

*Analysis of*  
**PHILIPPIANS**

**Exegetical Theme:**

**"PAUL'S THANKFUL, JOYFUL APPEAL FOR THE HUMILITY AND  
KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST ALONG WITH UNITY AND PEACE"**

**Popular Theme:**

**"JOY IN JAIL"**

**Key Verses:**

"For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain." Philippians 1:21

"Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus ...."  
Philippians 2:5

"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice! Philippians 4:4

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Prepared by James T. Bartsch  
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# PHILIPPIANS

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## Key Verses:

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## A1 THE PRELIMINARY MATTERS 1:1-30

### B1 The Personal Interaction with the Philippians 1:1-11

- C1 Paul and Timothy's gracious greeting to the church and leaders in Philippi 1:1-2
- C2 Paul's positive attitude toward the Philippians 1:3-11
  - D1 **Thankfulness:** His *joyful* thanks <sup>1</sup> to God for their participation in the gospel 1:3-5
  - D2 **Confidence:** His confidence that God will perfect the work begun in them 1:6
  - D3 **Affection:** His longing affection in Christ for them 1:7-8
  - D4 **Prayerfulness:** His prayer that their love may abound in discernment so they may be blameless until the day of Christ 1:9-11

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<sup>1</sup> 1:3-5 title - joyful thanks: An amazing attitude pervades this letter. Even though Paul was in prison (1:13), he possesses a joyful spirit throughout. This leads to the application that a Christian's joy does not need to depend on his circumstances but on his Lord (thus the theme, "Joy in Jail"). The Christian's attitude key is to be found in 3:1 and 4:4, "Rejoice in the Lord!" For a fuller treatment on the presence of joy in Philippians, see the Addendum at the end of the outline, "Occurrences of Joy in Philippians."

**B2 The Personal Report to the Philippians 1:12-26**

- C1 Paul's *joyful* report that his circumstances have resulted in the progress of the gospel 1:12-18
  - D1 The widespread knowledge of Paul's imprisonment for the cause of Christ 1:12-13
  - D2 The resultant spreading of the gospel 1:14-18
    - E1 The encouraging of most brethren to speak the word of God without fear 1:14
    - E2 The motives of the gospel-sharers 1:15-17
      - F1 The mixture of envy of some; good will of others 1:15
      - F2 The motivation of love by those of good will 1:16
      - F3 The motivation of causing Paul greater affliction by the envious 1:17
    - E3 Paul's continuing *rejoicing* that Christ is proclaimed regardless of motives 1:18
- C2 Paul's conviction about his future release 1:19-26
  - D1 His assurance of his deliverance <sup>2</sup> 1:19
  - D2 His expectation that Christ will be exalted in his body, whether by life or death 1:20-21
  - D3 His tension between staying on earth for fruitful labor and departing this life to be with Christ 1:22-24
  - D4 His conviction of the necessity of his staying on earth to help the Philippians be *joyful* in their growing faith 1:25-26

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<sup>2</sup> 1:19 - deliverance (Gk. σωτηρία, usually translated "salvation"): This may possibly refer to his ultimate salvation and rewards as well as his release from prison. Both ideas appear in the following verses.

**B3 The Personal Challenge to Walk Worthy of the Gospel 1:27-30**

- C1 His desire to hear that they strive together in unity for the faith of the gospel 1:27
- C2 His reminder that opponents serve as a sign of their own destruction and the Philippians' salvation 1:28
- C3 His reminder that suffering is required for believers 1:29
- C4 His expectation that they would experience the same persecution he was 1:30

**A2 THE PLEA TO DUPLICATE THE MIND-SET (OUTLOOK) OF CHRIST: Think As Christ Thinks 2:1-18**

**B1 The Exhortation to the Philippians to Duplicate the Love, Thinking, Unity, and Humility Found in the Messiah 2:1-4**

