

THE EPISTLE OF PAUL THE APOSTLE TO THE

PHILIPPIANS.

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WRITER. The Apostle Paul (1. 1).

Date. The date of Philippians cannot be positively fixed. It is one of the prison letters. Whether Paul was twice imprisoned, and if so, whether Philippians was written during the first or second imprisonment, affects in no way the message of the Epistle. A.D. 64 is the commonly received date. The immediate occasion of the Epistle is disclosed in Phil. 4. 10-18.

Theme. The theme of Philippians is Christian experience. Soundness of doctrine is assumed. There is nothing in church order to set right. Philippi is a normal New Testament assembly—"saints in Christ Jesus, with the bishops (elders) and deacons." The circumstances of the apostle are in striking contrast with his Christian experience. As to the former, he was Nero's prisoner. As to the latter, there was the shout of victory, the pæan of joy. Christian experience, he would teach us, is not something which is going on around the believer, but something which is going on within him.

The key-verse is, "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain" (1. 21). Right Christian experience, then, is the outworking, whatever one's circumstances may be, of the life, nature, and mind of Christ living in us (1. 6, 11; 2. 5, 13).

The divisions are indicated by the chapters: I. Christ, the believer's life, rejoicing in suffering, 1. 1-30. II. Christ, the believer's pattern, rejoicing in lowly service, 2. 1-30. III. Christ, the believer's object, rejoicing despite imperfections, 3. 1-21. IV. Christ, the believer's strength, rejoicing over anxiety, 4. 1-23.

CHAPTER 1.

Part I. Christ, the believer's life, rejoicing in spite of suffering (Phil. 1. 1-30).

(1) *Salutation.*

PAUL and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ, to ^aall the saints in Christ Jesus ¹which are at Philippi, with the ^bbishops and deacons:

2 Grace be unto you, ^cand peace, from God our Father, and *from* the Lord Jesus Christ.

3 I thank my God upon every ^dremembrance of you,

4 Always in every ^eprayer of mine for you all making request with joy,

5 For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now;

6 Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath ^fbegun a good work in you will perform it until the ^gday of Jesus Christ:

A.D. 64.

a Churches (local) (Acts 2.41.)

b Or, overseers. See Elders.

1 Tim. 3.1, 2. (Acts 11.30; Tit. 1.5-9.)

c Eph. 1.2.

d Or, mention.

e Eph. 1.16;

1 Thes. 1.2.

f Assurance.

Col. 2.2.

(Isa. 32.17;

Jude 1.)

g 1 Cor. 1.8,

note.

h Grace (imparted).

Col. 3.16.

(Rom. 6.1;

2 Pet. 3.18.)

i Bible

prayers

(N.T.).

Col. 1.9-11.

(Mt. 6.9;

Rev. 22.20.)

j 1 John 3.7,

note.

7 Even as it is meet for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart; inasmuch as both in my bonds, and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel, ye all are partakers of ^hmy grace.

(2) *Joy triumphing over suffering.*

8 For God is my record, how greatly I long after you all in the bowels of Jesus Christ.

9 And this I ⁱpray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and *in* all judgment;

10 That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the ^gday of Christ;

11 Being filled with the fruits of ^frighteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God.

12 But I would ye should understand, brethren, that the things

¹ Churches (local), Summary: A local church is an assembly of professed believers on the Lord Jesus Christ, living for the most part in one locality, who assemble themselves together in His name for the breaking of bread, worship, praise, prayer, testimony, the ministry of the word, discipline, and the furtherance of the Gospel (Heb. 10. 25; Acts 20. 7; 1 Cor. 14. 26; 1 Cor. 5. 4, 5; Phil. 4. 14-18; 1 Thes. 1. 8; Acts 13. 1-4). Such a church exists where two or three are thus gathered (Mt. 18. 20). Every such local church has Christ in the midst, is a temple of God, and indwelt by the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 3. 16, 17). When perfected in organization a local church consists of "saints, with the bishops [elders] and deacons."

which happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel;

13 So that my bonds ^ain Christ are manifest in all ^bthe palace, ^cand in all other places;

14 And many of the brethren in the Lord, waxing confident by my bonds, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

15 Some indeed preach Christ ^deven of envy and strife; and some also of good will:

16 The one preach Christ of contention, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my bonds:

17 But the other of love, knowing that I am set for the defence of the gospel.

18 What then? notwithstanding, every way, whether in pretence, or in truth, Christ is preached; and I therein do rejoice, yea, and will rejoice.

