



A Study of Galatians, Ephesians, **Philippians**, Colossians

Review of Chapter 1:

This is often called a letter of ____Joy____ because, unlike Galatians or 1 and 2 Corinthians, Paul is not defending his ministry, rather he is able to preach about Jesus and what he brings.

Let's review and refresh our minds a little by looking at chapter 1

A. Verses 3-6. How had the Philippians shown themselves faithful?

✦ 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,** 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.

They supported Paul in the work of spreading the Gospel ~ it was not just his job, it was their job

B. Verses 12-18. How had Paul's imprisonment turned out for good? (Two ways)

✦ ¹² Now I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel. ¹³ **As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ.** ¹⁴ **Because of my chains, most of the brothers in the Lord have been encouraged to speak the word of God more courageously and fearlessly.**

1. **He preached in prison**
2. **Others preached outside of prison**

C. Verses 20-25. Which verse did we highlight as the one that should be the motto for our life?

✦ ²⁰ I 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. ²¹ ***For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.*** ²² If 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! ²³ I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; ²⁴ but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body. ²⁵ Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith,

D. Verses 27-28. What is Paul's directive for Christian living?

✦ ²⁷ **Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ.** Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in one spirit, contending as one man for the faith of the gospel ²⁸ without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you. This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved—and that by God.

E. What does that mean? Why is this directive so important for us today?

How do we act/ react in life's difficult situations? It is hard to find this today

Chapter 2

Read verses 1-4

If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, ² then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, **being one in spirit and purpose.** ³ **Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.** ⁴ **Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.**

1. What does Paul want the congregation at Philippi to do that he also wanted the Corinthians, the Galatians and the Ephesians to do?

Be like minded in spirit, action and especially in faith ~ not talking denominations, talking congregations

2. What are some areas of strife that Paul may be speaking about that divide a congregation?

Budget, Direction, Purpose, Doctrine, Practice, building project, all of these can grow from sinful selfish ambition or conceit, wanting what we want and not caring about what is best for the congregation or our members

3. Why did Paul have to write almost the exact same thing to 4 different churches?

We all struggle with our sinful nature... Most if not all congregations suffer from these problems, or would need this advice when the problems come

4. How does having a congregation that is like-minded – one in mission and purpose help the work of the church? **They know what they are supposed to do, why they should do it and they go out and do it –**

Ready, willing and able

5. What is the basis for our unity with our Lord and with other congregational members?

Jesus, His Word is the basis for the unity, ~We must first be centered on his Word and his teachings

6. What are some ways we do that or show that?

How we discuss matters, what will drive those discuss, how we conduct ourselves.... It will trickle down to almost every matter of the teaching of the church and the business of the church as well.

Read verses 5-11

⁵Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: ⁶Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, ⁷but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. ⁸And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross! ⁹Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

7. In your own words, explain what these passages mean about Jesus humiliation.

Jesus humiliation was not about being God, he was subject to God and his plan. He submitted to what God wanted.

8. Paul does not point at Jesus miracles or healings as the example for us to follow. What does Paul point to and say, “This is the part of Christ you should emulate.”?

Attitude is humble like as Christ. Attitude which leads to service. ~ Who else could have claimed Godship and meant it, who else could have ruled earth and meant it ~ but he didn't, instead he served us

9. The Holy took our sins. God became man. The Lord became a servant. All of these statements point to how Jesus served us. What is often our attitude towards serving others? **We often don't want to, yet Jesus served us. What can they do for me, I will do it if I like them, I'm willing to help, but not with that**

10. How was and is Jesus humility a reason that many people have denied and continue to deny Jesus as the Savior? **No God would do that ~ he has people for that ~ it is a contradiction of his greatness to be a servant ~ thinking in very human terms about power, authority and greatness. The essence of our God's power and glory is that he was willing to set that aside to come and save us.**

Read verses 12-18

¹²Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.

¹⁴Do everything without complaining or arguing, ¹⁵so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe ¹⁶as you hold out the word of life—in order that I may boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor for nothing. ¹⁷But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you. ¹⁸So you too should be glad and rejoice with me.

11. The second part of verse 12 and verse 13 are often difficult for some people to understand. What is the false doctrine that says we have to cooperate with God in our salvation by doing works?

Work righteousness ~ it sounds like it is say work hard and be afraid

2 scary parts – A. work at it B. Be afraid while you are doing it

12. This sounds similar to work righteousness, “Continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling,” how is it different? What is Paul’s point?

Don’t take your salvation for granted that you let go of what has saved you in the first place. Don’t become complacent and put your forgiveness in your back pocket as a get-out-of-jail free card to pull out when you feel bad. Live your whole life as a thanks to Jesus for what he has done.

13. Paul’s point is simple. He is talking about the attitude of the heart. What does the proud heart say about their sins and their salvation? **I’m good. My sins are not all that bad, I know I am a good person at heart and God knows that, so I get to go to heaven because I am so good. God has to love me.**

➤ What does the humble, repentant heart feel about sin and salvation?

Lord have mercy on me a sinner. I am sorry for my sins Lord wash away my many sins.

14. What can happen when we have been in faith for awhile?

We become complacent, take it for granted – we stop fearing our Lord and trembling over sin, we stop seeing how bad sin is and how much God hates it

15. Paul does not want the people to become complacent, to take their salvation for granted and fall into the sins of the Old Testament people. Instead he wants the people to live their faith. What are some of the ways that Paul says we can live our faith in verses 14 and following?

Do without complaining, hold out the Word of Christ, shine like stars

Read verses 19-30

¹⁹ I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, that I also may be cheered when I receive news about you. ²⁰ I have no one else like him, who takes a genuine interest in your welfare. ²¹ For everyone looks out for his own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. ²² But you know that Timothy has proved himself, because as a son with his father he has served with me in the work of the gospel. ²³ I hope, therefore, to send him as soon as I see how things go with me. ²⁴ And I am confident in the Lord that I myself will come soon.

²⁵ But I think it is necessary to send back to you Epaphroditus, my brother, fellow worker and fellow soldier, who is also your messenger, whom you sent to take care of my needs. ²⁶ For he longs for all of you and is distressed because you heard he was ill. ²⁷ Indeed he was ill, and almost died. But God had mercy on him, and not on him only but also on me, to spare me sorrow upon sorrow. ²⁸ Therefore I am all the more eager to send him, so that when you see him again you may be glad and I may have less anxiety. ²⁹ Welcome him in the Lord with great joy, and honor men like him, ³⁰ because he almost died for the work of Christ, risking his life to make up for the help you could not give me.

16. How had Timothy shown his own humility to Paul and the Philippians?

Take a genuine interest in their welfare ~ looked out for their interests

17. What had happened to Epaphroditus that Paul has to send him home?

He had gotten sick

18. How did humility send Epaphroditus home?

Now that he was better, Paul could have asked him to stay. He could have cared less about the Philippians worries and fear, instead and loved and cared about them enough to send him home.

19. How can humility help us to serve others?

Puts us in the right frame of mind to truly do for others. We don't think of ourselves too highly, we will not think some service is beneath us. Or that someone is beneath us

20. If you had to sum this chapter up in one sentence. What would that sentence be?

Serve the Lord in humility, Live your faith serving others