



World Christian Fellowship
60, High Worple, Rayners Lane, Harrow
Middlesex, HA2 9SZ, United Kingdom
Tel: +44 208 429 9292
www.wcflondon.com
wcflondon@gmail.com

Book of Philippians

Lesson 1

Being Joyful

Philippians 1:1-7

V 1-2, Greetings

V 3-7, Thankfulness for their support

V 8, Longing to visit them

V 1-2, Greetings and Humility

Paul does not refer to himself here as an Apostle but as a slave. In chapter 2 we will study about it in length.

Saints in Christ: 'in Christ Jesus' means those who trust in Jesus. We did in depth study in the book of Ephesians. So when you accept Lord Jesus you have His holy life inside of you.

When Paul writes to them since they are in Christ Jesus they are holy. So they must live a holy life. God is separate from human people because he is perfect. God called Israel to be a 'holy nation' (Exodus 19:6). He wanted them to show other nations what he is like.

The Greek word '**charis**', translated as '**grace**'.

Grace means God's generous free gift. He gives it because of His love for people. None deserve it and they can earn it. 'Peace' is like the Hebrew word 'shalom' that Jews still use as a greeting.

One can have peace with God because of the work and sacrifice of Jesus Christ at the cross thus they can have peace with each other. All good gifts come from God (James 1:17). Both grace and peace come from him.

'Our Father' reminds Christians of the honour that they have as members of God's family.

V 3-7,

"My God," shows the intimacy, the personal relationship, the strong sense of personal and intimate communion he enjoyed with the Almighty Himself. Paul uses that phrase repeatedly in his letters

1 Corinthians 1:4, Colossians 1:3, 1 Thessalonians 1:2, 2 Timothy 1:3, Philemon verse 4.

He loves to speak of God as "my God," "my God".

Joy:

There are 15 explicit references to some form of either the noun “joy” or the verb “rejoice” in this short letter.

1. Paul prays for the Philippian believers with **joy** because of their partnership with him in the gospel. (1:4-5)
2. He rejoices that Christ is proclaimed – even when Christ is proclaimed with impure motives. (1:18)
3. He rejoices that his current hardship will turn out for his deliverance, through the prayers of the believers and the help of the Spirit. (1:18-1:19)
4. Paul is convinced that the continuation of his ministry to the Philippians will contribute to their “progress and joy in the faith”. (1:25)
5. Paul has joy when the believers are unified and single-minded. (2:2)
6. Paul would be glad) in his sacrifice for the sake of their faith, so that his ministry was not in vain. (2:17)
7. Paul would rejoice with the believers in his sacrifice for the sake of their faith, so that his ministry was not in vain (2:17)
8. Paul encourages the Philippian believers to also be glad in his life being poured out for them. (2:18)

9. Paul encourages the Philippian believers to also rejoice with him in his life being poured out for them. (2:18)
10. Paul is eager to send Epaphroditus back to them, so that they can rejoice in seeing him again and be less anxious about his health. (2:28)
11. Paul encourages the Philippian church to receive Epaphroditus back with joy, since he risked his life for the work of Christ. (2:29)
12. Paul has no problem with frequently repeating the reminder to “rejoice in the Lord,” because he knows how important it is. (3:1)
13. Paul encourages the Philippians to “rejoice in the Lord always.” (4:4)
14. For added emphasis, Paul again commands the Philippian believers to rejoice. (4:4)
15. The Philippians’ renewed ability to support his ministry caused Paul to rejoice in the Lord greatly. (4:10)

True joy is an unwavering constant in a Spirit-filled life. Produced by the presence of God and His Holy Spirit even if you’re sitting in the prison waiting for your execution, as Paul was. Paul was full of joy, the reason is that his eternal relationship with a living God through Jesus Christ and the

ministry of the Holy Spirit within him. And because he was so near to God, he was full of joy. Circumstances doesn't determine your joy. It's your nearness to God that determines the level of your joy.

Read Psalms 42 and 43 you will understand how King David was able to find joy in the midst of his trials.

Happiness is dependent upon circumstances. Joy is not. Here's why?

Before Jesus went to Calvary He said *"These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full"* (**John 15:11**).

You will have *"sorrow now, but I will see you again, and your hearts will rejoice, and no one will take your joy from you"* (**John 16:22**).

Jesus promises His disciples that their joy will be full or complete. Filling a glass of water to the brim makes it full or complete. Jesus went to the cross to make sure that joy would be complete.