19 For I know that this shall turn to my ^esalvation through your prayer, and the supply of the ^fSpirit of Jesus Christ,

20 According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but *that* with all ^gboldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether *it* be by life, or by death.

21 For to me to live *is* Christ, and to ^hdie *is* gain.

22 But if I live in the flesh, this *is* the fruit of my labour: yet what I shall choose I wot not.

23 For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a ⁱdesire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is ^jfar better:

24 Nevertheless to abide in the flesh *is* more needful for you.

25 And having this confidence, I know that I shall abide and continue with you all for your furtherance and joy of faith;

26 That your rejoicing may be more abundant in ^kJesus Christ for me by my coming to you again.

27 Only let your ^lconversation be as it becometh the ^mgospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may

A.D. 64.

^a Or, for.^b Or, Cæsar's court. Phil. 4.22.^c Or, to all others.^d 1 Cor.3.3,4.^e Rom.1.16, note.^f Holy Spirit. Phil.2.1. (Mt.1.18; Acts 2.4.)^g Eph.6.19,20.^h Death (physical). vs.21-23; 2 Pet.1.13,14. (Gen.3.19; Heb.9.27.)ⁱ 2 Cor.5.2,8.^j Psa.16.11.^k Christ Jesus.^l manner of life.^m Gospel. vs.5, 7,12,17,27; Phil.2.22. (Gen.12.1-3; Rev.14.6.)ⁿ Acts 5.41.^o Acts 16.19; 1 Thes.2.2.^p Holy Spirit. Phil.3.3. (Mt.1.18; Acts 2.4.)^q Col.3.12.^r Gal.5.26; Jas.3.14.^s faction.^t ostentation.^u 1 Cor.13.5.^v John 13.14;^w 1 Pet.2.21.^w a thing to be grasped after. See Gen.3.5-6.^x Or, emptied himself.^y Psa.8.4-6.^z Psa.40.6-8.^a Heb.2.9; Rev.3.21.

hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;

28 And in nothing terrified by your adversaries: which is to them an evident token of perdition, but to you of ^esalvation, and that of God.

29 For unto you it is ⁿgiven in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake;

30 Having the same conflict which ye ^osaw in me, and now hear *to* be in me.

CHAPTER 2.

Part II. Christ the believer's pattern, rejoicing in lowly service (Phil. 2. 1-30.)

(1) *Exhortation to unity and meekness.*

IF there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the ^pSpirit, if any ^qbowels and mercies,

2 Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be like-minded, having the same love, *being* of one accord, of one mind.

3 Let ^rnothing be done through ^sstrife or ^vvainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.

4 Look not every man on ^uhis own things, but every man also on the things of others.

(2) *The sevenfold self-humbling of Christ.*

5 Let ^vthis mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:

6 Who, being in the ^wform of God, thought it not ^xrobbery to be equal with God:

7 But ^ymade himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and ^zwas made in the likeness of men:

8 And being found in fashion as a man, ^ahe humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

(3) *The exaltation of Jesus.*

9 ^aWherefore God also hath high-

1 "Form," etc., Gr. *en morphē*, "the form by which a person or thing strikes the vision, the external appearance."—*Thayer*. Cf. John 17. 5: "The glory which I had with Thee before the world was." Nothing in this passage teaches that the Eternal Word (John 1. 1) emptied Himself of either His divine nature, or His attributes, but only of the outward and visible manifestation of the Godhead. "He emptied, stripped Himself of the insignia of Majesty."—*Lightfoot*. "When occasion demanded He exercised His divine attributes."—*Moorehead*. Cf. John 1. 1, note; 20. 28, note.

ly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:

10 That at the name of Jesus ^aevery knee should bow, of *things* in heaven, and *things* in earth, and *things* under the earth;

11 And *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ ^bis Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

(4) *The outworking of the in-worked salvation.*

12 Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, ^cwork out your own ^dsalvation with fear and trembling.

13 For it is ^eGod which worketh in you both to will and to do of *his* good pleasure.

14 Do all things without ^fmur-murings and disputings:

15 That ye may be blameless and harmless, the ^gsons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse ^hnation, among whom ye shine as lights in the ⁱworld;

16 Holding forth the word of ^jlife; that I may rejoice in ^kthe day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.

