

Welcome to

Journey through the Bible



Book by book
Bible study



Philippians

To live is
Christ!

How to live joyfully in tough times

Philippians: Paul's "heart talker"

- ☆ The most eloquent of Paul's letters
- ☆ The most spontaneous and intimate
- ☆ Abounds in personal references
- ☆ "Kenosis" passage of chapter 2 is the central statement on Christology
- ☆ Paul is chained day and night
- ☆ Execution threatened under Nero
- ☆ Theme of rejoicing appears 16 times!

The church at Philippi, Acts 16

- ★ Established on Paul's second mission
- ★ Paul's "Macedonian" call (to Europe)!
- ★ Church born at a riverbank prayer meeting
- ★ Lydia, a business woman, the first convert
- ★ Demons cast out of a fortune telling slave
- ★ Her owners brought charges against Paul
- ★ Paul & Silas, severely beaten, imprisoned
- ★ They sang hymns and prayed at midnight!

Paul's "prison report"

Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel. As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ.

(1:12–13)

Because of my chains, most of the brothers in the Lord have been encouraged to speak the word of God more courageously and fearlessly. ... They do so out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. ... The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice.(1:14–18)

Paul's all consuming ambition-

I will continue to rejoice, for I know that through your prayers and God's provision ...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. For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. (1:18–21)

Paul's conflicting emotions

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! I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body. (1:22–24)

Paul’s appeal to them (and to us)

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 the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel ... (1:27)

We are called to suffer for Christ

For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him, since you are going through the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have. (1:29–30)

We are called to oneness in Christ

If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose. (2:1–2)

We are called to Christlikeness

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

(2:3–5)

Jesus' self humbling (kenosis)

Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing (*kenosis*) by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross! (2:6–8)

Jesus is now exalted over everything

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
(2:9–11)

This is our “call to action”

Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.
(2:12-13)

“Work out” what God has “worked in”

Our opportunity to shine like stars

Do everything without grumbling or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation. Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky as you hold firmly to the word of life. (2:14–16)

Paul’s (our) aim in life and ministry

Then I will be able to boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor in vain. But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you. So you too should be glad and rejoice with me. (2:16–18)

Paul’s commendation for Timothy

I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, that I also may be cheered when I receive news about you. I have no one else like him, who will show genuine concern for your welfare. ... you know that Timothy has proved himself, because as a son with his father he has served with me in the work of the gospel. (2:19–22)

Paul’s warning about false teachers

Further, my brothers and sisters, rejoice in the Lord! ... Watch out for those dogs, those evildoers, those mutilators of the flesh. For it is we who are the circumcision, we who serve God by his Spirit, who boast in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh—though I myself have reasons for such confidence. (3:1–4)

Paul’s qualifications are impeccable

If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless. (3:4–6)

But, Paul's passion is to know Christ

But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. ... I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ and be found in him, having a righteousness that is through faith in Christ. (3:7-9)

Paul's life ambition is to be like Christ

I want to know Christ—know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. (3:10-12)

Paul is focused on the finish line!

I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

(3:13-14)

We ought to follow Paul's example

All of us, then, who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you. Only let us live up to what we have already attained. Join together in following my example, ...

(3:15-17)

Our destination is “out of this world”

Our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

(3:20–21)

We ought to live joyfully in Christ

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, that is how you should stand firm in the Lord, dear friends! ...

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near.

(4:1-5)

Trust God for every situation of life!

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

(4:6–7)

Be occupied with things that matter!

Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice.

(4:8–9)

The secret- always depend on God!

I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength. (4:11–13)

Paul is deeply grateful for them!

It was good of you to share in my troubles. ... when I set out from Macedonia, not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only; for even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid more than once when I was in need. Not that I desire your gifts; what I desire is that more be credited to your account. (4:14–17).

God is enough, He will meet our need!

I have received full payment and have more than enough. I am amply supplied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God. My God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus. (4:18–19)

See you next week!

**Colossians,
Christ is everything to me!**

**Philemon,
The slave is my brother!**