- C1 Be compassionately unified (completing Paul's *joy*) 2:1-2
- C2 Be not self-exalting 2:3a
- C3 Be others-honoring 2:3b
- C4 Be others-concerned-for 2:4

**B2 The Example of the Messiah 2:5-11**

- C1 His humility 2:5-8
  - D1 The command to duplicate the attitude exemplified by Jesus the Messiah 2:5
  - D2 The self-abasement of Him Who existed in the Form of God 2:6-8
    - E1 He did not grasp for equality with God 2:6
    - E2 He emptied Himself 2:7
      - F1 Taking the form of a bond-servant
      - F2 Made in the likeness of men
    - E3 He humbled Himself to the point of death on the cross 2:8

C2 His reward 2:9-11

D1 God's high exaltation of Him 2:9a

D2 God's giving Him a name above all names 2:9b-11

E1 The giving of the name 2:9b

E2 The purpose of the exalted name 2:10-11

F1 The submission of every human 2:10

F2 The glory of the Father 2:11

**B3 The Application of the Exhortation 2:12-18**

C1 With fear and trembling they are to work out their own salvation 2:12-13

D1 The exhortation to live out in daily living their own salvation 2:12

E1 In light of human frailty

E2 In light of responsibility to Divine Majesty

D2 The reason for the fearful outliving: God's in-working 2:13

E1 His motivation of believers

E2 His performance within believers of His good pleasure

C2 They are to live without murmurings and disputings 2:14-15

D1 The command 2:14

D2 The reason: that they may be 2:15

E1 Blameless

E2 Harmless

E3 Shining like stars as God's faultless children among a perverted generation

- C3 They are thus by their lives to uphold the Word of Life 2:16a
- C4 The exemplary, *joyful* attitude of Paul facing the future 2:16b-18
  - D1 His desire in the day of Christ for security from the Philippians' lives that his ministry was not wasted effort 2:16b
  - D2 His reaction to the prospect of dying through having served them 2:17-18
    - E1 Personal *rejoicing* 2:17
    - E2 Request for their *rejoicing* with him 2:18

**A3 THE PLANS FOR PERSONNEL 2:19-30**

**B1 Paul's Plan to Send Timothy 2:19-23**

- C1 To gain an uplifting report of their welfare 2:19
- C2 Because of Timothy's singular ability to care for others 2:20
- C3 Because of others' self-seeking character 2:21
- C4 Because of Timothy's known character of child-like service in the gospel 2:22
- C5 The timing: Timothy to be sent as soon as Paul knows how his trial turns out 2:23

**B2 Paul's Plan to Come Himself 2:24**

**B3 Paul's Joy-Motivated Decision to Send Epaphroditus 2:25-30**

- C1 The decision 2:25
- C2 Epaphroditus' sickness 2:26-27
  - D1 His desire to show himself healed to the concerned Philippians 2:26
  - D2 His deathly sickness 2:27a
  - D3 God's merciful healing 2:27b

- C3 The request to receive him 2:28-30
  - D1 With joy 2:28-29a
  - D2 With honor 2:29b-30
    - E1 The exhortation 2:29b
    - E2 His motive 2:30
      - F1 Working for Christ
      - F2 Endangering his life

**A4 THE PLEA TO SACRIFICE CONFIDENCE IN FLESHLY ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN ORDER TO PROFIT FROM CHRIST AND KNOW HIM: "Sacrifice to know Christ!" 3:1 - 4:1**

**B1 The Preliminary Exhortation to Rejoice in Christ 3:1a**

**B2 Paul's Warning against Flesh-Glorifying Legalists (Circumcision-Requrers) 3:1b-3**

- C1 The warning against "dogs" and "evil workmen" 3:2
- C2 The reason: Trusters in Christ, not the flesh, are the true circumcision 3:3