(5) *The apostolic example.*

17 Yea, and if I be ^loffered upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I joy, and rejoice with you all.

18 For the same cause also do ye joy, and rejoice with me.

19 But I ^mtrust in the Lord Jesus to send ⁿTimotheus shortly unto you, that I also may be of good comfort, when I know your state.

20 For I have noman ^olikeminded, who will naturally care for your state.

21 For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's.

22 But ye know the proof of him, that, as a son with the father, he hath served with me in the ^pgospel.

23 Him therefore I hope to send presently, so soon as I shall see how it will go with me.

24 But I trust in the Lord that I also myself shall come shortly.

25 Yet I supposed it necessary to send to you ^qEpaphroditus, my brother, and companion in labour, and fellowsoldier, but your messenger, and he that ministered to my wants.

26 For he longed after you all, and was full of heaviness, because that ye had heard that he had been sick.

27 For indeed he was sick nigh

A.D. 64.

a Isa. 45.23;
Rev. 5.13.
b John 13.13;
Rom. 14.9.
c John 6.27,29;
Heb. 4.11;
2 Pet. 1.5,10.
d Rom. 1.16,
note.
e Heb. 13.21.
f 1 Cor. 10.10.
g children.
h generation.
i kosmos (Mt. 4.8) = mankind.
j Life (eternal). Phil. 4.3. (Mt. 7.14;
Rev. 22.19.)
k 1 Cor. 1.8,
note.
l poured out as a drink-offering.
m hope.
n 1 Thes. 3.2.
o Or, so dear unto me.
p Gospel. Phil. 4.3,15. (Gen. 12.1-3; Rev. 14.6.)
q Phil. 4.18.
r Mt. 10.40.
s 1 Thes. 5.16.
t 2 Pet. 1.12,15.
u Isa. 56.10,11.
v Psa. 119.115.
w Gal. 5.1,3.
x Holy Spirit. Col. 1.8. (Mt. 1.18; Acts 2.4.)
y Flesh. vs. 3, 4; Col. 2.11, 23. (John 1.13; Jude 23.)
z Acts 23.6.
a Church (visible). 1 Tim. 3.15. (1 Cor. 10.32; 1 Tim. 3.15.)
b Rom. 10.3,
note.
c Isa. 53.11;
Jer. 9.23,24;
John 17.3;
1 Cor. 2.2.
d 2 Cor. 11.25,
27.
e Law (of Moses). 1 Tim. 1.8,9. (Ex. 19.1; Gal. 3.1-29.)
f Faith. 1 Thes. 4.14. (Gen. 3.20; Heb. 11.39.)
g Rom. 3.21,
note.

unto death; but God had mercy on him; and not on him only, but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow.

28 I sent him therefore the more carefully, that, when ye see him again, ye may rejoice, and that I may be the less sorrowful.

29 Receive him therefore in the Lord with all gladness; and hold such in reputation:

30 Because for the work of Christ he was nigh unto death, not regarding his life, to supply your lack of service toward me.

CHAPTER 3.

Part III. Christ, object of the believer's faith, desire, and expectation (Phil. 3. 1-21).

(1) *Warning against Judaizers.*

FINALLY, my brethren, ^srejoice in the Lord. To write the ^tsame things to you, to me indeed is not grievous, but for you *it* is safe.

2 Beware of ^udogs, beware of ^vevil workers, beware of the ^wconscience.

3 For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the ^xspirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the ^yflesh.

(2) *Warning against trusting in legal righteousness.*

4 Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more:

5 Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a ^zPharisee;

6 Concerning zeal, persecuting ^athe church; touching the ^brighteousness which is in the law, blameless.

(3) *Christ, object of the believer's faith for righteousness.*

7 But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.

8 Yea doubtless, and I count all things *but* loss ^cfor the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have ^dsuffered the loss of all things, and do count them *but* dung, that I may win Christ,

9 And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the ^elaw, but that which is through the ^ffaith of Christ, ^gthe righteousness which is of God by faith:

(4) *Christ, object of the believer's desire for fellowship in resurrection power.*

10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the ^afellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;

11 If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection ^bof the dead.

12 Not as though I had already attained, either were already ^cperfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.

