

The Book of Philippians

The Setting & Occasion

- ❖ Paul writes from house arrest in Rome and instructs us in learning how to rejoice in the Lord
- ❖ Paul was chained to Roman guard for the 2 year period he was awaiting trial and used time to witness to many of them
- ❖ While imprisoned, church at Philippi brought Paul offering via Epaphroditus who almost died.
 - Was a letter of thanksgiving to the church at Philippi for their generosity
- ❖ Paul also informed of discord between Euodias and Syntyche and instructs them on unity (4:2)
- ❖ Paul warns them about their enemies (Chapter 3)
- ❖ Rejoicing must first be realized in our minds and not merely our circumstances –
 - Singular focus – Chapter 1 (vs. 6, 9-11, 20-21)
 - Surrendered mind – Chapter 2(vs. 2-3, 4-8)
 - Christ-centered mind – Chapter 3(vs. 3, 7-11, 13-14)
 - Determined mind – Chapter 4 (vs. 4-7, 10-13)
- ❖ Philippi had become a Roman colony and had adopted Roman culture including worship of Roman emperors
- ❖ Named after Philip of Macedon, Alexander the Great's father
- ❖ Was 1st city in Europe where gospel preached – Acts 16:6-10, 12-40

CHAPTER 1

Salutation

- ❖ Vs. 1: servants: doulos: bondman; metaphorically, one who give himself up to another's will
 - Paul addresses 3 groups: all the saints in Christ, bishops – overseers, and deacons – those in service positions

Thanksgiving and Prayer

- ❖ Vs. 3: Paul appreciated everything they had done for him – Acts 16:15; 16:32-34; 2 Cor. 8:1-7; 9:1-4
- ❖ Vs. 4: Paul prayed for them with joy – Eph. 1:16; Heb. 13:17
- ❖ Vs. 5: They were consistent in working with Paul in the gospel from day one to now – Rom. 12:13; Gal. 6:9
- ❖ Vs. 6: Paul's confidence in what God is working in them – John 6:29; Heb. 12:2
- ❖ Vs. 7-8: I have you in my heart – I love you
 - You help – Phil. 2:25
 - Give of your own and it is pleasing to God – Phil. 4:14-18
- ❖ Vs. 9: Paul prays for abounding love

- With more knowledge –
- In all judgement (discernment) – 1 Cor. 5:1-7
 - Called to approve things that are excellent – vs. 10
 - Approve (dokimazo: to test, examine, scrutinize; to recognize as genuine after examination) Thayer's Greek Definitions
 - ◆ Sincere and without offense
- Vs. 11: Being filled with the fruits of righteousness -
 - Which are by Jesus Christ – abiding in Christ – John 15:4-6; Eph. 2:10; Col. 1:6
 - Unto the glory and praise of God – John 15:8

Don't Worry About Them

- ❖ Vs. 12-14: God is working through what I am going through – designed to move the gospel forward
 - Furtherance: the advancement of a plan or interest (Oxford Languages) – Rom. 8:28; Gen. 50:20
 - Vs. 13: The gospel preached in the palace
 - Vs. 14: Many more encouraged to preach the Word with boldness
- ❖ Vs. 15: The “Some” preaching
 - Envy – Pro. 14:30; Mark 7:21-22
 - Strife – Pro. 20:3; 18:6-7
- ❖ Vs. 16: the Contentious preacher – selfish ambition
 - Problem is not ambition but selfish ambition
 - The content was right but their motive was foul – Gal. 1:6-9; 1 Cor. 9:27; Mat. 7:21-23
 - People who operate with impure motives think that you think like them (supposing to add affliction to my bonds) – Acts 8:9-23
- ❖ Vs. 17: The preacher inspired by love – knows his assignment and others
 - Mat. 22:14; Rom. 10:14-15
 - This is Paul's assignment –
 - We must complete our assignment: John 3:16-17; John 4:34; John 6:38; Heb. 12:2
 - We must not be distracted – Heb. 12:1;
 - Trust God and not man – Gal. 1:10; Rom. 16:17
 - Stop entertaining stuff – Rom. 16:17; 2 Tim. 2:4
 - Stay free even when others see you as bound – Gal. 5:1
- ❖ Vs. 18: Rejoice that the Christ is preached
- ❖ Vs. 19: this shall turn to my salvation – Job. 13:16
- ❖ Vs. 20: My expectation and hope is to not be ashamed but for Christ to be magnified in me
 - How? With all boldness as always – Eph. 6:19-20
 - The method is not what matter but the mission – by life or by death – Rom. 14:8