**B3 Paul's Example of Sacrificing to Profit from Christ 3:4-14**

- C1 The **superiority** of his claim to fame in fleshly credits 3:4-6
  - D1 His superiority asserted 3:4
  - D2 His credentials listed 3:5-6
    - E1 His legal circumcision 3:5
    - E2 His Israeli nationality
    - E3 His Benjamite ancestry
    - E4 His Hebrew parentage and speech
    - E5 His Pharisaic legalism

- E6 His religious zeal (persecuting the church) 3:6
- E7 His blameless keeping of the Law
- C2 His **policy** of sacrificing all fleshly credits for the excellence of knowing Messiah Jesus 3:7-8a
- C3 The **goal** of his sacrificing 3:8b-11
  - D1 To gain (accrue profit from) Christ 3:8b
  - D2 To be found in Christ 3:9
    - E1 Not having an "of the Law" righteousness
    - E2 But having an "of God" righteousness coming through faith in Christ
  - D3 To know by experience 3:10
    - E1 Christ
    - E2 The power of Christ's resurrection
    - E3 The fellowship (warm sharing in common) of His sufferings, thus being conformed to His death
  - D4 To attain to the "out-resurrection" from among the dead ones 3:11
- C4 The **timing** of his achieving his goals in relation to fellowship with Christ 3:12a, 13a
  - D1 He has not already received 3:12a
  - D2 He has not already been perfected
  - D3 He does not consider himself yet to have laid hold of Christ 3:13a
- C5 The **intensity** of his striving for his goal of complete fellowship with Christ 3:12b, 13b-14
  - D1 His pursuit of the goal 3:12b
  - D2 His disregard for the past 3:13b

D3 His stretching for the future

D4 His pursuit of the prize of the "upward-calling" of God in  
Messiah Jesus 3:14

**B4 Paul's Urging Other to Duplicate His Attitudes and Actions 3:15 - 4:1**

C1 The exhortation to mature Christians to have the same goal with respect  
to Christ as he does 3:15-16

D1 Unencumbered with confidence in the flesh 3:15

D2 Walking according to knowledge already gained 3:16

C2 The command to imitate Paul's attitudes and actions in all things 3:17-21

D1 The command 3:17

E1 Imitate Paul

E2 Imitate Paul's imitators

D2 The reasons 3:18-21

E1 The negative reason 3:18-19

F1 The existence of many so-called Christians who are  
really enemies 3:18

F2 Their characteristics 3:19

G1 Their destiny -- destruction

G2 Their god -- the belly

G3 Their glory -- shame

G4 Their thoughts -- earthly things

E2 The positive reason: because of our heavenly destiny  
3:20-21

F1 Our citizenship -- in the heavens 3:20

F2 Our Savior, the Master, Jesus, Messiah -- whom  
we await from the heavens

F3 Our prospect -- the glorification of our bodies  
presently in humiliation 3:21

C3 The final command to the Philippians (Paul's source of joy and reward /  
achievement) to stand in the Lord 4:1

## **A5 THE PLEA FOR UNITY AND PEACE 4:2-9**

### **B1 The Exhortation to Unity 4:2-3**

C1 To Euodia and Syntyche 4:2

C2 To Syzygus ("Yokefellow"?) to help them achieve unity 4:3

### **B2 The Provision for Peace 4:4-9**

C1 The provision of the peace of God 4:4-7

D1 The exhortation to rejoice in the Lord 4:4

D2 The exhortation to gentleness and moderation (because of the  
nearness of the Lord) 4:5

D3 The exhortation to be anxious about nothing but to pray about  
everything 4:6

