan, the hymns they sang in the early church were scripture put to song and they contained a great deal of theology. The jailor having heard them singing knew that the God of Paul and Silas was the true God and asked them how he could be saved. (Acts 16:25-30) They told the jailor to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and then explained to him and his household exactly what that meant. (Acts 16:31-32, 20:21) Everyone in his household believed the gospel message and were saved, so they baptized them all. (Acts 16:33-34) With these two households the church in Philippi was established and after they were released from prison they went back to Lydia's house to encourage them all and then they departed to bring the gospel message to Thessalonica. (Acts 16:35-40)

C. The Letter to the Philippians

As we begin the book of Philippians we need to recognize that it has been 10 years since the church was planted in Philippi but they remain very dear to Paul. They loved him and while they endured great poverty and persecution themselves (2 Corinthians 8:1-3) they had given to him financially while he was in Thessalonica and now once again they had selflessly and sacrificially sent a gift to meet his needs and find out how he was doing. (Philippians 4:16) However Paul was far more concerned about them, than he was for himself and he takes the opportunity to write back, thanking them for their love and generosity.

He also wrote to explain why he was returning Epaphroditus to them. This servant of God had fallen sick and almost died but God spared his life. Paul did not want them to think that Epaphroditus has done a poor job, in fact quite the opposite was true and Paul was returning him with the letter for their benefit not for his own. (Philippians 2:25-29) Paul also wanted to deal with some disunity that had raised its ugly head within the fellowship (Philippians 4:2) and to warn them about false teachers that were preaching a different gospel. (Philippians 3:2, 18-19)

As the Holy Spirit carried Paul along He transformed this humble letter into a masterpiece of practical teaching about the Christian life. While there is a great deal of theological information woven into the letter, it occurs only to press home the practical instruction in Christlikeness that is given. They needed to understand that real joy in the Christian life is only found in Christ and these become the two main themes of the letter. Joy is mentioned 16 times in 4 short chapters but Christ is mentioned 50 times. The message is simple, if you want to experience joy at all times and under all circumstances then Christ must dominate every area of your life:



Christ our Joy

<p>For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.</p> <p>(Philippians 1:21)</p>	<p>Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus.</p> <p>(Philippians 2:5)</p>	<p>I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.</p> <p>(Philippians 3:14)</p>	<p>I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.</p> <p>(Philippians 4:13)</p>
Christ is our Life	Christ is our Mind	Christ is our Goal	Christ is our Strength
<p>Joy in chains Joy in criticism Joy in crisis</p> <p>(Philippians 1:13, 18, 20)</p>	<p>Joy in submission Joy in service Joy in sacrifice</p> <p>(Philippians 2:14-18)</p>	<p>Joy in Christ Joy in Christlikeness Joy in citizenship</p> <p>(Philippians 3:1, 8, 20)</p>	<p>Joy in conflict Joy in circumstances Joy in contentment</p> <p>(Philippians 4:1, 4, 10)</p>
The Single Mind	The Submissive Mind	The Spiritual Mind	The Secure Mind

PHILIPPIANS CHAPTER ONE

True Joy

Do you know the difference between happiness and joy?

1. Happiness

2. Joy

As Christians our joy should be in:

- a. The nature and character of God.
- b. The person and work of Jesus Christ.
- c. The salvation and promises we have received.
 1. Philippians 3:7-9
 2. Philippians 1:6
 3. Philippians 3:20-21

“Christian joy is not a giddy, superficial happiness that can be devastated by illness, economic difficulties, broken relationships, or the countless other vicissitudes and disappointments of life.

Instead, it flows from the deep, unshakable confidence that God is eternally in control of every aspect of life for the good of His beloved children - a confidence rooted in the knowledge of His Word.

God’s character, the saving work of Christ, the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit, divine providence, spiritual blessings, the promise of future glory, answered prayer and Christian fellowship all cause the believer to rejoice.”

