

Overview of Philippians

Why study this book:

If you have ever had trouble seeing how faith can be dressed in everyday work clothes, Philippians is for you. It puts lofty truths into practical terms while explaining the power and joy found in the Gospel. Paul also presents Jesus as the foundation for joyful Christian living.

Author:

Paul, the apostle and church planter – While under house arrest in Rome, awaiting his trial before Caesar.

Date:

At the end of Acts, Paul is on his way to Rome to have the case against him heard in the court of the emperor himself. This would have been around A.D. 60-62.

Setting and Background:

Paul wrote from Rome to his first church plant in Europe to thank the Philippians for sending him a gift and to assure them that he was being cared for by the church and by His Lord. Paul also desired to warn them against false teachers and urge them to have greater unity.

Main Point:

Paul's main point of Philippians is to present Jesus as the foundation for joyful Christian living. He is:

- The Center of Life – Life is really all about Jesus.
- The Example for Living – Seeking to live and serve as Jesus did is the path to true joy.
- Our Righteousness – Whatever good is in us is wholly the work of Jesus on our behalf.
- Our Sustainer – Jesus is more than enough, and He will supply your every need.

Outline:

- I. Greetings (1:1-2)
- II. Thanksgiving and Prayer for the Philippians (1:3-11)
- III. Paul's Personal Circumstances (1:12-26)
- IV. Exhortations (1:27;2:18)
 - a. Living a Life Worthy of the Gospel (1:27-30)
 - b. Following the Servant Attitude of Christ (2:1-18)
- V. Paul's Associates in the Gospel (2:19-30)
 - a. Timothy (2:19-24)
 - b. Epaphroditus (2:25-30)
- VI. Warnings against Judaizers and Antinomians (3:1;4:1)
 - a. Against Judaizers or Legalists (3:1-16)
 - b. Against Antinomians or Libertines (3:17;4:1)
- VII. Final Exhortations, Thanks and Conclusion (4:2-23)
 - a. Exhortations concerning Various Aspects of the Christian Life (4:2-9)
 - b. Concluding Testimony and Repeated Thanks (4:10-20)
 - c. Final Greetings and Benediction (4:21-23)¹

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1. <http://www.biblestudytools.com/philippians/>
 2. Philippians – John MacArthur (Bible Study)
 3. New American Commentary: Philippians, Colossians, Philemon
 4. The Quest Study Bible
 5. The NLT Study Bible
 6. The Gospel Transformation Bible
 7. The Maxwell Leadership Bible