A Different Perspective on Life and Death (vs. 21-26)

- ❖ Vs. 21: A different perspective on life and death – Phil 3:10; Eph. 3:19; Rev. 14:13
- ❖ Vs. 22: While I'm still here, I have work to do – 1 Cor. 15:58
- ❖ Vs. 23-24:
 - Being with Jesus is far better – 2 Cor. 5:2,8; 2 Tim. 4:6; Psa. 16:11
 - Vs. 24: Nevertheless, God is not done with me here yet
- ❖ Vs. 25: I am still here with confidence that I am in His purpose
 - Your furtherance and joy of faith
- ❖ Vs. 26: Looking forward to being with you again in person – 2 Cor. 1:14

Stay Focused (Vs. 27-30)

- ❖ Watch how you conduct yourself – Eph. 4:1
 - Stay together of one mind – Eph. 4:3
 - Strive together for the faith of the gospel – Jude 3
- ❖ Vs. 28: Don't be afraid of your adversaries
- ❖ Vs. 29: The privilege of believing and suffering – Mat. 5:11; Eph. 2:8; 2 Tim. 3:12
- ❖ Vs. 30: You're not the only one – Col. 1:29, 2:1; Acts 16:19-40

CHAPTER 2

What are you doing with what you have received of Christ?

- ❖ What follows is conditioned upon what you are going to do with what you have already received of Christ.
 - God has an expectation that we grow from our Christian exposure and experience
 - Has Christ made a difference in your life?
 - Does your Christian community mean anything?
 - Do you have a heart and care?

Esteeming Others

- ❖ Vs. 2: What will fulfill Paul's joy is seeing Christ glorified in and through us – John 3:29
- ❖ Where our minds are matters
 - Vs. 2: likeminded:
 - Same love
 - Of one accord and mind
 - Vs. 3: Nothing out of strife or vainglory – Gal. 5:24-26
 - Lowliness of mind – Rom. 12:10
 - Esteem others **BETTER** than yourself – do you promote others?
 - Vs. 4: Are you concerned about other 's things like you are about yours? 1 Cor. 13:5; Rom. 15:1-2

The Submitted Mind of Christ

- ❖ Vs. 5: The mind we want to have is the mind Christ has – Mat. 11:29
 - Do we think of ourselves how Christ thought of Himself?
- ❖ Vs. 6: Jesus is the form or image of God – 2 Cor. 4:4
 - Jesus didn't think staying in the divine equality with God was something He should hold onto if He could not accomplish His purpose in coming to us
- ❖ Vs. 7: Jesus made Himself of no reputation – Jesus emptied Himself – Read in MSG & AMP, Isa. 42:1
 - Made Himself of no reputation – kenosis
 - Jesus veiled His glory and power –
 - Jesus took the form of man or human nature, yet without sin – 2 Cor. 5:21; John 1:14
 - Jesus set His human will to the Will of the Father – Luke 22:42
 - It was a choice and we have a choice – Psa. 22:6
- ❖ Vs. 8: even in the fashion (appearance or likeness) of a man, Jesus
 - Humbled himself – James 4:10; Pro. 22:4; 1 Pet. 5:6
 - Became obedient – Mat. 26:39
 - Unto death, even the death of the cross – Heb. 5:8; 1 Pet 2:24; Isa. 53 (KJV & MSG)
- ❖ Vs. 9: God has highly exalted Him – Heb. 2:9; Acts 2:33

