

# Joy from a Jailhouse

## INTRODUCTION

### BACKGROUND TO THE EPISTLE:

The church at Philippi was founded by Paul on his Second Missionary Journey (Acts 16). This was the first church to be established by him in Europe. Philippi was a small city which became a Roman “colony”, a military outpost city with special privileges. The church was founded as a result of a supernatural vision experienced by Paul while at Troas (Acts 16:8-10).

Paul’s relationship with this church was always close and cordial and may have been his favorite church. They had helped him financially (Phil. 4:16) and upon hearing of his imprisonment in Rome, sent Epaphroditus with another gift. Philippians is a thank you letter for the gift and is the most personal letter Paul wrote to a church. Epaphroditus had become almost fatally ill during his time with Paul (Phil. 2:27) and on his recovery, Paul sent him back with this letter.

During this brief time in Philippi, Paul and his companions had seen God work in an unusual way in the lives of at least three individuals:

One was Lydia, a business woman whom God saved (Acts 16:13-15).

One was a soothsayer whom God saved from demonism (Acts 16:16-18).

One was a Roman jailer whom God saved along with his entire family (Acts 16:19-34).

***“God moves in a mysterious way His wonders to perform;”*** — William Cowper

This church was initiated in a vision, conceived in a jail, and now reaches its zenith in a prison.

The epistle, written approximately AD 61 from a Roman prison, speaks of the joy which is ours in Christ. It also deals extensively with the matter of Christian unity (2:1-4; 3:15-17; 4:1-3). It contains the most detailed sections on the self-emptying of Christ, along with the Sovereign-Exaltation of Christ (2:5-11). I trust that the heart-pulse of Paul will become ours as we study this exciting epistle which radiates with praise from a prison!

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Paul, Silas and Timothy at the beginning of the Second Missionary Journey were used of God in the planting of the church at Philippi. This account is recorded for us in Acts 15:40-16:40. Luke, the writer of the Book of Acts, also joins the team in Toas (Acts 16:10 - *note*: the word **we** which signifies that Luke joined the team). It is interesting to note how the Holy Spirit led them during this missionary venture:

1. Acts 16:6 - The Holy Spirit said no to Asia
2. Acts 16:7 - The Holy Spirit said no to Bithynia
3. Acts 16:8 - The Holy Spirit said yes to Toas and then on to Philippi

It is great to know that **THE HOLY SPIRIT DIRECTS OUR STOPS AS WELL AS OUR STARTS!**

In Acts 16:9 we have what we refer to as **THE MACEDONIAN CALL**:

1. **The Vision** - 16:9 - In the vision Paul saw a man in Macedonia
2. **The Voice** - 16:9 - The man said, *"Come over into Macedonia, and help us"*.
3. **The Venture** - 16:10 - Paul saw the vision, but the entire team sensed the leading of the Lord.
4. **The Victory** - 16:11-40 - In these verses we see the Lord's leading in planting the church. I said earlier that *this church was initiated in a vision, conceived in a prayer meeting and reaches its zenith in prison*.

Dr. Warren Wiersbe states in his book, Be Joyful, that there are...

**FOUR JOY ROBBERS IN THE LIFE OF THE CHRISTIAN:**

1. **Circumstances** - chapter 1:12 - *"...the things that have happened unto me..."*  
People sometimes ask, "How are you doing?" And the reply is, "Not too bad under the circumstances." We need *not* be under our circumstances, but rather make them stepping stones instead of stumbling blocks. *The secret is -*

**LOOK AT YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES THROUGH CHRIST  
RATHER THAN LOOKING AT CHRIST THROUGH YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES.**

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2. **People** - Chapter 2:4 - He states how we are to see the needs and concerns of others. We often permit others to rob us of the Joy of the Lord. We should never see people for what they were or what they are, but what they can be by the Grace of God.
3. **Things** - Chapter 3:8 - He says the things he once thought so important lose their value when we come to know the Savior. THE THINGS OF THIS WORLD GROW STRANGELY DIM IN THE LIGHT OF HIS GLORY AND GRACE.
4. **Worry** - Chapter 4:6 - He states not to get all uptight and anxious concerning earthly things. He says do not be fretful in anything, but always thankful in everything. What do we usually worry over? - CIRCUMSTANCES, PEOPLE AND THINGS! The secret is found in 4:4 - *"Rejoice in the Lord always; and again I say, Rejoice."* Worry is a sin because it is the opposite of faith and puts it in our hands instead of the Hand of our God.

#### THE EPISTLE OF PHILIPPIANS IS:

- (a) **Unique** - One of a kind
- (b) **Understandable** - Easy to grasp
- (c) **Unifying** - We can only be like-minded as we have the mind of Christ
- (d) **Uplifting** - An Epistle saturated with JOY in the everyday circumstances of life
- (e) **Useful** - It reveals practical Christianity as we face the daily trials and storms of life.

