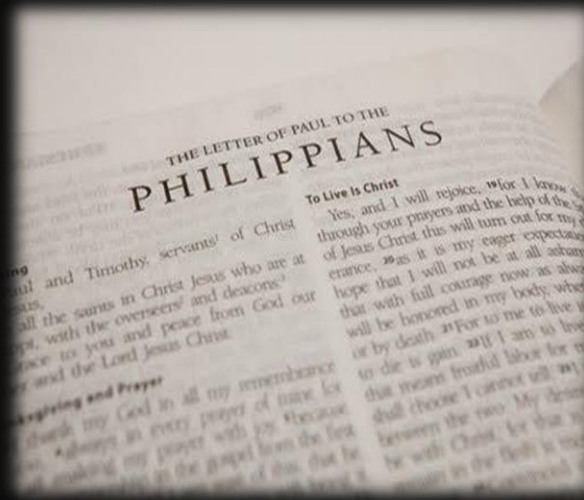




Philippians

Bible Study



2025-10-17

<https://audio.stmary-ottawa.org/sermons/2025/SMO-2025-10-17-Philippians.pdf>



The Apostles

Peter & Paul

Role Models of Faith

- Exemplify faith, love, determination & passion.

Overcoming Challenges

- Inspire us to remain steadfast in Christ amidst difficulties.

Our Mission

- Be faithful witnesses, and bring others to Christ, continuing the work to make disciples of all nations.

Saint Paul

from **Persecutor** *to* **Preacher**
The Transformed Evangelist

- **Perseverance** *and* **Evangelism**
Enduring to the End
- **Crown** *of* **Righteousness**
A Life Well-Lived



Saint Paul's Transformation

from **Persecutor** *to* **Preacher**

- Began as a zealous Pharisee and persecutor of Christians.
- The Damascus Road Conversion

"Then he fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?'"

Acts 9:4
- A new calling (Saul *becomes* Paul): becomes a passionate defender & preacher of the faith,
 - taking **extensive missionary journeys**
 - and authoring **numerous epistles**, rich with theological wisdom.



Saint Paul's 14 Epistles & Three Missionary Journeys

Year	Major Events	Acts	Period	14 Epistles
34 AD	Conversion, Damascus, Arabia	9	3 years in Arabia	
37	Jerusalem, Tarsus, Syria, Cilicia			
46-47	Antioch, Jerusalem	11	1 year in Antioch	
48-49	First Missionary Trip and Antioch	13-14		GALATIANS
50	Jerusalem Council and Antioch	15		
51-53	Second Missionary Trip	16-18	18 months in Corinth	1 & 2 THESSALONIANS
53-54	Antioch			
54-57	Third Missionary Trip	19-21	3 years in Ephesus	1 & 2 CORINTHIANS ROMANS
57	Jerusalem Arrest	22-23		
57-59	Caesarea Prisoner	24-26	2 years	
59-60	Journey to Rome	27-28		
60-67	Rome House Arrest and subsequent Martyrdom	28	5-8 years	EPHESIANS PHILIPPIANS COLOSSIANS PHILEMON HEBREWS TITUS 1 & 2 TIMOTHY

Learning *from* Saint Paul's **Joy and Perseverance**

Joy *in* **Adversity**

Even in prison, Saint Paul wrote of joy, keeping his focus on Christ.

Pressing Onward *and* **Upward**

"But one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus."

Philippians 3:13-14



Learning *from* Saint Paul's **Vigilance** *and* **Evangelism**

Vigilance

Saint Paul calls us to
"Redeem the time"

Ephesians 5:16

Do *the* Work of an Evangelist

"But you be watchful in all things,
endure afflictions, do the work of
an evangelist, fulfill your ministry."

2 Timothy 4:5



Learning *from* Saint Paul's **Crown of Righteousness**

Ready *for* Departure

"For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand."

2 Timothy 4:6

The Ultimate Reward

"Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing."