Jesus reassures them that no one's going to take their joy away. That is a permanent possession, not a fleeting moment like happiness is.

A funeral is where sorrow and joy were felt at the same time. The departed person was born again and we were joyful

knowing where that person was at, but we were all still sorrowful about losing her.

Gospel:

1 Corinthians 15:3-6, For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,⁴ and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,⁵ and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. (NKJV)

The word Gospel appears 8 times in this small little book. (1:5, 7, 12,17 &27; 2:22; 4:3; & 4:15)

Partnering in the Gospel:

Paul rejoices every time he thinks about them because they were generous. Everything they did demonstrated their love. When ~Paul writes this letter he is in Rome prison. The church in Philippi hears about this and because of their love for him, they want to send to him a gift of love, money. The bearer of that gift is one of their congregations named Epaphroditus.

They send Epaphroditus with instruction, “Give Paul this money to meet his needs and stay with him as long as he needs you to minister to him.” And so they send one of their choice men to be Paul’s personal servant, to bring the gift of love, and to be the living illustration of their love to him.

2 Corinthians 8:1-7,

The church in Macedonia helped beyond their ability even though they were in poverty.

For even in Thessalonica they sent once and again to the needs of Paul (4:15-16).

Good work by God:

God gave them the repentance, God gave them the faith, God gave them the salvation and God opened their heart.

Ephesians 1:4, *just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,*

1 Peter 1:20, *He indeed was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you*

2 Thessalonians 2:13-14, But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth,¹⁴ to which He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Titus 3:4-5, But when the kindness and the love of God our Saviour toward man appeared,⁵ not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,

John 6:37, All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out.

John 10:28, And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.

Until the day of Jesus Christ:

Here is the confidence of Jesus second coming of Jesus Christ.

Paul called the day of Christ “that day” in his last letter. The phrases are found in 1 Corinthians 1.8, 3.13, 5.5; 2 Corinthians 1.14; Philippians 1.6, 10, 2.16; 2 Timothy 1.18, 4.8.

That Day is when Christ shall appear to glorify himself. That day is often called “His day,” or “the Day of the Lord,” because it will be the day of His triumph and glory.

It refers here to the day when the Lord Jesus will appear to receive his people to himself - the Day of Judgment. Paul believed in the perseverance of saints. It would be impossible to express a stronger conviction of the truth of that doctrine than he has done here.

The declaration of his opinion that where God has begun a good work in the soul, it will not be lost. It is based on the fact that God had begun the good work.

The reason for the belief is something like the following:

(1) It is in God alone. It is not in man in any sense. No reliance is to be placed upon man in keeping himself.

(2) The reliance is on God; and the evidence that the renewed man will be kept is this:

a) God began the work of grace in the soul.

b) He had a design in it. It was deliberate, and intentional. It was not by chance or haphazard.

c) There is no reason why he should begin such a work and then abandon it. It cannot be because he has no power to complete or because there are difficulties which he did not foresee. Why then should he abandon it?

d) God abandons nothing that he undertakes. There are no unfinished worlds or systems no half-made and forsaken works of His hands. Why should there be in the salvation of the soul?

e) He has promised to keep the renewed soul to eternal life. John 10:27-29; Hebrews 6:17-20; Romans 8:29-30.

Partakers of Divine Grace:

The Philippians church had participated with Paul in the defense of the gospel in all his troubles and persecutions. They had made common cause with him so that they would partake of the same divine favour. Paul expected that the divine blessing would follow his efforts in the cause of the gospel. And he says that they would also share in the

blessing. Because they had shown all the sympathy, which they could in his trials. They had nobly stood by him when others forsook him and he anticipated that they would all share in the benefits which would flow to him in his efforts in the cause of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ the Redeemer.

Matthew 10:40-42, *“He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me.”⁴¹ He who receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet’s reward. And he who receives a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man’s reward.⁴² And whoever gives one of these little ones only a cup of cold water in the name of a disciple, assuredly, I say to you, he shall by no means lose his reward.”*

Application for us today:

1. Do you know the Gospel? Do you preach the Gospel or something else?
2. Have you got the Joy from the Lord? Romans 14:17
3. Partnership in the Gospel?
4. Are you part of the vision of your church in partnering?
5. Do you give only when someone ask?
6. Do you give only when you are comfortable with your finances?
7. How your church can be like the church at Philippi?

