



PHILIPPIANS



Historical Context

- Established in Paul's 2'nd Missionary Journey, after Jerusalem Council
- Named after King Philip, father of Alexander the Great.
- Start of European Christianity.
- A Thank-You letter.
- It was written from prison.





Overview

- Phil 1: Greetings and Encouragement
- Phil 2: On Humility
- Phil 3: Our Upward Call
- Phil 4: On Peace

Phil 1

Greetings and Encouragement



- 1:3 *I thank God in all my remembrance of you.*
- We should thank God for one another, our elders, deacons, dear brothers and sisters in the fellowship.
- The Church on earth is a foretaste of Heaven!

Phil 1

Greetings and Encouragement



- 1:6 *For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.*
- Our confidence is in God, who is doing a good work in us.

Phil 1

Greetings and Encouragement



- Many times we feel discouraged, we feel that we have not witnessed enough, or given enough, or loved enough.
- We should rest assured that God is working in us and through us.
- In us ... to change us.
- Through us ... to change others.

Phil 1

Greetings and Encouragement



- Jude 24 *Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy ...*
- In the end, we will stand in His presence *blameless* and *with great joy!*

Phil 1

1:9-11 Paul's Prayer



- 1:9 ... *Your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and discernment.*
- We should strive to love more, study more, be more alert.
- You are doing these things tonight 😊

Phil 1

1:9-11 Paul's Prayer



- 1:10 *so that you may approve the things that are excellent, in order to be sincere and blameless until the day of Christ*
- As we love, and as we study, we will know (approve) the excellent things.
- For example 1 Cor 12:31- 1 Cor 13 *And I show you a still more excellent way ... Love is patient, Love is kind and not jealous, ...*

Phil 1

1:9-11 Paul's Prayer



- 1:11 *having been filled with the fruit of righteousness which comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God*
- This is the fruit of righteousness which comes through Jesus Christ.

Phil 1

1:12-30 Paul's Circumstances



- At the time of this writing Paul was in prison, probably in Rome.
- Certainly some were discouraged due to this imprisonment.
- Paul is unmindful of his own circumstances!
- He seeks to encourage the Philippians!

Phil 1

1:12-30 Paul's Circumstances

- This reminds us of the Lord in John 14-16, when He was about to go to the cross and yet was encouraging His disciples.
- Paul followed Christ closely, and was becoming like Him!
- We become like whom or what we follow!



Phil 1

1:12-30 Paul's Circumstances

- Paul is encouraged that his imprisonment has resulted in the Gospel being spread throughout the Praetorian Guard!
- And also that the brethren are encouraged to speak boldly and without fear!



Phil 1

1:12-30 Paul's Circumstances



- He is not dismayed by those who preach Christ from wrong motives.
- He just rejoices that the Gospel is preached.
- We should have discernment as to when to rejoice in the message.
- And when to oppose it!

Phil 1

1:12-30 Paul's Circumstances



- 1:21 *For me to live is Christ and to die is gain.*
- Paul is not dismayed that he might be put to death.
- Our lives are to be centered on the Lord.
- Death is only the grand finale on the overture of your life!

Phil 2

On Humility



- *2:3 Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than himself.*
- *2:4 Do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others*

Phil 2 On Humility



- Phil 2:4 restates what 2:3 states in different words.
- Repetition in scripture is usually for emphasis.
- It is in our carnal nature to be selfish, to look out for our own interests, to promote ourselves.
- This scripture encourages us to strive instead to build *each other* up, not ourselves!

Phil 2

On Humility



- Our example is Christ.
- He regarded our eternity as more important than His comfort.
- Though He is God, He was *willing* to let go of His privileges as God
- And emptied Himself, *appearing* as a mere man.

Phil 2

On Humility



- 2:6 *who although He existed in the **form** of God ...*
- The greek **morphe** means **inward essence** of God.
- 2:7 *... taking the **form** of a bondservant ...*
- The greek **morphe** again, the **inward essence** of a bondservant (lifelong servant).

Phil 2

On Humility



- 2:8 *And being found in **appearance** as a man ...*
- The greek ***schemati*** means fashion, or ***exterior shape***.
- Having the body of a man, He could take our sin
- And die on the cross for us.

Phil 2

On Humility



- 2:9 *Therefore also God highly exalted Him ...*
- 2:10 *that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow ...*
- A day will come when **every** knee will bow before Christ.
- Every believer and every atheist,
- Every man, every angel and every demon.
- Even Satan himself.
- It is far better to bow now!!

Phil 2

On Humility



- 2:12 ... *Work out your salvation*
- 2:13 ... *for it is God who is at work in you.*
- Our work: we *choose* to humble ourselves
- Obeying the Lord.
- And loving the brethren.
- God's work: to *change us and others.*

Phil 3

Our Upward Call



- There were Judaisers in the church ... legalists who were preaching conformance to Judaic law.
- Paul gives his own example as the supreme legalist.
- He considers all his legalism as loss (worthless) for the sake of Christ.

Phil 3

Our Upward Call



- *3:7 But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ*
- *3:8 ... count them but rubbish ...*
- He counts his prior self-righteousness, his adherence to the law, as garbage, compared to the surpassing value of Christ!

Phil 3

Our Upward Call



- 3:8 *That I may* gain Christ
- 3:9 and *[That I may]* be found in Him not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ ...
- 3:10 *That I may* know Him

Phil 3

Our Upward Call



- 3:10 and *[that I may know]* the power of His resurrection
- 3:10 and *[that I may have]* the fellowship of His sufferings
- 3:10 *[and that I may]* being conformed to His death
- 3:11 in order *that I may* attain to the resurrection from the dead.

Phil 3

Our Upward Call



3:8-11 We gain Christ so **that we may**

- Have His Righteousness
- Know Him and the power of His resurrection
- Share in His suffering
- Be conformed to His death
- **And obtain our own resurrection!**

Phil 4

Our Upward Call



- 3:14 ... *forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.*
- We forget what lies behind.
- And we press on to **His upward call!**

Phil 4

On Peace



- 4:6-7 *Be anxious for nothing but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God, and the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.*
- As we pray, and trustingly leave it all in His hands, we shall have the peace of God.

Phil 4

On Peace



- Note ... the *peace of God* in this verse is different from *peace with God* in Rom 5:1.
- *Peace with God* is a permanent peace we **always have** when we believe in Jesus.
- *Peace of God* is a peace we **experience** when we pray and trust, as difficulties arise.

Phil 4

On Peace



- 1:8 *Finally brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence, and if anything worthy of praise, let your mind dwell on these things.*
- Christ is all these things! Let our minds dwell on Him.
- And on His Word! This is why it is important to memorize His Word.

Phil 4

On Peace



- 4:10,18-19 Paul expresses gratitude for their financial gift.
- 4:12 Paul explains he is at peace with his circumstances (imprisonment).
- We too should be grateful for the Lord's blessings to us.
- And be at peace in our circumstances.

Phil 4

On Peace



- Heb 13:5 *Make sure that your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, "I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you,"*
- Let us be content with the circumstances where God has put us.

Phil 4

On Peace



- 4:13 *I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.*
- Paul is confident he can manage whatever life throws at him, through Christ. Contrast with the following from Jesus:
 - John 15:5 ... *he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing.*
 - Apart from Him we can do nothing, but through Him we can do everything!



Summary

- Encouragement: He will complete the good work He started in us!
- On Humility: We should have the humility and servanthood of Christ.
- Our Upward Call: Press on to the upward call of Christ.
- Our Peace: Pray and trust the Lord, and He will give us His peace no matter what our circumstances.