2 Timothy 4:8



9 AD
Paul is Born

20 AD
Paul studies under Gamaliel

34 AD
**Paul's Conversion on
the Road to Damascus**

34-36 AD
Paul's Time in Arabia
36 AD
Visit to Jerusalem

36-46 AD
Paul in Tarsus

47-48 AD
Paul's First Missionary Journey
Antioch, Salamis, Paphos, Perga, Pisidian Antioch, Iconium, Lystra, Derbe
(Returning: Lystra, Iconium, Pisidian Antioch, Perga, Atralia, Antioch)

49 AD
The Jerusalem Council

49-52 AD
Paul's Second Missionary Journey
Jerusalem, Antioch, Syria, Derbe, Lystra, Iconium, Pisidian Antioch,
Troas, Athens, Corinth, Ephesus, Caesarea, Jerusalem
Berea, Neapolis, Philippi, Thessalonica, Miletus, Patara, Paphos, Tyre, Caesarea

53-58 AD
Paul's Third Missionary Journey
Antioch, the region of Galatia and Phrygia, Ephesus, Jerusalem

59-62 AD
Paul's Journey to Rome and House Arrest
~62-64 AD
Paul Released from Roman Imprisonment

65 AD
Final Imprisonment and Death

48 AD
Galatians

49-51 AD
1 Thessalonians
2 Thessalonians

1 Corinthians (53-56 AD)
2 Corinthians (55-56 AD)
Romans (57 AD)

62 AD
Ephesians
Philippians
Colossians
Philemon

*The
Prison
Epistles*

62-64 AD
1 Timothy
Titus

64-65 AD
2 Timothy

Philippian Church

AD 50-51

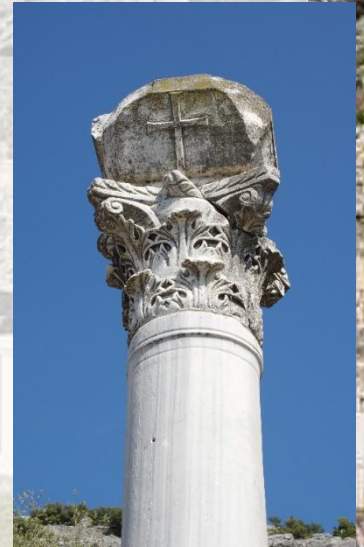
- Saint Paul **founded** the church in Philippi during his 2nd missionary journey (**Acts 16:11-40**)
- This was the first church established in Europe

AD 57-58

- Saint Paul made two brief **visits** to Philippi during his 3rd missionary journey (**Acts 20:1,6**)

AD 61-63

- Saint Paul **wrote** Philippians from Rome while he was under house arrest (**Acts 28:16-31**)
- He was free to receive visitors & write letters at that time





Philippi
Neopolis
Berea
Thessalonica

Troas

Antioch

Iconium

Athens

Lystra

Derbe

Antioch

Mediterranean Sea

PAUL'S SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEY
49-52 AD

Jerusalem

Let's read Acts 16:11-40



Philippi

AD 50-51

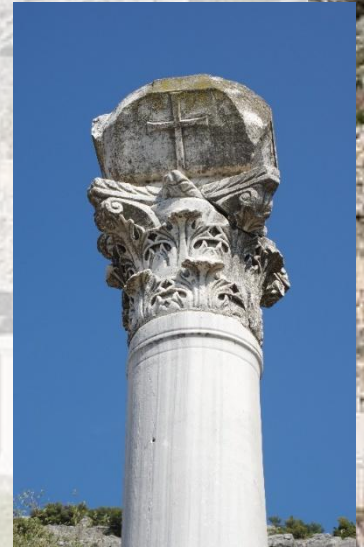
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Background