Dr. Wiersbe outlines the book, based upon the aspect of the **MIND** - 2:5 - *"Let this mind be in you..."*

1. **Single Mind** - Chapter 1
  2. **Submissive Mind** - Chapter 2
  3. **Spiritual Mind** - Chapter 3
  4. **Secure Mind** - Chapter 4
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## **JOY FROM A JAILHOUSE**

(Outline of the Epistle of Philippians)

### **1. BELIEVER'S PRIORITY - CHAPTER 1**

*Key Verse: 1:21*

- A. PRAISES THE SAINTS - 1:1-8
- B. PRAYS FOR THE SAINTS - 1:9-11
- C. PRESENTS HIMSELF TO THE SAINTS - 1:12-30

### **2. BELIEVER'S PATTERN - CHAPTER 2**

*Key Verse: 2:5*

- A. THE EXHORTATION - 2:1-5
- B. THE EXAMPLE - 2:6-8
- C. THE EXALTATION - 2:9-11
- D. THE EXPLANATION - 2:12-18
- E. THE EXPRESSION - 2:19-30

### **3. BELIEVER'S PURPOSE - CHAPTER 3**

*Key Verse: 3:10*

- A. THE DESCRIPTION - 3:1-6
- B. THE DECISION - 3:7-12
- C. THE DIRECTION - 3:13-19
- D. THE DESTINATION - 3:20-21

### **4. BELIEVER'S POWER - CHAPTER 4**

*Key Verse: 4:13*

- A. GOD'S PEACE - 4:1-9
  - B. GOD'S POWER - 4:10-13
  - C. GOD'S PROVISION - 4:14-23
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## 1. BELIEVER'S PRIORITY - CHAPTER 1 (SINGLE MIND)

Key Verse: 1:21 - *"For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain."*

Note: In this Epistle, **the Person of Christ** is mentioned by name or personal pronoun approximately 90 times. - **It's all about Him.**

### A. PRAISES THE SAINTS - 1:1-8, 12, 27

Note: 1:3 *"I thank my God upon every remembrance of you,"*

Question - What would you ask God for if you were writing to a group of believers in Christ who are very close to you? The praise of the Apostle concerning the Philippian church centers in their response to the Gospel. The word **Gospel** appears 9 times in the four chapters (1:5,7,12, 17,27(2x); 2:22; 4:3,15)

#### 1. FOR THEIR FELLOWSHIP IN THE GOSPEL (TOGETHERNESS)

1:5 - For your fellowship in the Gospel - The word **fellowship** means togetherness; a joint participation in a common cause; someone described it as two fellows in the same ship getting along with each other. 1 John 1:7 - *"we have fellowship one with another."*

#### 2. FOR THEIR FIGHTING FOR THE GOSPEL (TOUGHNESS)

1:7 - *"the defence and confirmation of the Gospel"*

1:17 - *"set for the defence of the Gospel"* - Jude 3 - *"earnestly contend for the faith."*

#### 3. FOR THEIR FURTHERANCE OF THE GOSPEL (TRUTHFULNESS)

1:12 - *"unto the furtherance of the Gospel"*

(Illustration - Paul and Silas at midnight in the Philippian jail - Acts 16:20-40)

Paul states that one of the ways we further the Gospel message is how we respond and react to the things which happen unto us.

#### The Gospel is a:

- |                   |                      |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| (a) Glorious Word | (d) Saving Word      |
| (b) Precious Word | (e) Identifying Word |
| (c) Hated Word    |                      |

***This is all because it is a Biblical Word!***

## WHAT ARE WE TO DO WITH THE GOSPEL?

WE ARE TO:

1. **SHARE IT** - 1:5
2. **SAFEGUARD IT** - 1:7,17
3. **SPREAD IT** - 1:12
4. **SHOW IT** - 1:27

IN PHILIPPIANS 1:6 WE SEE THE TOTAL RESULTS IN LIVES TRANSFORMED BY THE POWER OF THE GOSPEL MESSAGE:

- A. **COMMENCEMENT** - (SALVATION) - *"He which hath begun a work in you"*
- B. **CONTINUANCE** - (SANCTIFICATION) - *"will perform (Continue) it"*
- C. **CONSUMMATION** - (SATISFACTION) - *"until the day of Jesus Christ"*

## What Is the Gospel According to You?

"You are writing a Gospel,  
A chapter each day,  
By deeds that you do,  
By words that you say.

Men read what you write,  
Whether faithless or true;  
Say, what is the Gospel  
According to you?"

— *Paul Gilbert*

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## B. PRAYS FOR THE SAINTS - 1:9-11

1:9 - *"And this I pray..."*

1. **"THAT THEIR LOVE MAY ABOUND"** - 1:9 - (Illustration: Jesus and the Disciples at the Sea of Galilee - He asks 3 times - *"Do you love me?"* John 21:1-25)
  - (a) **In Development** - Abound in Knowledge - 2 Peter 3:18 - *"But grow in grace, and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."*
  - (b) **In Discernment** - 1:9 - *"...In all judgment"* - We are better able to discern spiritual truth as we grow in Christ daily. In Philippians 3:10 after 30 years of being saved, Paul states - *"That I may know Him"*. There are degrees of knowing a person and the Apostle's desire was to know Him intimately.
2. **"THAT THEIR LIVES MAY BE APPROVED"** - 1:10-11 - *"That ye may approve things that are excellent..."* HOW IS MY APPROVAL RATING? (2 Corinthians 6:1-10) *note: in verse 4 - "In all things approving ourselves as the ministers (servants) of God..."*
  - (a) **IN PATIENCE** - (endurance) - 6:4
  - (b) **IN PERSECUTIONS** - (afflictions/hardships) - 6:4
  - (c) **IN PURITY** - (by pureness) - 6:6 - *compare: Isaiah 52:11 - "Be ye clean, that bear the vessels of the Lord"*. Paul wrote to young Timothy in 1 Timothy 5:22 - *"keep thyself pure."* The secret to staying clean in an unclean world is found in John 15:3 - *"now ye are clean through the Word that I have spoken unto you."* The one word that best describes spiritual leadership is the word ***influence***.

