

THE BOOK OF PHILIPPIANS

JOY FOR EVERY SITUATION

PHILIPPIANS CHAPTER 1:1-7

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

“THANK YOU GOD” – PART 1

DISCOVERING THE PRESENCE OF GOD AND HIS JOY IN EVERY SITUATION

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Joy, Peace, Power, Comfort, Growth, Living

Introduction to the Text;

Philippians 1:1-7

Philippians 1:1-7

Paul and Timothy, bondservants of Jesus Christ, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops and deacons :2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. :3 I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, 4 always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, 5 for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now, 6 being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ; 7 just as it is right for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart, inasmuch as both in my chains and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers with me of grace.

Reality Shows have become a big Part of America's past time these days. With names such as "Survivor, The Fear Factor, American Idol, Ice Road Truckers, - Alone !

But do you know what the entertainment industry considers

The First Official Reality Show? - - "Candid Camera" - 1948

Where a hidden Camera captures what real people do when they experience a real issue that seemingly comes out of nowhere !

The Book of Philippians is a "Reality Book / Document"

On how to live the Real Christian Life as Designed by God in the Face of Life.

Background Data and Settings;

Paul's Prison Epistles

For having preached the Gospel in the Roman Empire, the empire strikes back by arresting Paul. During his imprisonment in Rome, Paul writes 3 epistles and 1 letter to the Christians -@ Ephesus, Philippi, Colossae and 1 letter to a friend, Mr. Philemon.

What can we learn from a letter written by a man who's in prison?
I guess it all depends on who the Man is and what he is in prison for.

Out of His Circumstances While in Prison;

We learn some of the greatest lessons from Paul - - such as,
God is present in every situation of our lives.

Background Data and Settings;

The book of Philippians is unique for many reasons; some of which are very encouraging for us. And one of those things mirrors our lives today and the culture that we live in now. #1 – The apostle Paul was being directed to a completely different culture than what he had known. #2 - the Holy Spirit was expanding the reach of the gospel. #3 - the Power of the gospel could not be contained or limited as it invaded every social level of the culture. The book of Philippians reveals to us the awesome relevance of God's word to the human heart.

Background Data and Settings;

The authorship:

Paul from Rome

The time of its writing:

60-62 ad.

To whom it is written:

The Philippians, though the Christians there were from all levels of the social strata, some were slaves but all interfaced with the slave culture.

The culture that existed:

Roman, Philippi was decreed a full fledged Roman Colony and so with that had all the rights of Rome bestowed. Wealthy and rich with silver and gold mining, the location connected the European and Asian markets.

THANK YOU GOD

1.) For this new family

vs. 1

1a.) Designed by God Himself

vs. 1a

Paul and **Timothy**, **bondservants** of Jesus Christ,

This is the only letter Paul writes where he does not address himself as
~~“Paul an Apostle of Jesus Christ.”~~

Paul's heritage:

Παυλοῦ **Paulos**, *pow'-los*;

A roman name meaning “*small, humble or little*” – here's the wonderful thing about this man “**Paul**”, His Hebrew (jewish) birth-name was “**Saul**” meaning “*prayed for or asked for or desired*”

Paul was politically born a Roman
but his religious/ethnic heritage was that of being a Jew.

Philippians 2:3-6

I rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh, 4 though I also might have confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so: 5 circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee; 6 concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.

Galatians 1:13-16a

For you have heard of my former conduct in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God beyond measure and tried to destroy it. 14 And I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my contemporaries in my own nation, being more exceedingly zealous for the traditions of my fathers. 15 But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb and called me through His grace, 16 to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles,

Timothy's heritage:

Timo/γεοβ **Timotheos**, *tee-moth'-eh-os*; meaning = Dear to God.