- Philippi was noted for its **generosity** in support of the apostolic ministry (1:5, 4:15, 16; Acts 16:15, 40)
- It had sent **Epaphroditus** to visit Saint Paul in prison with a financial gift and instructions to stay with Paul
- Epaphroditus was so devoted to his work that he neglected his own physical health (2:30) and was sick
- The Philippian church was worried about Epaphroditus
- In the meantime, Paul's trial had started (1:7) and he was hoping for an early release (1:25; 2:24) from prison
- Saint Paul wrote this letter of **thanks** to Philippi with comforting words, and sending Epaphroditus home (2:25-30) and also sending Timothy to Philippi (2:19)

Major Themes

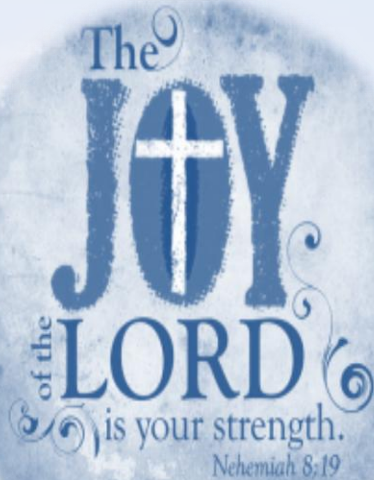
Christian Life

Joy in Christ

Unity

Humility

Selfless Generosity



“Christ’s Salvation and our Life in Christ
is a dynamic, ongoing experience that is not
merely personal, but **shared** among believers.” – OSB

1:21

*“For to me,
to live is Christ,
and to die is gain.”*

1:27

*“let your conduct
be worthy of the
gospel of Christ”*

2:5

*“Let this mind be in
you which was also
in Christ Jesus”*

2:12

*“work out your own
salvation with fear
and trembling”*

3:1

*“Finally,
my brethren,
rejoice in the Lord.”*

3:10

*“that I may know
Him and the power of His
resurrection,
and the fellowship
of His **sufferings,** being
conformed to His **death**”*

3:14

“I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”

3:20

“For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.”

4:1

*“Therefore, my beloved
and longed-for brethren,
my joy and crown, so
stand fast in the Lord,
beloved.”*

4:4

*“Rejoice in the Lord
always.
Again I will say,
rejoice!”*

4:7-8

*“Be anxious for nothing,
but in everything
by **prayer** and **supplication**,
with **thanksgiving**,
let your requests
be made known to God;
and the **peace** of God,
which surpasses all understanding,
will **guard** your **hearts** and **minds**
through Christ Jesus.”*

Rejoice in the Lord!

- Philippians is one of Paul's four prison epistles (Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, Philemon)
- Despite Paul writing from prison, a central theme is to always **"Rejoice in the Lord"**
- Saint Paul writes to thank the Philippian church for their support, and to comfort them about his imprisonment.

Let's read Philippians chapter 1



Greetings & Thanksgiving

Philippians 1:1-11

- Saint Paul includes Timothy and addresses the letter to the bishops & deacons—this is the only letter where he specifically includes the clergy
- Expresses deep joy for the Philippians because it is their **fellowship** (Greek *koinonia* κοινωνία) in worship & community of life that made their spiritual father joyful
- Saint Paul **prays** that their love may abound in knowledge and discernment, that they approve the things that are excellent, be sincere and without offense till Christ returns, and be filled with the fruit of righteousness

Paul's Imprisonment Advances the Gospel

Philippians 1:12-26

Paul's imprisonment

- Helped to further spread the gospel, with everyone in the palace knowing that his chains are because of the Gospel.
- This made other believers more courageous to preach.

Different Motivations for Preaching

- Some preached from goodwill, love, and sincerity;
- Others preached out of evil motives (envy, strife, self-ambition, to add more afflictions to his chains).
- Paul rejoiced regardless because Christ was proclaimed!

Paul's Philosophy

- “To live is Christ and to die is gain”— joyful in either case.

Steadfastness in Suffering


Philippians 1:27-30

Paul calls believers to behave worthy of the gospel through **unity** (one mind and one spirit), striving for the **faith**, and not being terrified but **confident**.