### I INFLUENCE OTHERS AND I AM INFLUENCED BY:

- |                                |                                  |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| (1) WHO I AM - CHARACTER       | (4) WHERE I AM - CONTACTS        |
| (2) WHAT I DO - CONDUCT        | (5) WHAT I BELIEVE - CONVICTIONS |
| (3) WHAT I SAY - COMMUNICATION |                                  |

1. **SELECT THE EXCELLENT** - 1:10 - *"Approve things that are excellent"* -  
(Illustration: Sears - Appliances were rated GOOD - BETTER - BEST)
2. **SINCERE IN EXPERIENCE** - 1:10 - *"That ye might be sincere (pure) and without offense."* (blameless)
3. **SUCCESSFUL IN EXPRESSION** - 1:11 - *"Being filled with the fruits of righteousness"*

DR. DAVID JEREMIAH OUTLINES PHILIPPIANS 1:9-11 AS FOLLOWS: PAUL PRAYS FOR A GROWTH IN:

- (a) THEIR DEVOTION - 1:9 - *"...love may abound..."*
- (b) THEIR DISCERNMENT - 1:10 - *"...may approve things that are excellent..."*
- (c) THEIR DEVELOPMENT - 1:10 - *"...sincere and without offence..."*
- (d) THEIR DEPARTMENT - 1:11 - *"...filled with the fruits of righteousness..."*

### C. PRESENTS HIMSELF TO THE SAINTS - 1:12-30

1:12 - *"I would you should understand, brethren, that the things which happened unto me..."* The circumstances of our lives have a way of demonstrating the depth of our spirituality.

1. **HIS DEFENCE OF THE GOSPEL** - 1:12-18 (HIS BONDS) - CHRIST BE MINISTERED

*note:* - **HIS BONDS** - 1:7,13,14,16 He refers to **HIS BONDS** as being in Christ (1:13) In Ephesians 4:1 he states it this way - "I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord..." He wanted it understood that he was not a prisoner of Caesar, but rather a PRISONER OF JESUS CHRIST. He states in 1:18 that *"Christ is preached"*, which gave him great joy.

2. **HIS DESIRE IN THE GOSPEL** - 1:19-23 - (HIS BODY) - CHRIST BE MAGNIFIED

1:20 - *"Christ shall be magnified in my BODY, whether it be by life, or by death."* In Romans 12:1 the Apostle pleads with us to present our bodies as a living sacrifice acceptable to God. We read in 1 Corinthians 6:19, 20 that as a believer, my body is the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit.

**I AM TO GLORIFY GOD IN MY BODY WHICH BELONGS TO HIM!**

3. **HIS DECISION FOR THE GOSPEL** - 1:24-30 (HIS BOLDNESS) - CHRIST BE MANIFESTED  
*note: 1:14,20 - BOLD - BOLDNESS - "speak the word"; 1:13 - "manifest in all the palace"; 1:20 - "with all boldness".* We are to be sure that our conduct and manner of life is in line with the Gospel message. Our TALK and our WALK must be in agreement so this world will see Christ in us and desire to know Him.

*Key verse of the chapter: 1:21 "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain."*

#### **A. THE LIFE OF THE CHRISTIAN - CHRIST**

(1) **SOURCE OF MY LIFE** - John 1:1-4; 10:28 - *"...in Him was life..."*

(a) PHYSICAL LIFE - John 1:4

(b) SPIRITUAL LIFE - Ephesians 2:1

(c) ETERNAL LIFE - 1 John 5:11

(2) **SUBSTANCE OF MY LIFE** - Galatians 2:20; Colossians 1:16 - *"Lives in me."*

(3) **SUFFICIENCY OF MY LIFE** - Colossians 2:9,10 - *"...complete in Him."* God created us a living soul and it will only find its satisfaction in Him. He is the source of PHYSICAL - SPIRITUAL - ETERNAL LIFE and He dwells in the CHILD OF GOD. Since we are complete in Him, we do not need to search anywhere else to find contentment and fulfillment. The song writer expressed it so beautifully...

***"Only Jesus Can Satisfy Your Soul!"*** — Lanny Wolfe.

You can try the broken cisterns of this old world, but will only find satisfaction when you draw from the FOUNTAIN OF LIVING WATER! HAVE YOU FOUND HIM TO BE THE SUFFICIENCY OF YOUR LIFE?

#### **B. THE DEATH OF THE CHRISTIAN - GAIN**

1:21 - ***"...to die is gain."*** How often have you heard people refer to DEATH AS GAIN? We usually refer to death as a loss and it is a loss to those who are left behind. However, Paul says if you are recording my death, make sure you place it in the profit side of the ledger.

(1) **RELEASE** - 1:23 - *"...a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better."* We will be set free from a world of sin and suffering as there will be no pain or suffering in His eternal presence (Revelation 21:4).

- (2) **RESURRECTION** - 1 Corinthians 15:51-58 - The child of God will be changed in a moment and receive a new body fashioned like unto the body of the Lord Jesus. We read in 1 John 3:1-3 - Not only will we see Him, but we shall be like Him.

