**Chapter 1: The Single Mind (How to experience joy in spite of circumstances)**

Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus. To all God’s holy people in Christ Jesus at Philippi, together with the overseers and deacons]. 2Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**1.1 The Fellowship of the Gospel (1:3-11)**

**1.1.1 I Have you in my mind (1:3-6)**

3I thank my God every time I remember you. 4In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy 5because of your partnership in the gospe*l* from the first day until now, 6being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

**1.1.2 I Have you in my heart (1:7-8)**

7It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God’s grace with me. 8God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

**1.1.3 I Have you in my prayers (1:9-11)**

9And this is my prayer**:** that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, 10so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, 11filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

### 1.2 The Furtherance of the Gospel (1:12-26)

### 1.2.1 Paul’s Chains (1:12-14)

12Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters,[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=PHilippians+1&version=NIV#fen-NIV-29374b)] that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel. 13As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard[[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=PHilippians+1&version=NIV#fen-NIV-29375c)] and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. 14And because of my chains, most of the brothers and sisters have become confident in the Lord and dare all the more to proclaim the gospel without fear.

**1.2.2 Paul’s Critics (1:15-19)**

15It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill. 16The latter do so out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. 17The former preach Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing that they can stir up trouble for me while I am in chains. 18But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice.

**1.2.3 Paul’s Crisis (1:20-26)**

Yes, and I will continue to rejoice, 19for I know that through your prayers and God’s provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance.[[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=PHilippians+1&version=NIV#fen-NIV-29381d)] 20I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. 21For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. 22If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! 23I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; 24but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body. 25Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, 26so that through my being with you again your boasting in Christ Jesus will abound on account of me.

**1.3 The Faith of the Gospel**

**1.3.1 Be Consistent (1:27a)**

27Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ.

**1.3.2 Be Cooperative (1:27b)**

Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit striving together as one for

**1.3.3 Be Committed (1:27c)**

the faith of the gospel

**1.3.3. Be Courageous (1:28a)**

28without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you.

**1.3.5 Be Confident (1:28b)**

This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved—and that by God.

**1.3.6 Be Consecrated (1:29-30)**

For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him, 30since you are going through the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have.

**1.3 The Faith of the Gospel (1:27-30)**

**1.3.1 Be Consistent (1:27a)**

**27Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, [C]**

 **1.3.2 Be Cooperative**

**so that whether I come and see you or am absent,**

**I may hear of you**

**that you are standing firm [C]**

 **in one spirit, [C]**

**with one mind [C]**

**striving side by side [C]**

**1.3.3 Be Courageous**

28**and not frightened in anything by your opponents**. **[C]**

**1.3.4 Be Committed**

**for the faith [F] of the gospel**, **[G]** **(Key Phrase)**

**Understanding the Passage**

1. What does it mean to conduct oneself in a manner worthy of the gospel?

2. Why should we obey this command? Colossians 1:9, 2 Thessalonians 1:11,12

3. How does God equip us to obey this command? Colossians 1:10; 2 Thessalonians 1:11

4. What four things does Paul desire of his readers? Why?

5. What is the key phrase in this passage?

6. What does Paul mean by the phrase “faith of the gospel.” (see Jude 3)

7. Why is it important for a Christian to know what and why they believe?

8. How does division in a church undermine the perceived truth of their doctrinal positions?

**Let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ**

”And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, Why fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.” Colossians 1:9-10

“To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and may fulfill every resolve for good and every work of faith by his power,so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.” 2 Thessalonians 1:11,12

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | What | How | Why |
| Phil 1:27-30 |  |  |  |
| Colossians 1:9-10 |  |  |  |
| 2 Thessalonians 1:11,12 |  |  |  |

**1.3.5 Be Confident**

**This is a clear sign to them**

**of their destruction,**

**but of your salvation,**

**and that from God. [T]**

**This**

[This] is evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are also suffering— since indeed God considers it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us” 2 Thessalonians 1:5-7

