

Purpose

To thank the Philippians for their generosity and to encourage them to live a Christ-centered life

Author

Paul

To Whom Written

The first church in Europe at Philippi

Date Written

60-62 AD

Setting

This was the first church established in Europe. The Philippian church had sent a gift with Epaphroditus. Paul was in a Roman prison at the time.

Key People

Paul, Timothy, Epaphroditus

Key Verses

"Only conduct yourself in a manner worthy of the Gospel..." *Philippians 1:21*

"I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." *Philippians 3:14*

"Always be full of joy in the Lord, I say it again — rejoice." *Philippians 4:4*

An Overview (4 Chapters)

- Dealing with Difficulty (*1:1-26*)
- The Secret to Unity (*1:27-2:30*)
- The Process of Spiritual Growth (*3:1-4:1*)
- Giving to God's Work (*4:2-23*)

Major Themes

- *Finding Joy*: Believers can have profound contentment, serenity, and peace no matter what happens. This joy comes from knowing Christ personally and from depending on His strength rather than our own.
- *Dealing with Difficulty*: God uses all situations, good and bad, to glorify Himself and proclaim the Gospel; but, are we viewing our circumstances as obstacles or opportunities?
- *The Secret to Unity*: When God's people are united, they are a glory to His name. The key to unity is to follow the example of Christ by exhibiting His selfless humility.
- *Spiritual Maturity*: God is working to conform us into the image of Christ (sanctification). In that process, we play a part; but, we must be pressing towards that goal and not pushing back.
- *Giving to God's Work*: When we give to the work of Christ, we are giving to Christ. He responds by blessing us here on earth as well as "crediting our account" in heaven.