**WHAT A DAY THAT WILL BE!**

- (3) **REUNION AND REJOICING** - John 14:1-7 - Death is the home-coming of the Child of God as absent from the body is to be present with the Lord. (1Thessalonians 4:17) - *"...so shall we ever be with the Lord."* We will be reunited with loved ones who have gone on before. However, the focus of our attention and affection will be none other than our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

***"I Long To Meet My Savior First Of All!"*** —Fanny J. Crosby

- (a) PAUL'S DESIRE - 1:23 - *"to depart"*
- (b) PAUL'S DUTY - 1:24 - *"to abide"*
- (c) PAUL'S DECISION - 1:25 - *"to continue"*

**SUFFERING - MYSTERY OR MINISTRY** - 1:29,30 - *"given to you to suffer."*

We need to note that Paul refers to **suffering** as a gift from the hand of God. - 1:29 - *"...unto you it is given...to suffer for his sake."* It is a divinely bestowed honor as he stated in 2 Corinthians 12:9 - *"...most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities..."* In verse 10 he states it this way, *"...I take pleasure in infirmities and persecution."* QUESTION - HOW CAN A PERSON TAKE PLEASURE IN SUFFERING? Answer - 1:29 - *"for His sake."* - 2 Corinthians 12:10 - *"...for Christ's sake."* In the second chapter of Philippians we have the supreme example of suffering in the Person of our Savior (2:6-8). (Illustration - Acts 5:41 - Peter and John - *"...rejoicing they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name."*). In Philippians 3:10 the Apostle stated it this way - *"...that I may know him...the fellowship of his sufferings."*

**PURPOSE IN SUFFERING - WHAT DOES OUR GOD DESIRE TO ACCOMPLISH?**

- 1. **TO PROVE US** - 1 Peter 1:7 - TRYING OF OUR FAITH
  - 2. **TO PERFECT US** - James 1:2-4 - MATURES US
  - 3. **TO PURIFY US** - 1 Peter 1:7; 4:1,2 - SENDS US TO HIS WORD
  - 4. **TO PREPARE US** - 2 Corinthians 1:3-7 - MINISTER TO OTHERS
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## TRIALS ARE:

- (a) PRECIOUS - 1 Peter 1:7
- (b) PRODUCTIVE - James 1:12
- (c) PURPOSEFUL - John 13:7; James 1:12 - One day we will look back and see God's purpose in each and every circumstance.

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF SUFFERING:

- (a) TOUCHES US  
(b) TEACHES US  
(c) TOUGHENS US  
(d) TENDERIZES US

[illegible]

## 2. BELIEVER'S PATTERN - CHAPTER 2 (SUBMISSIVE MIND)

*Key Verse - 2:5 - "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:"* - The word **MIND** in its various forms is used at least 12 times in the Epistle - 1:27, 2:2(2x), 2:3, 2:5, 2:20, 3:15(2x), 3:16, 3:19, 4:2, 4:7. Another translation of the **MIND** as used here would be the word **ATTITUDE** - We are to embrace the **ATTITUDE** as that of our Savior.

### In this chapter we have:

- (A) Son of God - Heavenly Example - 2:1-18
- (B) Servants of God - Human Examples - 2:19-30

A. **THE EXHORTATION** - 2:1-5 - Paul, writing from his imprisonment says to the believers in Philippi - if you really want to bring me joy, then start getting along with one another. He states - it is only possible to be LIKEMINDED as you consistently practice the MIND OF CHRIST. - 2:2 - (One Accord - One Mind) He then goes on in this chapter to give us the SUPREME EXAMPLE in the Person of the Lord Jesus and the HUMAN EXAMPLES in the persons of Timothy, Epaphroditus as well as himself.

#### 1. **Basis for Unity** - 2:1

- (a) Consolation - To draw along-side
- (b) Comfort - Love and encouragement
- (c) Companion - Constant fellowship of the Holy Spirit
- (d) Compassion - Bowels (inner); Mercies (outer) - Toward Others

#### 2. **Behavior of Unity** - 2:2-4 - (Likeminded - One Accord - Others)

- (a) Cause of Disunity - Self
- (b) Cure of Disunity - Selfless

2:3 - *"...in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves."*

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**B. THE EXAMPLE** - 2:6-8 - Of course, the perfect example of the MIND OF CHRIST would be none other than the SON OF GOD HIMSELF.

I see in these verses at least 4 CHARACTERISTICS OF THE MIND OF CHRIST:

1. **REMOVAL OF SELF** - 2:7 - "...took upon him the form of a servant"; 2:8 - "he humbled himself"; We read in John 3:30 - "He must increase, but I must decrease."; Paul stated in 1 Corinthians 15:31 - "...I die daily."
2. **RESPONSE IN SERVICE** - 2:7 - Jesus did not come to be served, but rather to serve. (Illustration - John 13:5 - Jesus washed the Disciple's feet) Note how often the New Testament writers referred to themselves as the Servants of Christ - Paul - Romans 1:1; James - James 1:1; Peter - 2 Peter 1:1; Jude - Jude 1:1
3. **RECEPTION OF SACRIFICE** - 2:8 - "became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."; Romans 12:1 - "...present your bodies a living sacrifice..."
4. **RECOGNITION OF SOVEREIGNTY** - 2:9-11 - "...God has highly exalted Him, and given Him a name that is above every name." NO BLEEDING/NO BLESSING; NO PAIN/NO GAIN.

