

Through the Bible Course

May 9, 1948

Philippians

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Key Thought: Our life in Christ's strength.

Key Verse: 1:21

Purpose: The church at Philippi was worried about Paul in prison at Rome and sent Epaphroditus with a present for him and to inquire to his condition. He wrote to declare his condition to them and to thank them for their interest and help. This is truly a letter rather than a treatise. "It is the spontaneous utterance of love and gratitude. It is tender, warm-hearted."

Theme: Joy in spite of circumstances. The word "joy" or "rejoice" occurs 18 times in the epistle while the name "Lord" is used over 50 times. "Sins" or "sin" does not occur once.

- I. 1:1-7 – Salutation
- II. 1:8-30 – Rejoicing in spite of circumstances
 1. 1:8-11 – His concern for their spiritual development.
 2. 1:12-19 – He rejoices that his bonds have been a means of Christ being preached.
 3. 1:20-26 – His great desire that Christ be magnified in his body either by life or death.
 4. 1:27-30 – He is concerned that the church be faithful even in persecution and suffering.
- III. 2:1-18 – Can rejoice in lowliness of position with Christ as example
 1. 2:1-4 – Exhortation to lowliness and meekness.
 2. 2:5-11 – Christ as example.
 - a. verses 5-8 – Christ made Himself of no reputation. (Here is one of the most profound passages in the Bible.)
 - b. verses 9-11 – God highly exalted Him.
 3. 2:12-16 – Exhorts them to live as sons of God that he may rejoice in them.
- IV. 2:19-30 – His plans in regard to them to send Timothy later – come himself if released from prison – sending Epaphroditus immediately.
- V. 3:1-21 – His experience with Judahizers (probably at Rome not Philippi).
 1. 3:1-3 – They had belittled the Gentiles.
 2. 3:4-14 – They had assailed Paul and he defends himself.
 3. 3:15-21 – They were enemies of cross and the Philippians should follow Paul's example and remember they were heavenly citizens and were looking for Christ.
- VI. 4:1-9 – He urges unity in the church by helpfulness, moderation, by prayerfulness, and faith in God.

- VII. 4:10-22 – He was grateful for their care of him, but had learned to be content in spite of circumstances.
God had supplied his needs and He would theirs also.