It is understood that Timothy came to the Lord in or around the mid-50's. He had become a faithful Christian

We know that Timothy was a young man and that he had a **Greek father** and a **Jewish mother**. We know that his mom and his **grandmother**, once seeing that Jesus is in fact the Messiah from the Old Testament Scriptures, became very devoted Christian's –

In Second Timothy, Paul calls Timothy his "Beloved son in the faith"

and that is a significant statement and here's why - It carries with it not only the endearing title - - "**beloved**" but when Paul says that Timothy is his "**Son in the faith**" Paul is saying that **there is a family that is stronger, and deeper, and more lasting than any earthly family.**

1 Timothy 1:2

To Timothy, a "**True (own, sincere, legitimate, real) son**" in the faith:

2 Timothy 2:5-7

When I call to remembrance **the genuine faith that is in you**, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and **I am persuaded is in you also.** 6 Therefore I remind you to **stir up the gift of God which is in you** through the laying on of my hands. 7 For God has not given **us** (in) a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

Timothy is found in scripture either coming

or going on Paul's behalf and is always seen organizing, comforting and communicating to the churches. - - He was a Faithful young man

This New Family Designed by God

Acts 16:1-15

(The Leading of the Holy Spirit)

Then **Paul** came to **Derbe** and **Lystra**. And behold, a certain disciple was there, named **Timothy**, the son of a certain Jewish woman who believed, but his father was Greek. 2 He was well spoken of by the brethren who were at **Lystra** and **Iconium**. 3 **Paul** wanted to have him go on with him. And he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in that region, for they all knew that his father was Greek. 4 And as they went through the cities, they delivered to them the decrees to keep, which were determined by the apostles and elders at **Jerusalem**. 5 So the churches were strengthened in the faith, and increased in number daily. :6 Now when they had gone

through **Phrygia** and the region of **Galatia**, they were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to preach the word in **Asia** (east).

7 After they had come to **Mysia**, they tried to go into **Bithynia** (north), but the Spirit did not permit them. 8 So passing by **Mysia**, they came down to **Troas**. 9 And a vision appeared to **Paul** in the night. A man of **Macedonia** (europe) stood and pleaded with him, saying, "Come over to **Macedonia** (europe) and help us." 10 Now after he had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go to **Macedonia** (europe), concluding that the Lord had called us to preach the gospel to them. :11 Therefore, sailing from **Troas**, we ran a straight course to **Samothrace**, and the next day came to **Neapolis**, 12 and from there to **Philippi**, which is the foremost city of that part of **Macedonia** (europe), a colony. And we were staying in that city for some days. 13 And on the Sabbath day we went out of the city to the riverside, where prayer was customarily made; and we sat down and spoke to the women who met there.

14 Now a certain woman named **Lydia** heard us. She was a seller of purple from the city of **Thyatira**, who worshiped God. The Lord opened her heart to heed the things spoken by Paul. 15 And when she and her household were baptized, she begged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay." So she persuaded us.

This New Family Designed by God

Acts 16:16-24

(Paul Rebukes the Evil)

Now it happened, as we went to prayer, that a certain **slave girl** possessed with a demon of divination met us, who brought her owners much profit by fortune-telling. 17 This girl followed Paul and us, crying out, saying, "*These men are the servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to us the way of salvation.*" 18 And this she did for many days. But Paul, greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "**I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.**" And it came out that very hour. 19 But when her masters saw that their hope of profit was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to the authorities... 22 Then the multitude rose up together against them; and the magistrates tore off their clothes and commanded them to be beaten with rods. 23 And when they had laid many stripes on them, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to keep them securely. 24 Having received such a charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.

This New Family Designed by God

Acts 16:25-31

(The Philippian Jailer)

But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. 26 Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed. 27 And the keeper of the prison, awaking from sleep and seeing the prison doors open, supposing the prisoners had fled, drew his sword and was about to kill himself. 28 But Paul called with a loud voice, saying, "Do yourself no harm, for we are all here." :29 Then he called for a light, ran in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. 30 And he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" :31 So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved,

This New Family Designed by God

Acts 16:35-40

(Paul Uses His Politics)

And when it was day, the magistrates sent the officers, saying, "Let those men go." :36 So the keeper of the prison reported these words to Paul, saying, "The magistrates have sent to let you go. Now therefore depart, and go in peace." :37 But Paul said to them, "They have beaten us openly, uncondemned Romans, and have thrown us into prison. And now do they put us out secretly? No indeed! Let them come themselves and get us out." :38 And the officers told these words to the magistrates, and they were afraid when they heard that they were Romans. 39 Then they came and pleaded with them and brought them out, and asked them to depart from the city. 40 So they went out of the prison and entered the house of Lydia; and when they had seen the brethren, they encouraged them and departed.