**C. THE EXALTATION** - 2:9-11 - God has given His Son a Name that is above all names and that name is JESUS. Matthew 1:21 - "...thou shalt call His name Jesus."

1. **THE PERSON** - JESUS
2. **THE POSITION** - EXALTED
3. **THE PURPOSE** - TO THE GLORY OF GOD THE FATHER

**D. THE EXPLANATION** - 2:12-18 - verse 13 - "It is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure."

INS AND OUTS OF CHRISTIAN LIVING - Philippians 2:12-18

1. **A PURPOSE TO ACHIEVE** - 2:12 - "work out your own salvation"; 2:14 - "without murmuring"; 2:15 - "may be blameless"; 2:15 - "shine as lights in the world."
    - (a) CHRIST-LIKE CHARACTER - 2:11,12
    - (b) CHRIST-LIKE CONDUCT - 2:13-15 - Ephesians 5:1,2 - "imitators of God"
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2. **A POWER TO RECEIVE** - 2:13 - *"It is God which worketh in you";* 2:16 - *"holding forth the word of life.";* Acts 1:8 - *"shall receive power.."*
  - (a) TO PLEASE GOD - 2:13 - *"His good pleasure"*
  - (b) TO PRAISE GOD - 2:15-17 - *"shine as lights"; "holding forth the word of life."*
3. **A PROMISE TO BELIEVE** - 2:16-18 - Submission brings joy - 2:16 - *"rejoice";* 2:17 - *"joy", "rejoice".*
  - (a) PROSPECT OF JOY - 2:16 - *"rejoice in the day of Christ"*
  - (b) PRESENT ASPECT OF JOY - 2:16 - *"I joy with you";* 2:17 - *"ye rejoice with me."*

*In order to accomplish any and all of the above, it involves;*

- (a) HIS WORK - 2:13 - *note: God works in us in order "To Do"*
- (b) HIS WILL - 2:13 - *note: God works in us "To WILL"*
- (c) HIS WORD - 2:16 - *note: "Holding forth the Word of Life."*

**E. THE EXPRESSION** - 2:19-30 - We have seen a picture of the HEAVENLY EXAMPLE and in this section we see the HUMAN EXAMPLES of THE EXPRESSION OF THE MIND OF CHRIST. The Apostle gives us three human examples and they are Timothy, Epaphroditus and Paul himself. We have seen the SON OF GOD and now we see the SERVANTS OF GOD. First, we will look at **Timothy** whose name means *'honoring God'* and he is referred to over 20 times in Paul's writings. Dr. Harold Wilmington says Timothy is referenced in this Scripture in three different positions:

- (a) SHEPHERD - 2:20 - genuinely cares for others
  - (b) SON - 2:22 - as a son with the father
  - (c) SERVANT - 2:22 - served with me in the Gospel
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***Let's take a look at Paul's relationship with Timothy:***

- 1. PAUL'S RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM** - 2:22 - Father/Son; 2:19,23 - Master/Associate; 2:22 - Co-Servants - note - *"served with me."*
- 2. PAUL'S RECOMMENDATION OF HIM** -
  - (a) HE IS RELIABLE - 2:19 - *"to send Timothy shortly unto you."*
  - (b) HE IS REAL - 2:20,22 - *"ye know the proof of him"*
- 3. TIMOTHY'S RESPONSE TO HIM** -
  - (a) WILLING TO SERVE ANYONE - 2:20,22,25,30
  - (b) WILLING TO BE SENT ANYWHERE - 2:19,23,25,28
  - (c) WILLING TO SACRIFICE ANY THING - 2:22,27,30

We will now take a look at THE SECOND EXAMPLE OF THE MIND OF CHRIST who is **Epaphroditus**, whose name means *'charming'* or *'graceful'*. Dr. Warren Wiersbe refers to him in the following manner:

- (a) A BALANCED CHRISTIAN - 2:25 - Servant/Soldier;
- (b) A BURDENED CHRISTIAN - 2:26,27 - Longed after you all;
- (c) A BLESSED CHRISTIAN - 2:28-30 - Receive him therefore in the Lord.

Paul refers to him in the following manner:

- (a) COMPANION IN LABOR - 2:25 - *"work of Christ"* (v30)
  - (b) COMPASSIONATE IN LOVE - 2:25 - *"ministered to my needs"*
  - (c) COMMITTED IN LIFE - 2:30 - *"not regarding his life"*
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### 3. BELIEVER'S PURPOSE - CHAPTER 3 (SPIRITUAL MIND)

Key Verse - 3:10 - *"That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;"* - The Apostle Paul (after 30 years of being saved) expressed that the main desire of his heart was to get to know his Savior better and to become more like Him. I use this verse not only as the key verse of this chapter, but also the key verse of the Epistle.

#### A. THE DESCRIPTION - 3:1-6

1. **THE REMINDER** - 3:1 - *"To write the same things to you..."* Now is a good time for a reminder of **THE 4 JOY ROBBERS IN THE LIFE OF THE CHRISTIAN:**
  - (a) Circumstances
  - (b) People
  - (c) Things
  - (d) Worry

The word **things** appears about 9 times in this chapter - 3:1,7,8(2x),13(2x),16,19,21. There is a saying - "REPETITION AIDS LEARNING" and Paul used it often in his writing.

