

Philippians – The Joyful Letter Study

Some Background & Context of Philippians

“Paul's two years in Rome, awaiting the due processes of the law—the arrival of witnesses from Jerusalem, the formulating of charges, etc.,—were years of special advantage to the work of the Lord. Here Paul was for the time safe from his enemies, the Jews, and free, under the protection of his lenient and favorably disposed captors, to preach the gospel to all who would hear, both Jews and Gentiles.

The opportunity was faithfully used. Here he preached the gospel of the Kingdom, and taught the doctrines of Christ with all confidence and freedom; from here he wrote and sent letters to distant Churches; and he prayed for them (Eph. 1:16; 3:14; Phil. 1:4,9), and sent messengers and helpers to them. (Eph. 6:21; Phil. 2:19,25.) The epistles to the Ephesians, Colossians, **Philippians** and to Philemon were all written from Rome.

We have no definite account of the Apostle's course after his liberation from captivity in Rome, except what may be gleaned from his epistles. The meager references of history indicate that he afterward went to Spain, and again to Greece and Asia Minor; and that it was a second imprisonment at Rome that terminated in his execution. All evidences concur that he was a wonderful soldier of the cross. He was faithful to the Truth and to the work of the Lord to the end of his course, and left a shining record for our study and imitation.” **R 1570**

“The **Epistle to the Philippians has been styled an epistle of joy**—so richly did the Apostle's heart seem to respond to the faithfulness of the brethren there. He would have them know that he appreciated their love, and that such love should abound toward each other and toward all. His joy would be filled full in proportion as he could realize that the brethren had the proper mind of Christ, its love and harmony.” **R 5846**

The Apostle indirectly reveals something **respecting the general character of the Philippian Church in the Epistle written to it: we find in it nothing like reproof or correction**, as we find in most of the epistles written to other Churches by the same Apostle. It is **a particularly beautiful and loving letter and indicates a very close sympathetic bond between the Apostle and this Church in particular**. Moreover, this Church on four different occasions that we know of rendered the Apostle practical sympathy by financial assistance, as well as by words of comfort and cheer. While at Thessalonica he twice received their gifts in his support; again while he was at Corinth they ministered to him, and again when he was a prisoner in Rome they did not forget him. It was their messenger, Epaphroditus, who brought this last memorial of their love, who was "sick unto death" – probably prostrated by the malarial fever. On his recovery, the Apostle Paul sent back with him this beautiful letter known to us as The **Epistle to the Philippians**. (Phil. 2:25-28; 4:14-19; 2 Cor. 11:9.) The other Churches may possibly have ministered to the Apostle also, but if so the fact is not recorded; apparently they missed a great opportunity, and we may be sure that while the Apostle did urge them to contribute to the relief of the brethren at Jerusalem, during a period of famine, he would not make a request for personal assistance, however much he may have been in need, or however much he might have appreciated even small manifestations of their love for him and the cause he served. **R 2227**

Let us learn from Paul's letter of Joy and practice more Joy in our lives.

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Session 1 of 2

In the KJV, the words joy, rejoice & rejoicing are found a total of 16 times in Philippians! The references to Joy come from a variety of variations on noun "joy" (Greek chara) or the verb "rejoice" (Greek chairō).



If at all possible answer the questions first from the context in your words, then with complementary scriptures & references found elsewhere. For each element of Joy we find let's see if we can also express it in a phrase or sentence in summary. Primarily this will be a contextual study, examining the topic of joy.

1. Why does Paul pray for believers with Joy? Phil 1:3-7
See Phil 1:5 "fellowship" KJV Strong's G2842 "koinia"
See Phil 1:7 "partakers" KJV
2. What is the basis of Paul's Joy despite being in prison? Phil 1:12-14
(on personal trials See: CQ Rewind: How Can I Rejoice in Trials)
3. Where is Paul's Joy found in Phil 1:15-18? Does this apply now?
See R831:1, R5411:6
4. Paul has joy in Phil 1:20-26 in either of his choices. Why?
But defers his choice why? See R284:4, F670
5. What are the elements of Joy described in Phil 2:1-8?
Does this connect back to Question #4?
See Meggison's notes on Phil 2:2 and R5810:5 for others verses
6. What word picture is given in Phil 2:17,18? What insight into his Joy is shown? See R5810:6, "I be offered" phrase KJV G4689
Note: vs 18 "rejoice with" KJV is a form of chairō not elsewhere in the book.

Above references & more can be found at <https://hack954.wixsite.com/philippians>
Additional helps include discourses, studies and comparative translations etc.