

PHILIPPIANS 1

- We will now study the letter called Philippians.
- This letter is written not only to the Christians in the church in Philippi, but to all Christians.
- On Paul's second missionary journey, he came to the province of Macedonia in Greece and to the town of Philippi (Acts 16:16-40).
- In Philippi, Paul and Silas were put into jail for teaching about God, but God sent an earthquake which shook off their chains and opened the doors of the prison.
- On his third missionary journey, Paul went to Philippi on his way to Corinth, and returned to Philippi on his way back to Jerusalem.
- In Jerusalem, Paul was arrested and taken to Rome where he lived in a house under arrest (Acts 28:30-31).
- It was in Rome that God through Paul wrote the book of Philippians.

Let's read Philippians 1:1

1-Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, To all God's holy people in Christ Jesus at Philippi, together with the overseers and deacons.

- Timothy was in Rome with Paul to encourage Paul while he was under house arrest.
- To begin the letter, Paul is calling Timothy and himself servants of Christ.
- In this world, all people are servants. Of whom?
- People are either servants of Christ or servants of Satan.
- It is far better to be a servant of Christ than to be a servant of Satan.
- What does it mean to be a servant of Christ?
- Our greatest devotion is to the Lord Jesus more than to any other human or human organization.
- As Christians, we are all God's holy people or saints, and are IN Christ Jesus.
- This is one of the great differences between all other religions and true Christianity.
- Only Christians are IN the Lord Jesus which means that we are one with God Himself.
- Romans 6:5 says that "if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his."

-In John 17, the Lord Jesus said this to the Father:

22-“I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one—

23-I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity.”

Let’s read Philippians 1:2

2-Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

-Grace and peace for all Christians only come from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

-Grace is God’s greatest gift to us.

-Peace is God’s greatest blessing to us.

Let’s read Philippians 1:3-5

3-I thank my God every time I remember you.

4-In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy.

5-because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.

-Paul owns God when he calls God “my God.”

-We, too, need to own God as our God, for He is ours and there is no other.

-Instead of thinking of himself being in prison, Paul remembered the Christians in Philippi and prayed for them with joy.

-When we remember other Christians and pray for them, God will give us joy.

-In the work of God, we must work together.

-Just as God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit are one, God desires that all of His people would be one and work together with Him.

-Could God alone teach the entire world?

-Yes, but He prefers that we work with Him.

-God alone could do all of the work all by Himself, but He has chosen us to work alongside of Him.

-Some Christians may believe in Christ, and then tell God that they will go their own way on earth until they get to heaven.

-This is not why God has saved us Christians.

-God has saved us Christians so that we might work together with Him.

Let’s read Philippians 1:6

6-Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

-Who is the one who has begun a good work in all Christians?

-God.

-Having begun a good work in all Christians, what is God's promise to us?

-That God will complete His work in us.

-Does God ever make a promise and then break it?

-No.

-Does God ever start a work that He does not complete?

-No.

-Does God ever start a work that He does not complete because Satan or someone else blocks Him?

-No.

-No one can block God from completing His work.

-What will be God's complete work in all Christians?

-That one day, we will be completely perfect without sin.

-One day, God will complete His good work in us, and we will be with no pain, no sickness, no handicaps, no

hate, no greed, no envy, no sin, and no death.

-We will be completely like the Lord Jesus, except that we will not be God.

-How is it possible for Christians to be like the Lord Jesus?

-By allowing God the Holy Spirit to have complete control of our lives just like Jesus did when He walked on the earth.

-From eternity past, God has planned to change us to be like the Lord Jesus (Ro 8:29).

-Now, these days, God the Holy Spirit is changing us to be like the Lord Jesus (2 Co 3:18).

-In the future, we will be like the Lord Jesus (1 Jn 3:2).

-How is God changing us to be like the Lord Jesus?

-He helps us to humble ourselves as Christ did.

-He helps us to serve others as Christ did.

-He helps to suffer injustice as Christ did.

-He helps us to reach out to the lost as Christ did.

Let's read Philippians 1:7-8

7-It 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.

8-God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

-From verse 7, we can know that Paul was in chains in house arrest in Rome.

-Even though Paul was in chains, he was not thinking about himself, but rather about the Christians in Philippi.

-What is the lesson of Paul in chains yet not thinking about himself, but others?

-When we think about our own difficulties, we can become discouraged, but when we think about God and our family in Christ, this will encourage us.

-As Paul had the Philippians in his heart, we should also have in our hearts our brothers and sisters in Christ.

-As Paul loved the Philippians and others, we should also love our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Let's read Philippians 1:9-11

9-And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight,

10-so that you may be able to discern what is best

and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ,
11-filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

-Even though Paul was far away in prison in Rome, he still prayed for the Christians in Philippi.

-Even though the love of the Christians in Philippi was great, Paul prayed for more love for them.

-Jesus taught his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up (Luke 18:1).

-Romans 12:12 teaches us that we should be faithful in prayer.

-After Christ's ascension to heaven, the apostles asked that seven men be chosen so that the apostles could give their attention to prayer (Acts 6:4).

-Praying for others helps us to be pure and blameless for the day of Christ.

-Praying for others fills us with the righteousness of Christ when Christ returns.

-Praying for others is to the glory and praise of God.

-Praying for others should be a strong part of our work with God.