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## The Chapters of Philippians

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# Philippians

## SECTION OUTLINE ONE (PHILIPPIANS 1)

Paul opens his letter to the church in Philippi with a presentation of Christ as the believer's life purpose.

### I. PAUL'S SUPPLICATION FOR THE PHILIPPIAN BELIEVERS (1:1-11)

**A. For whom he prays** (1:1-2): Pastors, deacons, and all Christians in Philippi.

**B. When he prays** (1:3): "Every time I think of you."

**C. How he prays** (1:4): He prays with his heart filled with joy.

**D. Why he prays** (1:5, 7-8): The Philippian believers have rendered great assistance to Paul, both in prison and out of prison.

**E. What he prays** (1:6, 9-11)

1. That God's Word be carried to its completion in every believer until the return of Christ (1:6)

2. That they might be filled with love (1:9)

3. That they might have the spirit of discernment (1:10)

4. That they be filled with the fruits of righteousness (or of salvation) (1:11)

### II. PAUL'S EXPLANATION TO THE PHILIPPIAN BELIEVERS (1:12-30)

**A. The report** (1:12-13): Paul's imprisonment has served to advance the gospel, starting with the palace guard and spreading from there.

**B. The reaction** (1:14-17)

1. Concerning his friends (1:14, 16): Paul's chains encourage them to increase their efforts in proclaiming the gospel.

2. Concerning his foes (1:15, 17): They, too, are spreading the gospel, hoping to make the apostle jealous.

**C. The rejoicing** (1:18): Whatever the motive, Paul rejoices that the gospel is being preached.

**D. The resolve** (1:19-26)

1. Paul's dilemma (1:19-23)

a. To remain in this life would result in additional fruit (1:19-21a, 22).

b. To depart this life would mean being with Christ (1:21b, 23).

2. Paul's decision (1:24-26): He will remain.

**E. The request** (1:27-28): Whatever happens to him, the Philippians are to continue conducting themselves in a manner worthy of the gospel.

**F. The reminder** (1:29-30): They have been granted two wonderful privileges.

1. To trust in Christ (1:29a)

2. To suffer for Christ (1:29b-30)

## SECTION OUTLINE TWO (PHILIPPIANS 2)

Paul presents Christ as the believer's life pattern.

### I. THE CHALLENGE FROM PAUL (2:1-18): He desires that the church strive for humility.

**A. The essentials in humility** (2:1-4)

1. Unity in love (2:1-2a)

2. Unity in spirit and purpose (2:2b-4)

**B. The example of humility** (2:5-11): Paul holds up the earthly ministry of Christ.

1. The pain (2:5-8b)

a. Even though he was God, he did not cling to his rights as God (2:5-6).

b. He laid aside his glory (2:7a).

c. He took upon himself the nature of a human servant (2:7b).

d. He humbled himself (2:8a).

- e. He became obedient and died on the cross (2:8b).
- 2. The gain (2:9-11)
  - a. God has exalted him to the highest place (2:9a).
  - b. He has been given a name above all other names (2:9b).
  - c. Someday all people will acknowledge that he is Lord (2:10-11).

**C. The exhortation to humility (2:12-18)**

- 1. Let God perfect in you his salvation (2:12-13).
- 2. Don't complain (2:14).
- 3. Shine as beacons of light in a dark world (2:15).
- 4. Hold to the Word of life (2:16).
- 5. Rejoice with Paul in his sacrifice (2:17-18).

III. THE COWORKERS FROM PAUL (2:19-30): Paul promises to send two special messengers to the Philippian church.

**A. Timothy (2:19-24)**

- 1. Timothy, messenger of God (2:19): Paul says Timothy will minister to them.
- 2. Timothy, man of God (2:20-23): Paul describes Timothy as a spiritual giant.
- 3. Paul, too, hopes to come visit them soon (2:24).

**B. Epaphroditus (2:25-30)**

- 1. The soldier (2:25): The Philippians sent this faithful spiritual warrior to help Paul.
- 2. The stricken (2:26-30)
  - a. Epaphroditus was desperately ill (2:26b-27a, 30).
  - b. God healed him (2:27b).
  - c. Paul is sending him back home (2:26a, 28-29).

**SECTION OUTLINE THREE (PHILIPPIANS 3)**

Paul presents Christ as the believer's life prize.

I. THE CORRUPTION (3:1-3, 18-19): The Philippian church is facing deadly foes.

**A. Who these foes are (3:1-3):** They are the judaizers, whom Paul calls dogs because they say circumcision is necessary for salvation.

- 1. The true circumcision (3:3a): "We who worship God in the Spirit ... are truly circumcised."
- 2. The false circumcision (3:3b) "We put no confidence in human effort."

**B. What these foes are (3:18, 19b)**

- 1. They are enemies of the cross (3:18).
- 2. They are proud and sensual materialists (3:19b).

**C. Where these foes are headed (3:19a):** "Their future is eternal destruction."

II. THE COST (3:4-8): Paul has given up two things to become a child of God.

**A. His prestige among the Jews (3:4-5)**

**B. His persecution against the church (3:6)**

III. THE CATCH (3:7-8): Paul gave up what he thought was important and gained the priceless knowledge of Christ.

IV. THE CROWN (3:9-14, 20-21): Paul has gained four things from becoming a child of God.

**A. A new righteousness (3:9-12)**

**B. A new goal (3:13-14)**

**C. A new home (3:20)**

**D. A new body (3:21)**

V. THE COMMAND (3:15-17): Paul says, "Pattern your lives after mine."

**SECTION OUTLINE FOUR (PHILIPPIANS 4)**

Paul concludes his letter with a presentation of Christ as the believer's life power.

- I. UNIFYING POWER (4:1-3)
  - A. The contenders** (4:1-2): Two women in the church, Euodia and Syntyche, are arguing with each other.
  - B. The counselor** (4:3): Paul asks a godly man in the church to help reconcile these women.
  
- II. FORTIFYING POWER (4:4-7)
  - A. The prayer** (4:4-6): Two rules must be observed for this power to function.
    - 1. We must never be stressful in anything (4:4-6a).
    - 2. We must always be thankful in everything (4:6b).
  - B. The peace** (4:7): If we obey these rules, God's peace will fortify and guard our heart.
  
- III. PURIFYING POWER (4:8): We are to fix our thoughts on what is true, good, and right.
  
- IV. EXEMPLIFYING POWER (4:9): Paul offers himself as a spiritual role model.
  
- V. SATISFYING POWER (4:10-13)
  - A. The satisfaction** (4:10-12)
    - 1. Paul is content even when hungry and in need of many things (4:10, 11b-12a, 12d, 12f).
    - 2. Paul is content when filled and in need of nothing (4:11a, 12b-12c, 12e).
  - B. The satisfier** (4:13): Jesus himself is the source of Paul's strength.
  
- VI. SANCTIFYING POWER (4:14-18, 21-23): Paul thanks the Philippians for their gifts to him, which are a "sweet-smelling sacrifice that is acceptable to God and pleases him." He sends greetings to all the Philippians.
  
- VII. MULTIPLYING POWER (4:19): God will meet the needs of the Philippians as he has met the needs of Paul.
  
- VIII. GLORIFYING POWER (4:20): God uses his power to glorify himself.