- ❖ Vs. 9-10: Given Him a Name – Eph. 1:19-21
- ❖ Vs. 10: every knee should bow at the name of Jesus – Isa. 45:22-24
 - The Name:
 - Acts 4:12
 - John 14:6, 13
 - Luke 10:17
 - Rom. 10:13
 - Acts 3:6
 - Things – Rev. 5:13; Psa. 96:11-12
 - In Heaven – Heb. 1:6
 - In earth
 - Under the earth
- ❖ Vs. 11: Every tongue should confess – John 13:13
 - Jesus is Lord – Rom. 10:9-10

Illumination in the World (vs. 12-16)

- ❖ Vs. 12: Character and consistency count
 - These believers were not camera shot believers but were consistent at all times – Phil. 1:5-6; 4:15; Rom. 5:3-5
 - Notice Jesus obedience (vs. 8) and the obedience of these Christians (vs. 12) – John 14:15; Luke 6:46
 - These believers were expected to walk in Christian character and maintain their witness all the more since Paul was not present with them
- ❖ Vs. 12: Work out your own salvation – John 6:27-29;
 - Note that Paul is talking to believers and not unbelievers
 - We are not saved by works – Eph. 2:8-9
 - The working out is our walking out what Christ has done in and for us – Eph. 2:10
 - Your own salvation – your personal
 - Relationship with God – 1 Cor. 9:27; Phil. 3:10
 - work assigned by God – Mat. 25:15; Mat. 7:3-5
 - With fear and trembling – Eph. 6:5; 2 Tim. 3:1-9
- ❖ Why? – vs. 13
 - God is working in you (Heb. 13:20-21)
 - God is producing in us
 - To will – He transforms our will to His
 - To do – He transforms our actions from for ourselves to for Him
 - According to His good pleasure – Eph. 1:5

Chapter 2 (continued)

- ❖ Vs. 14: Stop complaining – (see Phil. 2:1-4)
 - Stop murmuring – 1 Pet. 4:9
 - Stop disputing – Rom. 14:1
 - Also read 1 Cor. 10:10-11; 2 Cor. 9:6-7; Eph. 4:29; Exo. 15:22-24
- ❖ Vs. 15: We should be:
 - Blameless and harmless – Mat. 10:16
 - The sons of God
 - Without rebuke – Mat. 5:11-12
 - In the midst of a crooked and perverse nation – John 17:15
 - You shine as lights in the world – Mat. 5:15-16
- ❖ Vs. 16: Stand on the Word
 - Stand on and promote (holding forth – offering) the Word of God – Mat. 28:18-20; Heb. 10:23
 - I may rejoice in the day of Christ – 2 Cor. 1:14
 - I have not run in vain... Gal. 2:2; 1 Cor. 15:58; Isa. 49:4; Gal. 4:11; 1 Thes. 3:5

Sacrificial Ministry (vs. 17-18)

- ❖ Paul committed to ministry even if it cost him his life
 - Be offered – 2 Cor. 12:15; 2 Tim. 4:6
 - Service of faith – Num. 28:6-7; Rom. 15:16
 - I joy and rejoice with you all – 2 Cor. 7:4
- ❖ We must be willing to have this same mind – Phil. 2:5

Timothy and Epaphroditus (vs. 19-30)

- ❖ Everyone does not have the same place in service to the Man of God
 - Timothy
 - Timothy – Paul's son in the ministry – 1 Tim. 1:2, 18; 1 Cor. 4:15
 - Some characteristics of spiritual son from this text:
 - ◆ They can be trusted – vs. 19
 - With the message to be delivered and received
 - ◆ They are likeminded – vs. 20; 1 Cor. 16:20; 2 Tim. 3:10-11
 - ◆ They are sincere in their assignment – vs. 20
 - ◆ They are not self-seeking – vs. 21
 - ◆ They serve with the leader in the gospel with proven character – vs. 22; 1 Cor. 4:17
 - Son: teknon: offspring, children (Thayer's Greek Definitions)
 - Further teaching on sons and daughters in ministry:
 - ◆ They are correctable – Mat. 16:21-23
 - ◆ They obey the Word of God – Heb. 12:5-11
 - ◆ They don't have many fathers – 1 Cor. 4:15