13 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but *this* one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,

14 I ^dpress toward the ^emark for the prize of the ^fhigh calling of God in Christ Jesus.

(5) *The appeal for unity in the walk.*

15 Let us therefore, as many as be ^cperfect, be ^gthus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, ^hGod shall reveal even this unto you.

16 Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing.

(6) *But truth is not to be compromised for the sake of unity.*

17 Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us ⁱfor an ensample.

18 (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, *that they* are the enemies of the cross of Christ:

19 Whose ^jend is destruction, whose God *is their* belly, and whose glory *is in their* shame, who mind earthly things.)

(7) *Christ, object of the believer's expectation.*

20 For our ^kconversation is in heaven; ^lfrom whence also we look for the ^mSaviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:

21 Who shall ⁿchange our ^ovile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his ^pglorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

A.D. 64.

a 1 Pet.4.13.

b from among.

c Mt.5.48, note.

d 1 Cor.9.24; Heb.12.1.

e goal.

f upward.

g Gal.5.10.

h Hos.6.3; Jas.1.5.

i 1 Pet.5.3.

j 2 Pet.2.1.

k citizenship.

l Christ (Second Advent). vs.20,21;

1 Thes.1.9,10. (Deut.30.3; Acts 1.9-11.)

m Rom.1.16, note.

n Resurrection. 1 Thes. 4.13-17. (Job 19.25; 1 Cor. 15.52.)

o body of humiliation.

p body of glory.

q Rewards. Col.3.24. (Dan.12.3; 1 Cor.3.14.)

r Life (eternal). Col.1. 27. (Mt.7.14; Rev.22.19.)

s gentleness.

t Jas.5.7,9; Rev.22.7,20.

u Mt.6.25; 1 Pet.5.7.

v Cf.Mt.10.34, note.

w Eph.4.25.

x 2 Cor.8.21.

y Deut.16.20.

z Jas.3.17.

a 1 Cor.13.

b Heb.13.20.

c Or, is revived.

d Omit "therewith"

e Heb.13.5.

CHAPTER 4.

Part IV. *Christ, the believer's strength, rejoicing over anxiety* (Phil. 4. 1-23).

(1) *Exhortation to unity and joy.*

THEREFORE, my brethren dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and ^acrown, so stand fast in the Lord, my dearly beloved.

2 I beseech Euodias, and beseech Syntyche, that they be of the same mind in the Lord.

3 And I intreat thee also, true yokefellow, help those women which laboured with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and *with* other my fellowlabourers, whose names are in the book ^rof life.

4 Rejoice in the Lord *always*: and again I say, Rejoice.

(2) *The secret of the peace of God.*

5 Let your ^smoderation be known unto all men. ^tThe Lord is at hand.

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

7 And the ^vpeace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

(3) *The presence of the God of peace.*

8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are ^wtrue, whatsoever things are ^xhonest, whatsoever things are ^yjust, whatsoever things are ^zpure, whatsoever things are ^alovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if *there be* any virtue, and if *there be* any praise, think on these things.

9 Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and ^bthe God of peace shall be with you.

(4) *The victory over anxious care.*

10 But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at the last your care of me hath ^cflourished again; wherein ye were also careful, but ye lacked opportunity.

11 Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, ^dtherewith to be ^econtent.

12 I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound; every where and in all things I am in-

structed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.

13 I can do all things ^athrough Christ which strengtheneth me.

14 Notwithstanding ye have well done, that ye did communicate with my affliction.

15 Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the ^bgospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only.

16 For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity.

17 Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account.

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^a John 15.5;
2 Cor.12.9.

^b Gospel. vs.3,
15; Col.1.5,
6,23. (Gen.
12.1-3; Rev.
14.6.)

^c Or, *have received.*

^d Sacrifice
(*the believer-
priest's*).
Heb.13.15,16.
(Gen.4.4;
Heb.10.18.)

^e Psa.23.1.

18 But I ^chave all, and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things *which were sent* from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a ^dsacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God.

19 But my God shall ^esupply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

20 Now unto God and our Father *be* glory for ever and ever. Amen.

21 Salute every saint in Christ Jesus. The brethren which are with me greet you.

22 All the saints salute you, chiefly they that are of Cæsar's household.

23 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with you all. Amen.