

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

Analysis of PHILIPPIANS

Prepared by James T. Bartsch
September, 1995

Published Online by WordExplain.com
Email Contact: jbartsch@wordexplain.com

Scripture taken from the *NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE* ®,
Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by the Lockman Foundation.
Used by permission. (www.Lockman.org)

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

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 ¹ 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

¹ 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 ² 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

² 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

Analysis of PHILIPPIANS

Prepared by James T. Bartsch

September, 1995

Published Online by WordExplain.com

Email Contact: jbartsch@wordexplain.com

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.

Analysis of PHILIPPIANS

Prepared by James T. Bartsch
September, 1995

Published Online by WordExplain.com
Email Contact: jbartsch@wordexplain.com

Scripture taken from the *NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE*®,
Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by the Lockman Foundation.
Used by permission. (www.Lockman.org)