“Therefore we ourselves boast about you in the churches of God for your steadfastness and faith in all your persecutions and in the afflictions that you are enduring. 2 Thessalonians 1:4

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Philippians 1:27-30** |  **2 Thessalonians 1:4** |
|  |  |

**Of Their Destruction**

[This] is evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are also suffering-since indeed God considers it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you.” 2 Thessalonians 1:5-7

”and to grant relief to you who are afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might, when he comes on that day to be glorified in his saints, and to be marveled at among all who have believed, because our testimony to you was believed.” 2 Thessalonians 1:7-10

**Destruction**

|  |
| --- |
|  |

**Salvation**

|  |
| --- |
|  |

**1.3.6 Be Consecrated**

9For it has been granted to you

**that for the sake of Christ [T]**

**you should**

not only **believe in him** **[C]**

but also **suffer for his sake**, **[C]**

**30engaged in the same conflict**

**that you saw I had**

**and now hear that I still have.** **[E]**

**Understanding the Passage**

1. Why does Paul say we should not be frightened by our opponents?
2. What personal example of this has he just given them?
3. What opponents is he referring to?
4. What opponents do we face today?
5. What does Paul mean by the word “This.” What is he referring to? See also 2 Thessalonians 4-12
6. How is suffering a clear sign of our salvation? Acts 14:22
7. What two things have been granted to us as Christians? For whose sake?
8. How does this mirror Paul’s personal desire in Philippians 3:8-11

9. What “same conflict” is Paul referring to in vs 30? See Acts 16:19-40

**1.2.1 Paul’s Chains (1:12-14)**

12I want you to know, brothers,

that what has happened to me

has really served to **advance the gospel**,

13so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard

and to all the rest

that my imprisonment is for Christ.

14And most of the brothers,

**having become confident in the Lord [C]**

**are much more bold to speak the word [C]**

**without fear** **[C]**

by my imprisonment,

**Understanding the Passage:**

1. What seems to be the main point of this passage?
2. When Paul says “what has happened to me” what is he talking about?
3. Through what lens did Paul view his circumstances – what was his focus?
4. Through what lens do you view your circumstances?
5. How can Paul’s example help us to view all of our circumstance through the lens of the gospel and God’s glory?
6. What two tangible benefits resulted from Paul’s “negative circumstances?”

7. Can it be difficult to wait on God to work through our circumstances for his glory? Why?

8. How can Paul’s example help us to be more faithful?

9. What imperative or commands are in this passage?

10. Which command is the Holy Spirit speaking to you about most?

**1.2.2 Paul’s Critics (1:15-19)**

15Some indeed preach Christ from

 envy and rivalry,

 but others (preach Christ)

from good will.

16The latter do it out of love,

knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel.

17The former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely

but thinking to afflict me in my imprisonment. 1

18What then? Only that in every way,

whether in

pretense

or in truth,

 Christ is proclaimed,

 **and in that I rejoice [C]**.

**Understanding the Passage:**

1. What were the two motives that Paul identified for preaching the gospel?
2. What knowledge did those with pure motives possess about Paul’s condition?
3. How was that knowledge related to their perspective on circumstances?
4. How did Paul’s response in verse 18 revel his true focus?
5. How was Paul able to still be joyful?
6. What was the key to his joy?
7. What can we learn from his example?
8. What command or imperative is implied in verse 18?
9. What necessary adjustments may you need to make in your life in order to obey that command?
10. What critics in your life are trying to steal your joy?
11. Like Paul, how can God use this situation to glorify himself?