This New Family Designed by God

Galatians 3:28

There is neither **Jew** nor **Greek**, there is neither **slave** nor **free**, there is neither **male** nor **female**; for **you are all one** in Christ Jesus.

Verse 1a

Paul and Timothy, **bondservants** of Jesus Christ,

Bondservants δουλοῦ **doulos**, *doo'-los*; not just a slave, but a man or woman who, when given the opportunity to be free, chooses slavery with a free-will – to willingly become a slave. A bondservant joyfully volunteers. Happily submits, chooses to pick ownership. {the master/owner of a bondservant was 100% responsible for the welfare of that “free-slave.” They had no care or thought about what they would wear, eat or live = it was up to the Master.

We are now Christs' slaves, Jesus' Bondservants

Matthew 6:30-32

Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? :31 “Therefore do not worry, saying, “What shall we eat?” or “What shall we drink?” or “What shall we wear?” 32 For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.

The Master of a Bondservant Provided All.

**“I Want Jesus Christ to Literally Own Me
and to Do with Me as He Desires. (this is Christianity)**

Behind the Scenes, There is a Battle for Souls Underway.

If the word in Arabic for submit is “Islam” - - meaning to be forced into or to be pressured into confession, The same-opposite word in Greek for submit is doulos - - meaning that you chose for yourself to submit, willingly with joy !

**THANK YOU GOD
FOR THIS NEW FAMILY**

1b.) Made up of all who believe

vs. 1b

To **all the saints IN** Christ Jesus

Note here – First comes their – **heavenly citizenship.**

What did it mean to them to be **“In Christ?”**

Ephesians 3:14

For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, (*submission*) 15 from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, (*love*)

Consider the Priests of the Old Testament Time.

They got all dressed up in particular robes - - but not without blood

For us now (In Christ) for us to enter the presence

of our holy God, we must be hidden in the righteousness of Christ. To be "in Christ" means that God no longer sees our imperfections; He sees the righteousness of His own Son

Romans 8:1, 38-39

There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, 38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, 39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Colossians 3:3

For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

TITLE HERE

FOR THIS NEW FAMILY

1c.) Wherever the Gospel is preached

vs. 1c

who are **IN Philippi**, with the **bishops** and **deacons**:

Background:

- The Colony of Philippi.
- Named after Philip of Macedonia, Father of Alexander the Great.
- It was located in Macedonia (today's city of Kavala Greece)

Location of Philippi (Kavala)

<http://www.mapsofworld.com/greece/>

<http://kavala-airshow.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/KAVALA11.jpg>

- It was a city reached by Paul on his 2nd Missionary journey.
- It was the first european city to have the Gospel preached in it.

First Mission Trip

<http://truthhitman.com/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/Apostle-Paul-First-Missionary-Journey-Map.png>

Second Mission Trip

<http://www.gracepointdevotions.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/03/Apostle-Paul-Second-Missionary-Journey-Map.png>

Final Mission Trip (Jailed)

<http://www.gracepointdevotions.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/03/Pauls-Voyage-to-Rome-Map.png>

Verse 1c

who are **IN Philippi**, with the **bishops** and **deacons**:

Then comes their second address – their **earthly citizenship**.

What did it mean for them to be “In Philippi?”

To be in Philippi was to be in the world. It was a truly Roman city with all the gods that represented the Greco-Roman world as well as Emperor worship.

To truly be an **Effective Christian** is to be in the world.

John 17:13-15 NLT

“Now I am coming to you. I told them many things while I was with them in this world so they would be filled with my joy. **14** I have given them your word. And the world hates them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. **15** I’m not asking you to take them out of the world, but to keep them safe from the evil one.

The purpose of the book:

Joy is a determination based on the overriding reality that God cares, that He is present and He is with us in every situation of life.

This Begs a Question;

Why do we not as Christians experience a greater level of joy, the kind of joy that is promised to us from not only the Bible, but from Jesus Christ himself!

#1.) *The answer is that we allow ourselves to be robbed - by circumstances*

#2.) *The answer is that we allow ourselves to be robbed - by people*

#3.) *The answer is that we allow ourselves to be robbed - by things*

#4.) *The answer is that we allow ourselves to be robbed - by worry*

————— *End of Study* —————