DR. JOHN MACARTHUR

Paul and Timothy, bond-servants of Christ Jesus, to all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, including the overseers and deacons: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Philippians 1:1-2

It was customary in those times to start our letter with a greeting that introduced the author to the recipients.

A. Slaves of Jesus Christ.

B. Saints in Jesus Christ.

C. Sons with Jesus Christ.

OUTLINE

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| A. Christ our Life. | Chapter One |
| B. Christ our Mind. | Chapter Two |
| C. Christ our Goal. | Chapter Three |
| D. Christ our Strength. | Chapter Four |

A. Christ our Life.

While happiness is a response to circumstances, joy is a settled confidence that is based on a relationship that can never change.

1. To think like Christ. (Philippians 1:3)

As Paul thinks about the church in Philippi his heart is filled with joy and he is thankful for every single person there.

a. Joy over their fellowship. (Philippians 1:4)

Paul's needs were far greater and yet we find him joyfully praying for them.

b. Joy over their partnership. (Philippians 1:5)

Paul also rejoiced over their fellowship in the gospel and how it had continued from the day they were saved until then.

1. Soul winners

2. Prayer

3. Sacrificial giving

c. Joy over their transformation. (Philippians 1:6)

Jesus finds great joy in the fact that every single one of His sheep will be glorified one day.

Rejoice!	
We are loved with an everlasting love.	Jeremiah 31:3
We have eternal life that will never end.	John 3:16
We are a gift that Christ cannot lose.	John 6:37–39
We are held by hands that will never let us go.	John 10:29
We are bound to a process that cannot be broken.	Romans 8:29–30
We are tied to a love we can never be separated from.	Romans 8:39
We have received a calling that cannot be revoked.	Romans 11:29
We stand on a foundation that can never be destroyed.	2 Timothy 2:19
We have an inheritance that will not fade away.	1 Peter 1:4–5
We are a work God has begun and <u>will</u> finish.	Philippians 1:6

2. To feel like Christ.

a. Joy over their affection. (Philippians 1:7-8)

True joy comes from God and overflows into our relationship with others.

3. To pray like Christ.

Jesus entire life was a life of prayer, He was in constant communion with His Father in heaven.

a. Pray that their love will super-bound. (Philippians 1:9)

The greatest spiritual virtue is love and the path to Christlikeness begins with this.

1. It is divine.

2. It is deep.

3. It is discerning.

*“A person who possesses love but lacks discernment may reveal a great deal of eagerness and enthusiasm. He may donate to all kinds of causes. His motives maybe worthy and his intentions honorable, **yet he maybe doing more harm than good.**”*

WILLIAM HENDRIKSEN

b. **Pray that they will choose what is excellent.**
(Philippians 1:10)

The Greek word for approve was often used of testing metals, money and even animals.

c. Pray that they will walk with integrity. (Philippians 1:10)

The Greek word for sincere probably comes from a root word that means to be tested by sunlight.

Sincere = Personal Integrity

Blameless = Relational Integrity

d. Pray that they will be fruitful. (Philippians 1:11)

Paul refers to the transformation and end product of a life that is lived this way.

*The righteous life will be a fruitful life.
The fruit itself is a work of God as you abide in Christ.*

e. **Pray that they will bring glory to God. (Philippians 1:11)**

Paul reminds us that such a life brings glory to God and praise for God from the lips of men.

So as you pray for people:

- ✓ **Pray** they will super-abound in divine love that is anchored to the truth and able to discern right from wrong.
- ✓ **Pray** they will not settle for what is okay but seek out what is excellent and best in God's eyes.
- ✓ **Pray** they will not allow hidden flaws to remain but will live lives of integrity before both God and man.
- ✓ **Pray** they will look back on the day that Jesus returns to a life filled with righteous fruit.
- ✓ **Pray** they will live lives that ultimately bring glory and praise to God.

“With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints.”

EPHESIANS 6:18