The Gift of Suffering

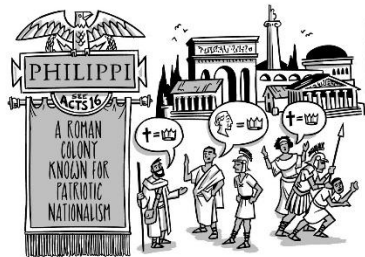
The believer is granted both to believe and to suffer, as suffering is ...

- the way to glory,
- increases our faith,
- and is participation in God's grace.



Rejoice
IN THE
LORD
Always AND AGAIN I SAY,
REJOICE.

PHILIPPIANS 4:4



PAUL'S LETTER TO THE PHILIPPIANS

A UNIQUE WINDOW INTO PAUL'S HEART & MIND

- HE SAW HIS LIFE AS A REENACTMENT OF JESUS' STORY
- HIS AWARENESS OF JESUS' LOVE & PRESENCE GAVE HIM HOPE & HUMILITY
- KNOWING JESUS IS DEEPLY PERSONAL & TRANSFORMATIVE



2:6-11 THE MESSIAH POEM

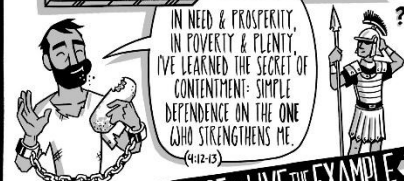
ALTHOUGH HE EXISTED IN THE NATURE OF GOD, HE DID NOT REGARD HIS EQUALITY WITH GOD AS A THING TO BE EXPLOITED; RATHER, HE EMPTIED HIMSELF, TAKING UP THE NATURE OF A SERVANT; HE WAS BORN AS A HUMAN & RECOGNIZED AS A HUMAN; HE HUMILED HIMSELF BY BECOMING OBEDIENT TO THE POINT OF DEATH, EVEN DEATH ON A CROSS.

THEREFORE, GOD HAS HIGHLY EXALTED HIM, AND GIVEN HIM THE NAME WHICH IS ABOVE EVERY NAME, SO THAT AT THE NAME OF JESUS EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, IN HEAVEN, ON EARTH, OR UNDER THE EARTH, AND EVERY TONGUE WILL CONFESS:

JESUS the MESSIAH is LORD! to the GLORY of GOD the FATHER!

QUOTING ISAIAH 45:33
PAUL'S POINT: the One True God consists of GOD the FATHER & the LORD JESUS

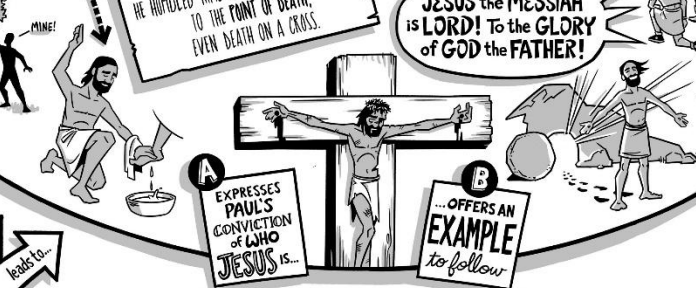
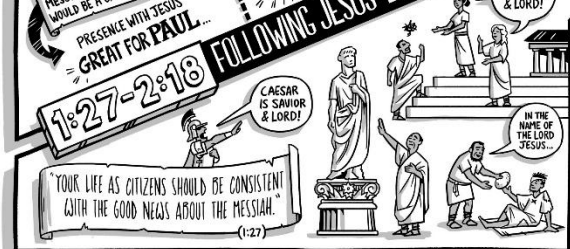
4:10-23 CLOSING THANKS



4:2-9 CHALLENGE TO LIVE THE EXAMPLE



3:1-4:1 PAUL'S EXAMPLE



2:19-30 TWO EXAMPLES



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