

Book of PHILIPPIANS

What a triumphant letter! It's filled with joy, rejoicing, confidence, and peace. In fact, the rejoicing of this letter gleams and sparkles like a precious diamond beyond words.

Take a look at this writer glorifying and praising God, and saying "my wants are fully satisfied."

Philippians 1:4: Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy,

Philippians 1:11: Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God.

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.

Philippians 1:26: That your rejoicing may be more abundant in Jesus Christ for me by my coming to you again.

Philippians 2:17: Yea, and if I be offered upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I joy, and rejoice with you all.

Philippians 2:29: Receive him therefore in the Lord with all gladness; and hold such in reputation:

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.



Philippians 3:3: For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.

Philippians 4:4: Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice.

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.

Philippians 4:18: But I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things which were sent from you, an odor of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, well pleasing to God.



Furthermore, he makes it clear that the normal Christian life is one of contentment and abounding joy. Why is this writer, Apostle Paul, so happy? Did he just get a promotion? Win an all expense paid trip on Transworld airlines around the world? Did the Bishop decide to retire him on full salary plus Medicare?

Can you believe he was in a filthy, cold Roman dungeon, with each wrist bound by chains clanking at his side? As he writes, he makes the chains sound like the joy-bells of Heaven ringing out Peace and Praise. This is the normal Christian life. Circumstances have no effect whatsoever on the believer who has experienced Christ, as revealed in this Book.

The theme of this letter is CHRIST OUR LIFE.

There are four chapters. Each reveals an aspect of CHRIST'S LIFE. You may read these chapters, yet not experience Him. Man may diligently read and even memorize the Bible and not experience the living Christ.

Certainly it is not to be found in the wisdom of this world - - (psychology, psychiatry, or any other field of worldly wisdom) for God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit - - **1 Corinthians 2:13: . . . not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.**

1 Corinthians 2:6: Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect: yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought:

1 Corinthians 2:10: But God hath revealed them unto us by His Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

Recall what the Lord Jesus prayed:

Matthew 11:25: At that time Jesus answered and said, "I thank thee, O Father, Lord of Heaven and earth, because Thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes."

The normal Christian life is Christ's own life reproduced in us. When we are conscious of pride, we fancy that humility will meet our need; but the answer to pride is not humility - - it is Christ, and Christ is the answer to every need.

God will not give you humility or patience or love as separate gifts of His grace. He has given you Christ, and if you simply trust Him to live out His life in you, He will be humble, patient, loving, and everything else that you need, in your stead. All that is Christ's becomes ours. I am never asked to imitate that Life, but only to allow Christ to live out His life in me.

All fears and frustrations vanish as you experience the normal Christian Life expressed in the letter to the Philippians.

Psalms 34:8: O taste and see that the Lord is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in Him.

He wants you to be an expression of Himself, experiencing an enjoyment "above all that you could ask or think." This is success. This is what the Book of Philippians is all about.

BASIC OUTLINE OF PHILIPPIANS

Key to Chapter one

Philippians 1:20-21:

²⁰ *According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death.*

²¹ *For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.*

CHRIST MAGNIFIED – our purpose for living. Christ magnified - - not in what I do, but what I am. Christ Himself magnified - - not in teachings or my talents or works of righteousness.



Key to Chapter two

Philippians 2:13-14: For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure.

¹⁴ *Do all things without murmurings and disputings:*

CHRIST WORKING IN YOU (not with you) FOR HIS PLEASURE

If

Christ be truly our life - -

our life for His pleasure,

our life to display His faithfulness,

our life to display His love,

our life to display His actions and attitudes,

then what an insult it is to His judgment for us to grumble or complain.

Key to Chapter three

Philippians 3:8-10: Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for Whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ,

⁹ And be found in Him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the Law, but that which is through the Faith of Christ, the Righteousness which is of God by faith:

¹⁰ That I may know Him, and the power of His Resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being made conformable unto His death;

CHRIST'S RESURRECTION RIGHTEOUSNESS – OUR TRANSFORMATION

Each chapter reveals the growth of Christ within the Christian. The supreme desire in the normal Christian is that his nature be transformed. This becomes reality as he shares Christ's resurrection righteousness.

Key to Chapter four

Philippians 4:13: I can do all things through Christ Who strengtheneth me.

Philippians 4:19: But my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in Glory by Christ Jesus.

CHRIST OUR SUPPLY

Finally, as in Chapter four, Christ Himself is our supply.

He shall supply all your need.

What is your need?

Romans 8:6: For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

Compare Two Churches in the Book of Revelation –

The Church at Laodicea and the Church at Smyrna

The Church at Smyrna (Revelation 2:8-10) had “ tribulation, poverty and persecution, but the Lord said,

Revelation 2:9b: . . . but you are rich.

The Church at Laodicea (Revelation 3:14-17) said,

Revelation 3:17a: Because you say, “I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing.”

and The Lord said,

Revelation 3:17b: . . . you are wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:”

The Lord desires to:

Philippians 4:19a: . . . supply all your need according to His riches.

Theological teachings and material things have left us cold. Only Christ Himself - - the Living Word of God can satisfy.

We miss everything in this letter if we fail to perceive our wonderful Lord dwelling within the body of the believer.

Oh what a satisfaction - - enjoying the Lord in all circumstances whether disappointments or delight, knowing that He who reigns within me has arranged it all to supply my inward man with His riches for my eternal good. Praise the Lord!

***Once far from God and dead in sin,
No light my heart could see;
But in God’s Word the Light I found,
Now Christ liveth in me.***

***As rays of light from yonder sun,
The flow’rs of earth set free;
So life and light and love come forth,
From Christ living in me.***

*As lives the flow'r within the seed,
As in the cone the tree;
So, praise the Christ of Truth and Grace,
His Spirit dwelleth in me.*

*With longing all my heart is filled,
That like Him I may be;
As on the wondrous thought I dwell,
That Christ liveth in me.*

*CHRIST LIVETH IN ME,
CHRIST LIVETH IN ME;
OH! WHAT A SALVATION THIS BE,
THAT CHRIST LIVETH IN ME.*

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