

Discover the New Testament – Philippians 1

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Author: Paul

Date written: Approximately 62 A.D.

Facts:

- Philippi was located 11 miles inland from the Aegean Sea, on the Egnatian Way, which was a strategic Roman Highway.
- Paul founded the church on his second missionary journey in approximately 52 A.D.
- Paul visited the church 5 years later on his third missionary journey.

Philippians 1:1-6 – ¹ Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, To all the saints in Christ Jesus at Philippi, together with the overseers and deacons: ² Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ³ I thank my God every time I remember you. ⁴ In all **my prayers for all of you**, I always pray with joy ⁵ because of **your partnership in the gospel** from the first day until now, ⁶ being **confident** of this, that **he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus**.

- Paul lifted the Philippians up in prayer continually.
- Paul commends them for their faithfulness and steadfastness in giving to the gospel.
- Paul expresses confidence that what Christ has begun in them, He will be faithful to complete!

Philippians 1:7-11 – ⁷ It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart; for whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me. ⁸ God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus. ⁹ And **this is my prayer**: that **your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight**, ¹⁰ so that you may be able to **discern what is best, approving things that are excellent** and may **be pure and blameless** until the day of Christ, ¹¹ **filled with the fruit of righteousness** that comes through Jesus Christ-to the glory and praise of God.

- Paul prayed their love would abound more and more in knowledge and with depth of insight.
- That they would approve things in their lives that were excellent.
- That they would be pure and blameless.
- That they would be filled with the fruits of righteousness.

Philippians 1:12-19 – ¹² Now I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me (my imprisonment) has really served to advance the gospel. ¹³ As a result, it has

become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. ¹⁴ Because of my chains, most of the brothers in the Lord have been encouraged to speak the Word of God more courageously and fearlessly. ¹⁵ It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill. ¹⁶ The latter do so in love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. ¹⁷ The former preach Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing that they can stir up trouble for me while I am in chains. ¹⁸ But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, **whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached.** And because of this **I rejoice.** Yes, and **I will continue to rejoice,** ¹⁹ For **I know** that this will turn out for my deliverance **through your prayer** and **the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,**

- Paul rejoiced that the Gospel was preached, regardless of the motive behind the minister.
- The power of God is in the Gospel, not in the vessel communicating the Word of God.

Romans 1:16-17 – ¹⁶ For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. ¹⁷ For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith."

- Paul said he was going to rejoice or be thankful, regardless of the circumstances.
- Paul knew something.
- Paul knew that through their prayer and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, it would bring to bear upon his circumstance, and it would bring forth his deliverance.

Philippians 1:20-26 – ²⁰ I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted 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 go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. **Yet what shall I choose?** I do not know! ²³ I am torn between the two: **I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far;** ²⁴ but it is **more necessary for you that I remain in the body.** ²⁵ Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, ²⁶ so that through my being with you again your joy in Christ Jesus will overflow on account of me.

- To live is Christ manifested in my body, but to die is personal gain!
- Paul indicated he had a choice.
- His desire was to “depart and be with Christ” which, for Paul, was “far better” than staying here.
- He acted on their behalf and decided to stay, as it was more needful for them if he “remained in his body.”

Philippians 1:27-30 – ²⁷ Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in one spirit, contending as **one man** for the faith of the gospel ²⁸ without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you. This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved-and that by God. ²⁹ For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not **only to believe on him**, but also **to suffer for him**, ³⁰ since you are going through the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have.

- No matter the circumstances, the church should stand and contend for the faith as “one man!”
- We have been granted the honor of both believing on Christ and suffering for Him.

II Timothy 3:10-12 – ¹⁰ You, however, know all about my teaching, my way of life, my purpose, faith, patience, love, endurance, ¹¹ persecutions, sufferings-what kinds of things happened to me in Antioch, Iconium and Lystra, the persecutions I endured. Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them. ¹² Yes, and **all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.**