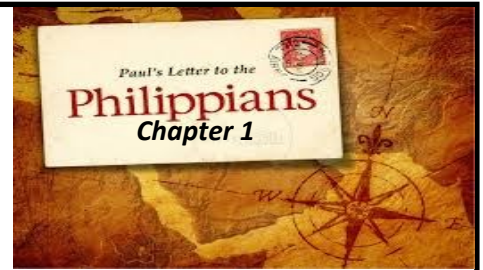


The church at Philippi was born in joy. Paul, arrested, stripped and beaten with rods was placed in the inner prison with his feet in stocks. *“About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them..”* (Acts 16:25) An earthquake, a suicidal jailor and the power of the gospel sees a whole household *“rejoice.. believing in God.”* (Acts 16:34) Now, around 10 years later, Paul is in prison in Rome writing to the saints at Philippi, and once again joy weaves its way throughout.



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.

¹² I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, ¹³ so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. ¹⁴ And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

Scripture taken from ESV Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®).
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READ 1:1-2. Mark “Christ Jesus” with a

How does Paul describe himself and the believers in relation to Christ?

Servant—“doulos” - slave, devoted to another at expense of self.

How does his greeting in v2 tie in with this?

Read 1:3-11. Mark Christ as above, mark “gospel” with a and underline references to time. Mark “joy” with a 😊

What do you learn about joy?

v3-6 Why does Paul thank God for them?

v3-6 What do you learn from the time phrases?

v9 What is Paul’s specific prayer request?

v10-11 What does he see as the outcome from his request being answered?

How do the 2 references to the day of Jesus Christ relate to each other? (v6 & v10)

Read 1:12-18. Mark words as above. Mark “rejoice” with a 😊

*How does Paul view his imprisonment? (v12-13)
What determines his attitude? (v1)*

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¹⁵ Some indeed preach Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from good will. ¹⁶ The latter do it out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. ¹⁷ The former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely but thinking to afflict me in my imprisonment. ¹⁸ What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice.

Yes, and I will rejoice, ¹⁹ for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, ²⁰ as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. ²¹ For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. ²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. ²³ I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. ²⁴ But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. ²⁵ Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, ²⁶ so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.

²⁷ 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, ²⁸ 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. ²⁹ For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, ³⁰ engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

What are the different motivations for peoples preaching?

What is Paul's one and only desire and focus?

Despite his circumstances, what does he chose to do?

READ ch1:19-26. Mark "Christ Jesus" with a and mark pronouns referring to Paul with a

v19-20 Why is Paul rejoicing?

v21 What is the goal and focus of Paul's life?

What would it look like to live this way?

v22-26 What is the dilemma facing Paul? How does he resolve it and why?

Read 1:27-30. Mark Christ with a and mark pronouns referring to the Philippians with a

v27 How does Paul encourage them to live?

v27-28 What will this look like?

v29-30 What has been granted to the Philippians?

As you reflect on Philippians ch1, what would you say is Paul's primary passion and focus in life?

How does he view his imprisonment?

How does his focus help him to flourish in difficult circumstances? What can we learn from his example?