❖ Chapter 2 (continued)

➤ Epaphroditus

- Vs. 25: Epaphroditus – Paul’s brother in the ministry, fellow worker, fellow soldier
 - He was trusted by the people to make sure their gifts got to Paul – Phi. 4:18
 - Some characteristics of brothers in the ministry from this text:
 - ◆ They don’t necessarily have the same assignment but work together in ministry – 1 Cor. 12
 - ◆ Brother – Epaphroditus had Godly relationship with Paul
 - ◆ Companion in labor (coworker) – working the mission of Christ
 - ◆ Fellow soldiers – fight the same enemy – Mark 9:38
 - ◆ May mean different things to the same people – vs. 25
 - He was Paul’s brother in ministry and fellow soldier but he was to the Philippian believers their messenger (John 13:16)
 - ◆ Epaphroditus ministered to Paul’s wants (need) – 2 Cor. 11:9 MSG
- Vs. 26: Epaphroditus always kept the people he was assigned to be messenger in his heart.
 - ◆ He knew where home was. Phil. 1:8
So many times, we forget those we are assigned to in search of greater opportunities for ourselves.
- The servant of God’s sickness (vs. 26-30)
 - Vs. 26: Epaphroditus was sick when with Paul
 - ◆ Paul had healed many and yet Epaphroditus is sick – Acts 19:11-12; Acts 20:9-10; Acts 28:9
 - So why could didn’t scripture say Paul healed Epaphroditus?
 - Also read 2 Tim. 4:20; 1 Tim. 5:23; 2 Cor. 12:7 and Isa. 53:5
 - The healing for the believer is guaranteed but the method and timing is up to the Lord
 - Vs. 27: God had mercy on him even though he was deathly sick
 - Vs. 29: Receive Epaphroditus with gladness and esteem him highly
 - ◆ Why? Vs. 30

CHAPTER 3

Beware of These 3 Variants to True Faith (vs. 1-2)

- ❖ Paul uses 3 distinct terms to describe 3 types of groups that we should avoid
 - Dogs – term used for Gentiles by Jews but in this case used to denote those false teachers who said only way to righteousness was to keep the Law in totality
 - Those that added to salvation by grace through faith – Gal. 5:15
 - More focused on rituals and customs than faith – Mark 7:12-13; 2 Tim. 3:5
 - Evil workers – profess to be one thing and do the works; their motives are wicked (Psalm 1); Psa. 119:115; Pro. 6:16-19; Mat. 23:15, Mat. 7:21-23; Luke 18:9-14
 - The circumcision – those who felt only needed to be circumcised outwardly to be saved instead of inwardly – Romans 2:28-29

We must know who we are (vs. 3)

- ❖ Know who you are
 - The circumcision – your heart is set apart for Christ
 - Your worship – in the spirit (John 4:24)
 - Where do you find your joy – (Romans 5: 1-11)
- ❖ When you know who you are in Christ, it is easier to not misplace your confidence
 - Confidence – it refers to who you depend on. Do you depend upon God or your flesh? (Mat. 16:17, Psa. 16:8)
- ❖ The world may provide you with legitimate reasons to put confidence in yourself, but don't fall for this often played trick of the enemy – vs. 4-8

Our accomplishments and status in proper perspective (vs. 4-11)

- ❖ Circumcised the 8th day – a Jew by birth and not a convert
- ❖ Of the stock of Israel – of the chosen earthly people – Deut. 7:6-8; Psa. 135:4; 1 Pet. 2:9
- ❖ Of the tribe of Benjamin – considered noble tribe, known for courage, tribe of Israel's 1st king – 1 Sam. 9:1-2
- ❖ an Hebrew of the Hebrews – kept the original traditions, language and customs
- ❖ concerning the law, a Pharisee – rigidly kept letter of the law – Acts 26:5
- ❖ Concerning zeal, persecuting the church – Acts 8:3, 22:4-5, 26:9-11
- ❖ touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless – when he messed up, he brought required sacrifices to be “right” – Rom. 7:9-10