**Applying Scripture**



|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Imperative** | **Imperative** | **Indicative** | **Incarnation** | **Explanatives** | **Application** |
| 1 | Phil 1:6 | Eph 1:13-14 | Rms 8:1-5 | Eph 1:11 |   |
| 2 | Phil 1:9 | Jn 13:35 | Eph 3:16-19 | Col 3:8-10 |   |
| 3 | Phil 1:10a | Col 1:9-11 | Col 2:2,3 | James 1:5 |   |
| 4 | Phil 1:10b | I Cor 6:19-20 | Heb 7:23-28 | I Th 3:11-13 |   |
| 5 | Phil 1:11 | Eph 2:9 | Gal 5:22-23 | Jn 15:4,5 |   |
| 6 | Phil 1:14 | I Cor 2:20 | Luke 11:12 | I Peter 3:15 |   |
| 7 | Phil 1:18 | I Peter 4:12-13 | I Peter 1:8 | Col 3:1-17 |   |
| 8 | Phil 1:20 | I Cor 6:19-20 | Col 1:27 | I Peter 4:10-12 |   |
| 9 | Phil 1:21 | Mt 6:19 | Col 3:3 | Mk 8:34 |   |
| 10 | Phil 1:27a | 2 Thess 1:11 | John 14:23 | Eph 4:1-3 |   |
| 11 | Phil 1:27b | I Cor 15:58 | I John 4:4 | Gal 6:10-18 |   |
| 12 | Phil 1:27c | 2 Cor 5:15-19 |  2 Pet 3:15,16 | Eph 6:10-18 |   |
| 13 | Phil 1:28 | Psalm 27:1-5 | John 14:27 | Phil 4:5-7 |   |
| 14 | Phil 1:29 | John 16:33 | 2 Cor 1:3-5 |  Rms 15:4-5 |   |

**Homework:**

1. Diagram Philippians 1:12-19
2. Interrogate the Passage
3. Pick one application

**Reinforcing the Passage**

**The Importance of Christian Fellowship and Christian Biographies by John Piper**

“In order to pursue joy through a fellowship with the saints you need to expose yourself to Bible-saturated people, both the living and the dead. Their lives and their words are a great help to our joy. The living are the church that you are a part of. The dead are the Body of Christ whose Word-saturated lives reach us through their biographies. God can still use the words of dead men to speak to us today. The entire eleventh chapter of Hebrews can be included in the reference to Abel: “And through faith, though he died, he still speaks.” In answer to how we “stir one another up to love,” the book of Hebrews answers: through the lives of the living and the dead. “Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith (Heb 13:7).” A Christian life, whether past or present, is a demonstration of the truth of God’s Word and a display of God’s grace. Therefore, since the fight for joy is a fight to see and savor all that God is for us, we would be poor warriors not to seek Christian fellowship and read Christian biography.”

**From the Sermons of John Donne**

 “No man is excused of subsequent afflictions by precedent, nor of falling into more by having borne some already. Elijah reckoned too hastily when he told God, “Lord, take away my life.” God had more to lay upon him. A last year’s fever presents not this, nor a sickness in the fall another in the spring. Men are not such as a grove of trees that being felled not stand safe from the axe for a dozen years after. But our afflictions are beggars; they tell others and send more after them. Sickness does but usher in poverty, and poverty contempt, and contempt dejection of spirit. No man may refuse a warrant demanding a loan because he has lent before. And though afflictions be not of God’s taxes (for afflictions borne grudgingly are not real service to God), **yet they are his subsidies**, and he has additional glory out of our afflictions. The more afflictions he sends us, the more glory we may return to him.”

**Music Selections**

1. God is God (Stephen Curtis Chapman)

2. How Beautiful (Twila Paris)

3. When God’s People Pray (Wayne Watson)

4. For the Glory of Your Name (Michelle Tumes)

5. In Christ Alone (Kristian Stanfill)

6. For the Sake of the Call (Stephen Curtis Chapman)

7. Whom Shall I Fear (Passion)

**Movie Selections**

1. Hoosiers (PG)
2. Ben Hur (PG)
3. Cinderella Man (PG-13)
4. The Maldonado Miracle (PG)
5. On the Waterfront (PG)