2. **THE REBUKE** - 3:2 - Note the word **beware** is used 3 times in this verse, warning them of false teachers and false teaching.
3. **THE RESUME** - 3:3-6 - Note the word **flesh** is used 3 times in verses 3 and 4.
  - (a) No Confidence in the Flesh - 3:1-12
  - (b) New Conversation in the Faith - 3:13-21

Dr. Lehman Strauss expressed Paul's description of his life prior to salvation as follows:

- (a) RITUAL - Circumcised the 8th day - a true jew
- (b) RELATIONSHIP - Stock of Israel - from Jacob
- (c) RESPECTABILITY - Tribe of Benjamin
- (d) RACE - Hebrew of the Hebrews
- (e) RELIGION - Touching the Law - a Pharisee
- (f) REPUTATION - Persecuted the Church
- (g) RIGHTEOUSNESS - In the law Blameless

**B. THE DECISION** - 3:7-12 - The things which he once considered so important and necessary he now considers to be a total waste and loss. *note:* The word **count** (v7,8(2x)) means to evaluate them or consider them in an entirely different manner - they had gone from gain to loss!

1. **HIS DECISION** - 3:7 New Perspective - The power to see or think of things in their true value.
2. **HIS DESIRE** - 3:8-10 - New Purpose - v8 - *"for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord."*

*compare:* John 10:27; 2 Corinthians 4:6; 1 John 5:20

**HIS DESIRE WAS TO GET TO KNOW:**

- (a) **HIS PERSON** - 3:10 - *"That I may know him"*
  - (1) Descriptive Question - Matthew 21:10 - "Who is this?"
  - (2) Discriminating Question - Matthew 22:42 - "What think ye of Christ?"
  - (3) Decisive Question - Matthew 27:22 - "What shall I do then with Jesus?"
    - (a) Individual Question
    - (b) Inevitable Question
    - (c) Important Question
- (b) **HIS POWER** - 3:10 - *"Power of His resurrection"* - *compare:* Matthew 28:18; Acts 1:8
- (c) **HIS PASSION** - 3:10 - *"Fellowship of his suffering"* - 1 Peter 3:18; 4:13; Isaiah 53:5
- (d) **HIS PURPOSE** - 3:10 - *"Being made conformable unto His death";* 1 John 3:1-3

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***To Be Like Jesus***

*"To Be Like Jesus, To Be Like Jesus*

*All I Ask - To Be Like Him*

*All Through Life's Journey, From Earth To Glory*

*All I Ask - To Be Like Him."*

**—Ira Sankey**

3. **HIS DETERMINATION** - 3:11,12 - New Pursuit - To follow with an end in view - Attain/ Apprehend

**C. THE DIRECTION** - 3:13-19 - *note: v 13 - "This one thing I do..."*

1. **Leave the Past** - 3:13 - *"forgetting those things which are behind"*
2. **Look for the Prize** - 3:14 - *"high calling of God in Christ Jesus"* - Paul had not reached his goal of Christ-likeness (v20,21), but every believer is to pursue it - Romans 8:29; 2 Thessalonians 2:14; 1 John 3:2.
3. **Live in the Present** - 3:15-19 - *note: In these verses the life of the believer is referred to as a **walk** - v16,17,18*
  - (a) For Earthly Things - 3:18,19 - Enemies of the cross of Christ who live for temporary things.
  - (b) For Eternal Things - 3:13,14 - Forgetting what is behind and reaching forth for the eternal.

**D. THE DESTINATION** - 3:20,21 - The word **conversation** refers to our citizenship - things in this world are only temporary, but the CHILD OF GOD constantly yearns for the eternal. In these two verses we have a picture of:

1. **My Citizenship** - 3:20 - In my eternal abode in Heaven
  2. **My Christ** - 3:20 - My Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, will be the central focus of our lives for eternity.
  3. **My Condition** - 3:21 -
    - (a) Present - *"vile (lowly, earthly) body"*
    - (b) Prospect - *"...like unto his glorious body"*
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4. **My Conclusion** - 3:21 - "...He is able to subdue all things unto Himself."

Dr. David Jeremiah outlines this section as follows:

**I Need Discipline To:**

- (a) FOCUS - 3:11,12
- (b) FORGET - 3:13
- (c) FOLLOW - 3:13,14
- (d) FINISH - 3:20,21

**4. BELIEVER'S POWER - CHAPTER 4 (SECURE MIND)**

Key Verse - 4:13 - *"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."* - This chapter is easily divided into **two main sections**:

- 1. **Satisfied With Christ** - 4:1-12
- 2. **Strengthened By Christ** - 4:13-23

**A. GOD'S PEACE** - 4:1-9 - verse 7 - (The Peace of God); verse 9 - (The God of Peace)

Peace - (freedom from stress; freedom from oppressive thoughts; contentment; satisfaction; tranquility) - there are two distinct types of Peace in the Word of God:

- (1) PEACE WITH GOD - (salvation) - Romans 5:1; Ephesians 2:14-18; Colossians 1:20
- (2) PEACE OF GOD - (sanctification) - 4:7 - *"...peace of God, which passeth all understanding..."*
  - (a) Its Certainty - 4:7 - *"shall"*
  - (b) Its Character - 4:7
    - (1) Divine - *"of God"*
    - (2) Discerning - *"passes all understanding"*
    - (3) Delivering - *"keep your hearts and minds"*