- ❖ Vs. 7: none of this mattered – Mat. 13:44
 - You will never walk in God's destiny for your life if you never are willing to give up on what your flesh thinks is important

- Many never reach their destiny because of :
 - Selfishness – Phil. 2:6
 - Check out these destiny killers – Eph. 4:31

❖ What matters:

- Vs. 8: The excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord – Isa. 53:11; Jer. 9:23; John 17:3; 1 Cor. 2:2
- Vs. 8: Winning Christ – being saved and his relationship with the Lord
- Vs. 9: Being found in Christ and not his own righteousness – Rom. 10:3
- Vs. 9: Being righteous through faith – Rom. 1:17
- Vs. 10: To know Him and the power of His resurrection – Eph. 1:19-20
 - And the fellowship of His sufferings – Rom. 6:3-5; 2 Cor. 1:5; 1 Pet. 4:13
 - Being made conformable unto his death – Rom. 8:17
 - Conformable – *summorphoō*: to be conformed to, receive the same form as (*Thayer's Greek Definitions*)
 - ◆ To render like, that is (figuratively) to assimilate (*Strong's Hebrew and Greek Definitions*)
 - If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead – Acts 26:6-8; 1 Cor. 15:23; Rev. 20:5; 1 Thes. 4:13-18

I'm not there yet (vs. 12)

❖ Vs. 12:

- Not already attained: Paul hasn't died for Him yet but can still die to sin more – Phil. 3:3; 1 Tim 6:12
- Not already perfect (*telioo*- to complete; to accomplish; to make perfect by completion *Thayer's Greek Definitions*)
- We have not arrived – Heb. 12:23; Rom. 12:3; Pro. 3:7
 - Those holding to circumcision saw it as a way of arriving in their own eyes or attaining
 - Also others who trample on grace – Phil. 3:9; Rom. 6:1-2
- Paul says he follows after that he may apprehend
 - Requires diligence in seeking – Heb. 11:6
 - Requires focus in running after Christ – Heb. 12:1-3
- God has apprehended Paul – *katalambanō*: to lay hold of so as to make one's own; to seize or take possession of - *Thayer's Greek Definitions* (Acts 9)

I'm on my way (vs. 13-21)

- ❖ Vs. 13 – How you see yourself will determine how you seek God
 - Paul says he doesn't consider himself to have arrived
 - Paul chooses to pursue God:
 - Forget what's behind him – Luke 9:62
 - Reach forward to those things ahead or forward – Heb. 6:1; Jos. 1:7; Prov. 4:27

- ❖ Vs. 14: - Press
 - Toward the mark for the prize of the high calling – 2 Tim. 4:7-8; 1 Cor. 9:24; Heb. 3:1

- ❖ Vs. 15: if you are mature – 1 Cor. 2:6
 - Be thus minded – Gal. 5:10
 - God shall reveal – Hos. 6:3

- ❖ Vs. 16: We've got to walk the walk – Gal. 6:16; Rom. 12:16
- ❖ Vs. 17:
 - Follow me as I follow Christ – 1 Cor. 11:1; 1 Cor 4:16
 - Mark those who are an example – Tit. 2:7

- ❖ Vs. 18-19: Enemies of the cross
 - Gal. 1:7; 1 Cor. 6:12-20; Mat. 16:24-26
 - Vs. 19: set on earthly things – Luke 12:16-21

Kingdom Citizens (vs 20-21)

- ❖ Vs 20: Eph. 2: 6, 19; Acts 1:11; 1 Cor. 1:7
- ❖ Vs. 21: 1 Cor. 15:43-53; 1 John 3:2; Eph. 1:19; 1 Cor. 15:28

CHAPTER 4

- ❖ Paul is genuinely concerned about them
 - My beloved, long for, my joy, my crown

Let's Get It Together (vs. 2-3)

