

I. Introduction

A. The Founding of the Church at Philippi (Part 1)

1. Theme: As he arrived at Philippi Paul had survived conflict, been strengthened by new partners, and was guided and empowered by the Holy Spirit.

2. Text: Acts 15:36-16:15

3. Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:2-10

B. The Founding of the Church at Philippi (Part 2)

1. Theme: God sovereignly works by His Spirit to draw people from all backgrounds to Himself, and to sustain our joy even in times of suffering.

2. Text: Acts 16:11-40

3. Reading: Philippians 2:1-4

II. The Letter to the Philippians

A. Greetings, Thanksgiving and Prayer

1. The Apostolic Greeting

a. Theme: The apostles, slaves of Christ, wrote to God's holy people to bless them with grace and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

b. Text: Philippians 1:1-2

c. Reading: Psalm 98

2. Partners in Gospel Ministry

a. Theme: As Paul remembers the Philippians, he is filled with thanksgiving and joy because of their close partnership with him in the Gospel, and confidence because of God's sustaining grace.

b. Text: Philippians 1:3-8

c. Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

3. Paul's Prayer for the Philippians

a. Theme: Paul prays that we would grow in love and discernment so that our lives will bring glory and praise to God.

b. Text: Philippians 1:9-11

c. Reading: Psalm 9:7-11

B. Paul's Situation

1. Joy in the Journey (Part 1): Proclaiming Christ

- a. Theme: Despite very difficult personal circumstances, Paul is filled with joy because Christ is being proclaimed.
- b. Text: Philippians 1:12-18a
- c. Reading: 2 Timothy 2:1-10

2. Joy in the Journey (Part 2): Our Future With Christ

- a. Theme: We can have joy because life is an opportunity to know and serve Christ, and death brings us into His Presence, which is the deepest desire of our hearts.
- b. Text: Philippians 1:18b-26
- c. Reading: 2 Corinthians 4:13-18

C. A Life Worthy of the Gospel: Exhortations to the Community

1. Unity and Courage in the Face of Opposition

- a. Theme: As citizens of the heavenly Kingdom believers must live worthy of the Gospel, walking in unity with each other and standing with courage when faced with opposition.
- b. Text: Philippians 1:27-30
- c. Reading: 2 Thessalonians 1:1-12

2. Unity Through Humility

- a. Theme: As citizens of heaven who have been blessed by God, we are to walk in humility before God and each other, which leads to unity in the church.
- b. Text: Philippians 2:1-4
- c. Reading: Isaiah 66:1-2

3. Jesus Christ - the Supreme Example of Humility

- a. Theme: As citizens of heaven, we look to Jesus, Who is the Supreme example of humility and the Lord of all.
- b. Text: Philippians 2:5-11
- c. Reading: Isaiah 45:18-25

4. A Fruitful Life of Joyful Obedience

- a. Theme: Paul calls believers to draw upon God's strength to live fruitful lives of joyful obedience.
- b. Text: Philippians 2:12-18
- c. Reading: Romans 15:1-6

D. Looking to the Future

1. Timothy and Epaphroditus – Christ-like Examples for Us
 - a. Theme: Timothy and Epaphroditus were Christ-like examples, serving others even at great personal sacrifice and risk.
 - b. Text: Philippians 2:19-30
 - c. Reading: 2 Corinthians 1:3-7
2. Our Confidence in Christ: Holding on to the Gospel
 - a. Theme: The continental divide of life is where we place our confidence – ourselves and our own righteousness, or Christ and His righteousness.
 - b. Text: Philippians 3:1-11
 - c. Reading: Galatians 3:6-14
3. Our Present Struggle and Our Future Glory
 - a. Theme: The Christian life is characterized by the pursuit of Christ, the struggle against sin, and the hope of our glorious future in heaven with Christ.
 - b. Text: Philippians 3:12-21
 - c. Reading: Colossians 3:1-11

E. Final Exhortations and Thanksgiving

1. The Call to Live in Community
 - a. Theme: Paul urges believers to walk in community so that they can stand for the Gospel in the face of opposition.
 - b. Text: Philippians 4:1-3
 - c. Reading: Psalm 133
2. A Godward Life
 - a. Theme: Rather than facing our circumstances with anxiety, we should draw near to God and live for Him, knowing the God of peace is with us.
 - b. Text: Philippians 4:1-9
 - c. Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24
3. A Life of Joyful Contentment
 - a. Theme: Christ enables us to live a life of joyful thanksgiving, regardless of the circumstances of our present existence.
 - b. Text: Philippians 4:10-23
 - c. Reading: Ephesians 3:14-21

III. Epilogue: The Heart of Philippians

A. The Centrality of Christ and His Gospel

1. Theme: The central issue of true life is Christ and His Gospel, which give us life and should be central in our thought and existence.
2. Text: Philippians 1:21; 27a
3. Reading: Galatians 6:12-18

B. Living As A Community of Joy

1. Theme: As we walk in community with a focus on our eternal inheritance, we can experience joy, no matter what our circumstances are at present.
2. Text: Philippians 1:4-6
3. Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:4-9

Philippians: Joy in Every Circumstance - Series
Outline
Philippians