(c) Its Channel - 4:7 - *“through Christ Jesus”*

- (1) Person of Peace - Ephesians 2:14
- (2) Purchaser of Peace - Colossians 1:20
- (3) Perfecter of Peace - Isaiah 26:3

### **HEAVEN’S CURE FOR HUMAN CARES - 4:6 - CAREFUL FOR NOTHING - DO NOT BE ANXIOUS!**

We now come to the final robber of our joy which is **worry**. - A thin trickle of doubt, if allowed to flow through the mind, opens up a channel into which all of our thoughts are drained. Worry is a sin because it is the opposite of faith - it takes the situation out of God’s hand and places in our hand. **Worry Is:**

- (1) **FUTILE** - (useless) - Matthew 6:25-27
- (2) **FAITHLESS** - (unnecessary) - Matthew 6:28-32
- (3) **FRUITLESS** - (unsuccessful) - 1 Peter 5:7

### **GOD’S PRESCRIPTION FOR WORRY - 4:6**

- (1) **Trust in the Lord** - Proverbs 3:5,6 - DO NOT BE ANXIOUS!
- (2) **Talk With the Lord** - 4:6 - *“In everything by prayer and supplication”*
- (3) **Thanks to the Lord** - 4:6 - *“In everything”; v12 - “all things”; v4 - “always”; v11 - “whatever state I am in.”*

***THE PEACE OF GOD GUARDS ME - THE GOD OF PEACE GUIDES ME.***

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**B. GOD'S POWER** - 4:10-13 - (v13 - *"I can do all things through Christ"*)

4:10 - *"I rejoiced"*; 4:11 - *"I have learned"*; 4:12 - *"I know"*; 4:13 - *"I can do"*

**CONTENTED CHRISTIAN** - 4:11 - Paul was a contented Christian because:



1. **THE RECORD IS PERMANENT** - 4:3 - *"names are in the book"*; Luke 10:20 - *"names written in Heaven"*

(John Wesley - "I am content with whatever entertainment I meet with - that must be the spirit of all who travel with me. If a meal ill-dressed, a hard bed, a shower of rain, a poor room or a dirty road will put them out of humor, it lays a burden upon me greater than all the rest put together. By the Grace of God I never fret, I repine at nothing and to have persons at my ear fretting and murmuring at everything is like tearing the flesh off my bones.")

2. **THE REDEEMER IS PRESENT** - 4:5 - *"The Lord is at hand."* Psalm 139:7-12 - We need to practice THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD in our lives on a daily basis.

**Practicing His Presence (of Prepositions) :**

- (a) **Behind Me** - Genesis 17:1 - *"walk before me..."* - TO BACK ME UP
- (b) **Before Me** - Deuteronomy 13:4 - *"walk after..."* - TO GUIDE ME
- (c) **Above Me** - Psalm 91:1 - *"under the shadow"* - TO PROTECT ME
- (d) **Beneath Me** - Deuteronomy 33:27 - *"underneath are the everlasting arms"* - TO SUPPORT ME
- (e) **Beside Me** - Genesis 5:24; 6:9; Psalm 16:8; Job 23:9 - TO FELLOWSHIP WITH ME
- (f) **Within Me** - Colossians 1:27; Galatians 2:20 - *"lives in me"* - TO EMPOWER ME
- (g) **All Around Me** - Psalm 34:7 - *"encampeth round about them that fear him"* - TO ASSURE ME

3. **THE REDEEMED ARE PRECIOUS** - 4:10 - *"care of me"*; 4:14 - *"communicate with my affliction"*

*note:* Titles given to believers - 4:1 - *My brethren; dearly beloved; longed for; my joy and crown; dearly beloved*; 4:3 - *true yokefellow; fellow laborers*

(Illustration - throat surgery - Local Church Evangelism - Debt Free for 44 years!)

4. **THE RESOURCES ARE POWERFUL** - 4:13 - All strength; 4:19 - All supply; Colossians 2:9,10 - *"all the fullness of the Godhead"* dwells in Christ and we are *"complete in Him!"*

**C. GOD'S PROVISION** - 4:14-23 - (v19 - *"My God shall supply all your need..."*)

(D.L. Moody called Philippians 4:19 - "GOD'S BLANK CHECK" and described it as follows:

FIRM - MY GOD - NEVER GO BANKRUPT

PROMISE - SHALL SUPPLY - ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN

AMOUNT - ALL YOUR NEED - ALWAYS SUFFICIENT

CAPITAL - ACCORDING TO - LIMITLESS

BANK - IN GLORY - CAN'T BE ROBBED

SIGNATURE - BY CHRIST JESUS - ON EVERY CHECK

ONE THING LACKING - MUST BE ENDORSED!