- ❖ Conflict between believers – Euodias (fragrant) and Syntyche (fortunate)
 - They need to be of the same mind – Phil. 2:2-9; 3:16
- ❖ Vs. 3: Paul asked his true companion to help these women reconcile
- ❖ Notice these things about these women:
 - They labored with Paul and others in the gospel – Rom. 16:3
 - They are saved – Luke 10:20

Rejoice in the Lord

- ❖ Vs. 4: We must learn to rejoice instead of rehearsing differences and discord – Psa. 118:24; Psa. 9:2; 1 Thes. 5:16-18
- ❖ Vs. 5: Moderation – 1 Tim. 3:3; Tit. 3:2; James. 3:17
 - Recognize the times and try to work with everyone – James 5:7-9

Rejoice in the Lord

- ❖ Vs. 6: Let go of anxiety
 - Don't fret people – Psa. 37:1-11; Psa. 73
 - Don't fret stuff – Mat. 6:25-33
 - Don't fret about your life – 2 Tim. 1:7; Isa. 40:31; Isa. 41:10
- ❖ Vs. 6: Prayer and supplication are keys
 - How to pray? With thanksgiving – 1 Thes. 5:17; Psa. 100:4; Psa. 69:30; Col. 3:17; **Psa. 28:7; Psa. 103:1-5**
 - Vs. 7: The peace which results from prayer and supplication with thanksgiving - John 14:27
 - Indescribable peace
 - Incomprehensible peace
 - Keeping peace – Isa. 26:3

What to Think On (vs. 8-9)

- ❖ True, honest, just, pure, lovely, good report
 - These things must occupy your mind – Isa. 26:3
- ❖ Vs. 9: The promise from these things occupying your mind – the God of peace shall be with you – Rom. 15:33

Appreciating the Giver (vs. 11-13)

- ❖ God is the Giver of all life – Acts 17:25; Job 33:4; John 1:3-4
 - He spoke into what He formed and breathed in it and man became a living soul
 - ➔ **So many of us focus on the form that we forget the breath**
 - ◆ 2 Tim. 3:5-7: Form: morphosis
 - It's not what we see formed that matters but the one who breaths on us
 - ◆ Weapons form – Isa. 54:17
 - ◆ Storms form – Mark 4:39
 - ◆ People form against you – Psa. 118:5-9
 - ◆ Challenges form – James 1:2-4
- ❖ Paul understood that he was more than the form, or the circumstances
 - Vs. 11: Not speaking out of need because he has learned to be content in whatever state to be content (autarkēs: independent of external circumstances - Thayer Greek Definitions) – 1 Tim. 6:6-8
 - Paul learned this through life lessons
 - Paul knows how to be abased – 1 Cor. 4:8-17
 - Abased means to discipline oneself
 - Paul knows how to abound – how to be esteemed and not arrogant, how to handle being blessed, how to live in prosperity – Deut. 8:11-20
 - Either way, Paul has learned how not to depend upon what is formed around him, lack or wealth, but to depend upon the One who strengthens him – John 15:5

Appreciating the Gift (vs. 10, 14-20)

- ❖ Vs. 10: Paul acknowledges that these believers have continued to demonstrate concern for him but did not have an opportunity to show it (read vs. 10 from MSG) – Phil. 2:25
- ❖ Vs. 14: Paul tells them that they did well in giving to support him and in doing so, they shared in his affliction – Phil. 1:7
- ❖ Vs. 15: When nobody else was there, they were – 2 Cor. 11:8-9
 - Paul worked to support himself also – 1 Thes. 2:9; 2 The. 3:7-9
- ❖ Vs. 16: This isn't the first time they have supported ministry by supporting the Man of God
- ❖ Vs. 17: Paul wanted them to be blessed – read from MSG
 - Fruit that may abound to your account – Tit. 3:14
- ❖ Vs. 18: Their gifts were pleasing to God – Phil. 2:25; Heb. 13:16; Rom. 12:1; Exo. 29:18-25
- ❖ Vs. 19: God will supply all of their needs – Psa. 23:1; 2 Cor 9:6-9
- ❖ Vs. 20: God gets the glory in all of this – Rom. 16:27

Greetings and Benediction (vs. 21-23)