D4 The result of the peace of God 4:7

C2 The presence of the God of peace 4:8-9

D1 Thought life -- Think on things of noble qualities 4:8

D2 Practice life -- Practice the things learned from and seen in Paul  
4:9a

D3 Result -- The God of peace will be with them 4:9b

**A6 THANKS FOR THE PHILIPPIANS' ABUNDANT GIFT 4:10-20**

**B1 Paul's Rejoicing at the Revival of Their Thought for Him 4:10**

**B2 Paul's Disclaimer of Dire Need 4:11-13**

C1 His learned ability to be content in any circumstance 4:11

C2 His ability to adapt to humbling situations and prosperity 4:12

C3 His ability to accomplish all things in Christ 4:13

**B3 Paul's Commendation of Their Gift 4:14-18**

C1 Because of their consequent fellowship with him in affliction 4:14

C2 Because of their past excellence in sharing with him 4:15-16

D1 They were the only church to share with him 4:15

D2 They shared with him in Thessalonica 4:16

C3 Paul's desire for spiritual progress credited to their account 4:17

C4 Paul's acknowledgment of his receipt of their beautiful gift from Epaphroditus 4:18

**B4 Paul's Promise of God's Supply of Their Needs 4:19**

**B5 Paul's Glorification of God 4:20**

**A7 CLOSING GREETINGS 4:21-23**

**B1 General Exchange of Greetings 4:21**

**B2 Special Greetings to Those of Caesar's Household 4:22**

**B3 The Benediction of Grace 4:23**

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## Addendum

### Occurrences of Joy in Philippians

5479, chara, χαρά, joy

1. **Joy over seeing people come to know Jesus:** Philippians 1:3-5 3 "I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, 4 Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with *joy*, 5 because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.
2. **Joy in knowing the things of God, including the gospel** Philippians 1:25  
And having this confidence, I know that I shall abide and continue with you all for your furtherance and *joy* of faith;
3. **Joy in seeing other Christians Christ-like in their attitude and perspective:**  
Philippians 2:2 Fulfil ye my *joy*, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, [being] of one accord, of one mind.
4. **Joy in seeing God spare the life of another believer:** Philippians 2:29  
Receive him therefore in the Lord with all *gladness*; and hold such in reputation:
5. **There is joy from Christians with whom we've worked and helped grow in Christ and led to the Lord:** Philippians 4:1 . Therefore, my brethren dearly beloved and longed for, my *joy* and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, [my] dearly beloved.

5463 chairō, χαίρω, to rejoice

1. **The proclamation of the good news about Christ causes us to rejoice:**  
Philippians 1:18 What then? notwithstanding, every way, whether in pretence, or in truth, Christ is preached; and I therein *do rejoice*, yea, and *will rejoice*.
2. **Sacrificing for other Christians causes us to rejoice:** Philippians 2:17 Yea, and if I be offered upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I *joy*, and rejoice with you all.
3. **Seeing another Christian give his life (in martyrdom) for Christ should cause us to rejoice:** Philippians 2:18 For the same cause also do ye *joy*, and rejoice with me.
4. **Seeing another believer whose life God has spared causes us to rejoice:**  
Philippians 2:28 I sent him therefore the more carefully, that, when ye see him again, ye may *rejoice*, and that I may be the less sorrowful.

5. **We rejoice in the Lord!**

- a. Philippians 3:1 Finally, my brethren, **rejoice** in the Lord. To write the same things to you, to me indeed [is] not grievous, but for you [it is] safe.
- b. Philippians 4:4 **Rejoice** in the Lord always: [and] again I say, **Rejoice**.

6. **We rejoice when God works through other Christians to help us!**

Philippians 4:10 But I **rejoiced** in the Lord greatly, that now at the last your care of me hath flourished again; wherein ye were also careful, but ye lacked opportunity.

4796 sugchairō, συγχαίρω, to rejoice with

- 1. **Sacrificing (even through martyrdom) for other Christians causes us to rejoice along with those other Christians:** Philippians 2:17 Yea, and if I be offered upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I joy, and rejoice with you all.
- 2. **Seeing another Christian sacrifice his life in service (even through martyrdom) for Christ should cause us to rejoice along with him:** Philippians 2:18 For the same cause also do ye joy, and **rejoice with** me.

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