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Someone has summarized this section in Philippians under the title -

**“FROM IMPOTENCE TO OMNIPOTENCE”**

**I like to outline Philippians 4:19 as follows:**

- A. THE SOURCE - MY GOD
- B. THE SUPPLY - SHALL SUPPLY
- C. THE SUFFICIENCY - ALL YOUR NEED
- D. THE STANDARD - ACCORDING TO HIS RICHES IN GLORY
- E. THE SYSTEM - BY CHRIST JESUS

**SAINTS IN CAESAR’S HOUSEHOLD - 4:22 - PAUL WAS CHAINED TO A SOLDIER 24/7!**

- 1. UNLIKELY PEOPLE
- 2. UNLIKELY PLACES
- 3. UNLIKELY POSSIBILITIES
- 4. UNLIKELY PROSPECT

Historians tell us that the Roman civilization of this period was characterized by heartless cruelty and indescribable corruption. Rome was a veritable cesspool of iniquity. The horror and degradation which abounded have rarely been equalled and probably never exceeded in the history of mankind. Nero was a wholesale robber, a murderer, a liar, a coward, a drunkard, a glutton, incestuous and so depraved that even the pagans of his day spoke of him as a mixture of “blood and mud”. He usurped a throne, he poisoned his legitimate heir whose sister he married, only to break her heart with his brutality, and then he ordered her assassination. He murdered his own mother and kicked to death his second wife. He ordered the death of the brilliant philosopher who had striven in vain to guide his wayward heart. He reduced his capital to ashes and tortured the Christians to death by hundreds by martyrdom. All this before he was 30 Years old! This monster of corruption was stained through and through with every possible crime and form of cruelty.

**Wow! WE READ IN PHILIPPIANS 4:22 THAT THE SAINTS IN CAESAR’S HOUSEHOLD SEND THEIR GREETINGS TO THE BELIEVERS IN PHILIPPI!**

***AMAZING GRACE, HOW SWEET THE SOUND!***

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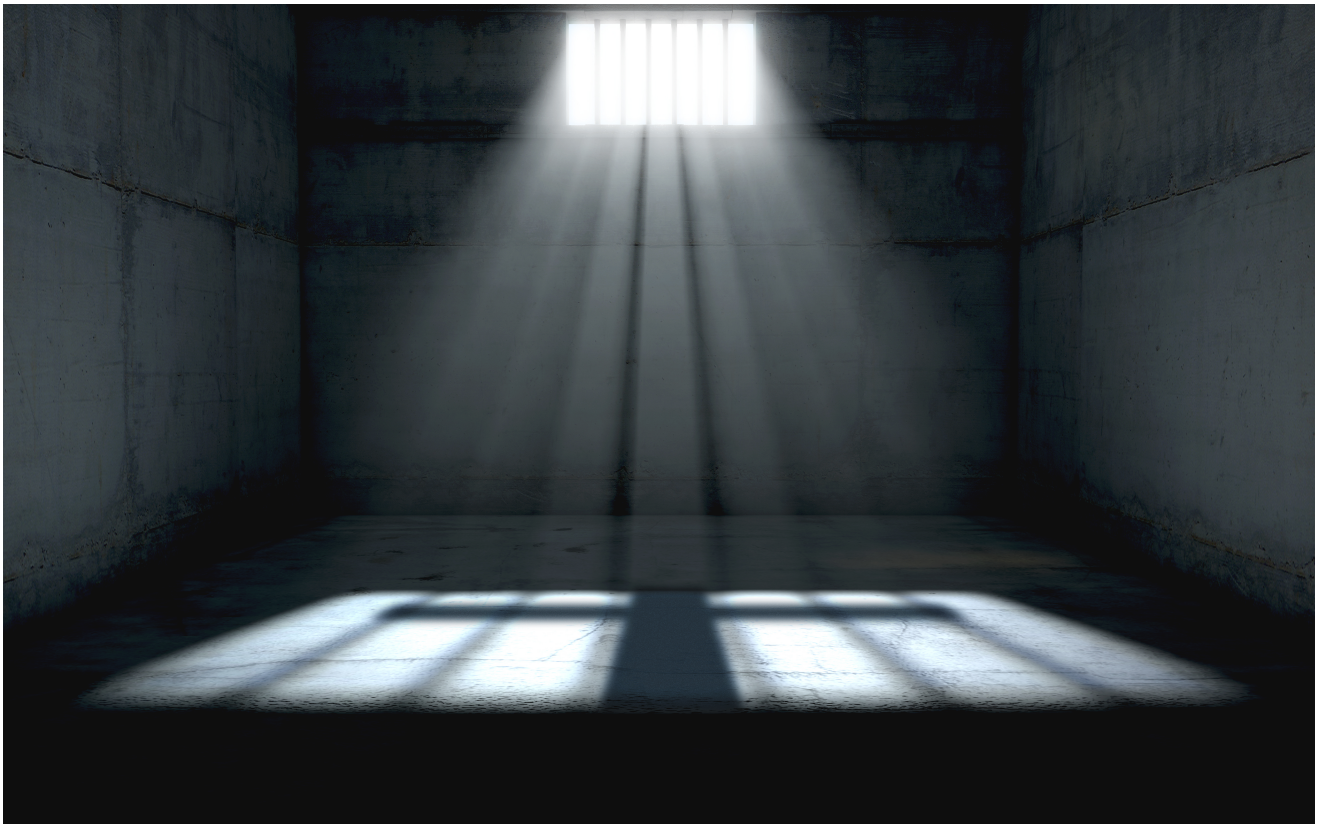


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EPISTLE TO THE PHILIPPIANS

# Joy from a Jailhouse

Wendell Cobb



*"That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings,  
being made conformable unto his death;"*

— *Philippians 3:10*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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