NEW TESTAMENT · PAUL'S LETTERS · BOOK 50 OF 66

Philippians

Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice (4:4)

4	Paul	c. A.D. 60–62	"Joy"
Chapters, 104 Verses	Author (1:1)	From Prison	About 16 Times

STRUCTURE

The Book in Four Parts

Each part shows a different side of Christian joy, and each centres on Christ: our life (1:21), our example (2:5), our goal (3:14) and our strength (4:13).



Each bar shows that part's share of the 104 verses.

I 1:1–26 · 26 verses

Joy in Chains

Thanksgiving, prayer, and the gospel advancing.

II 1:27–2:30 · 34 verses

The Mind of Christ

Unity, humility, Timothy and Epaphroditus.

III 3:1–4:1 · 22 verses

Knowing Christ

Loss and gain; pressing toward the mark.

IV 4:2–23 · 22 verses

Peace and Contentment

Rejoice, pray, think, be content.

ACTS 16

How the Church Began

Paul came to Philippi on his second journey after a vision of a man of Macedonia: "Come over into Macedonia, and help us" (Acts 16:9).

1 ACTS 16:14–15

Lydia

A seller of purple whose heart the Lord opened.

2 ACTS 16:16–18

A Slave Girl

Set free from a spirit of divination.

3 ACTS 16:25–34

The Jailer

After the midnight earthquake: "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ."

The Philippians supported Paul from the beginning, "once and again" (4:16), and sent Epaphroditus to him in prison (2:25; 4:18).

THROUGHOUT THE LETTER

Joy in Every Situation

Paul rejoices in prayer, in hardship, in others and in the Lord.

1:4

Praying with Joy

"Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy."

1:18

Christ Preached

"And I therein do rejoice, yea, and will rejoice."

2:2

Their Unity

"Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded."

2:17

Even in Sacrifice

"I joy, and rejoice with you all."

3:1

In the Lord

"Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord."

4:1

Joy and Crown

"My brethren dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and crown."

> *"Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice."*
>
> Philippians 4:4 (KJV)

PHILIPPIANS AT A GLANCE · PART 2 OF 4

To Live Is Christ and the Mind of Christ

CHAPTER 1

To Live Is Christ

1:6
God Finishes His Work
"He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ"

1:12
Chains That Help
"the things which happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel"

1:21
Life and Death
"For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain."

1:23
Far Better
"having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better"

CHAPTER 2:5–11

The Mind of Christ

These verses trace Christ's way down to the cross and up to glory.

HE HUMBLED HIMSELF
Being in the form of God, He made Himself of no reputation
2:6–7

GOD EXALTED HIM
God hath highly exalted Him
2:9

HE HUMBLED HIMSELF
He took upon Him the form of a servant
2:7

GOD EXALTED HIM
Given Him a name which is above every name
2:9

HE HUMBLED HIMSELF
Obedient unto death, even the death of the cross
2:8

GOD EXALTED HIM
Every knee should bow, every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord
2:10–11

> *"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus"*
> Philippians 2:5 (KJV)

CHAPTER 2:19–30

Two Faithful Servants

Paul gives two living examples of the mind of Christ.

2:19–24
Timothy
"I have no man likeminded, who will naturally care for your state." He served with Paul "as a son with the father."

2:25–30
Epaphroditus
Brought their gift; "for the work of Christ he was nigh unto death, not regarding his life."

PHILIPPIANS 2:14–15
Shine as Lights
"Do all things without murmurings and disputings: That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world."

PHILIPPIANS AT A GLANCE · PART 3 OF 4

Loss and Gain, Pressing On

CHAPTER 3:4–11

Loss and Gain

Paul lists everything he once trusted in, then counts it all loss for Christ.

WHAT PAUL HAD · 3:5–6

Confidence in the Flesh

Circumcised the eighth day · of the stock of Israel · of the tribe of Benjamin · an Hebrew of the Hebrews · a Pharisee · a persecutor of the church · blameless in the law.

WHAT PAUL GAINED · 3:8–10

Christ Jesus My Lord

The excellency of the knowledge of Christ · found in Him · the righteousness which is of God by faith · the power of His resurrection.

> *"That I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being made conformable unto His death"*
>
> Philippians 3:10 (KJV)

CHAPTER 3:12–21

Pressing Toward the Mark

Like a runner straining for the finish line, Paul keeps his eyes on the prize.

1 3:13

Forgetting

"Those things which are behind."

2 3:13

Reaching Forth

"Unto those things which are before."

3 3:14

Pressing On

"Toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

PHILIPPIANS 3:20–21

Citizens of Heaven

"For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto His glorious body."

PHILIPPIANS AT A GLANCE · PART 4 OF 4

Peace, Contentment, Themes and Key Verse

CHAPTER 4

Peace and Contentment

4:6 · PRAY

"Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God."

4:7 · PEACE

"And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

4:11 · CONTENT

"for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content."

4:19 · SUPPLY

"But my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

Think on These Things (4:8)

True	Honest	Just	Pure
Lovely	Of Good Report	Virtue	Praise

BIG IDEAS

Key Themes

Joy
Rejoicing in the Lord in every situation.
1:18; 4:4

Partnership
Fellowship in the gospel and in giving.
1:5; 4:15–18

Humility
The mind of Christ, who humbled Himself.
2:3–11

Knowing Christ
Worth more than all other gain.
3:7–10

Pressing On
Toward the prize of the high calling.
3:12–14

Peace and Contentment
Prayer, peace, and strength in Christ.
4:6–7, 11–13

KEY VERSE

"For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain."

Philippians 1:21 (KJV)