

## LETTER TO THE PHILIPPIANS

### Topics:

Authorship, Date Written and Setting, Audience/Addressees, Occasion and Purpose for Writing, Message and Themes, Christian Living, Humility, Joy, Self-sacrifice, Unity

### Open It Questions

1. What types of situations or circumstances bring you true joy?

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2. Can a person experience joy in the midst of trials and tribulations?  
Explain

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### Introduction

Joy dominates this letter to the believers at Philippi. In fact, the concept of “rejoicing” or “joy” appears sixteen times in four chapters. The pages radiate the positive, triumphant message that because of Christ’s work for us (2:6-11; 3:12), because of the Holy Spirit’s work in and through us (1:6, 12-14, 18-26; 2:12-13; 4:4-7, 10-13), and because of God’s plan for us (1:6, 9-10, 3:7-14, 20-21; 4:19), we can and should REJOICE!

As you read Paul’s letter from prison to his beloved friends in Philippi, note all that you possess in Christ, and find your joy in him.

### Background and Historical Context

#### Authorship

3. Who is the author of Philippians? (1:1a)

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**Audience/Addressees****4. To whom was this letter addressed? (Philippians 1:1b)**


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**Date Written and Setting**

*Paul goes to Rome* - Paul wanted to get to Rome (Acts 19:21), not only to teach and fellowship with the believers there (Romans 1:8-13), but also because Rome stood as the center of the civilized world. It was a strategic city for the spread of the gospel. To reach the Roman Empire, the gospel had to reach Rome. In God’s sovereign plan, Paul did sail to Rome, but not as a prominent citizen, missionary statesman, or even itinerant preacher. He arrived, rather, as a prisoner, in chains (Acts 28:11-16). Even as a prisoner, however, Paul was free to teach, preach, and write (Acts 28:17-31).

Paul was imprisoned in Rome for two years—approximately A.D. 60–62. He wrote Philippians in about A.D. 61. During these years of house arrest, Paul wrote what have come to be known as the “Prison Epistles”—Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon.

**5. Approximately when was Philippians written, and where was the Apostle Paul when he wrote it?**


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**6. What have the letters to the Philippians, Ephesians, Colossians, and the letter to Philemon come to be known as?**


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***Paul and the City of Philippi*** - Macedonian (northern Greece today) city of Philippi was named after Philip of Macedon (the father of Alexander the Great). Philippi became a strategic city in the Greek empire. (See the map of Paul's visits.) In 167 B.C. Philippi became part of the Roman Empire. In 27 B.C., the City of Philippi was given the right to the Law of Italy together with many rights and privileges, including immunity from taxation. The residents of Philippi were very conscious and proud of their Roman citizenship and heritage (see Acts 16:20-21).

Although thoroughly colonized by the Romans after 31 B.C., Philippi was still more Greek in culture than Roman. Luke refers to Philippi as "a major city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony" (Acts 16:12).

**7. What two empires was the City of Philippi a part of?**

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**8. What citizenship rights did the residents of Philippi obtain in 27 B.C.?**

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**9. What was the dominant culture of the residents of Philippi?**

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***The Church at Philippi*** – The church at Philippi in ancient Macedonia was the first European church founded by Paul. Thus, it represents the first major penetration of the gospel into Gentile territory (see Philippians 4:14-15).

Paul visited Philippi on his second missionary journey, in A.D. 51, about ten years previous to this letter.

Acts 16:9-40 tells how the Church at Philippi began. On Paul's second missionary journey in about A.D. 51, prevented by the Holy Spirit from preaching in Asia and

in Bythynia, Paul and Silas traveled to Troas, the farthest Asian port on the Aegean Sea. While there, God spoke to Paul through a vision, telling him to take the gospel to Europe. In this vision, a Greek man begged, “Come over here and help us” (Acts 16:9). Immediately, Paul and his traveling companions set sail for Samothrace and Neapolis, continuing on to Philippi. **(See the map of Paul’s visits)**

In every city, Paul and his party would go to the synagogue to share the gospel with the Jews. So on their first Sabbath in Philippi, Paul and Silas probably looked for a synagogue. Instead, they found a group of women who had gathered outside the city on the banks of a river. The fact that Philippi had no synagogue indicates that there were few Jews in that city. Therefore, from its inception, the church at Philippi consisted mainly of Gentiles.

**10. Who founded the church in Philippi?**

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**11. When was the Church at Philippi founded?**

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***The People of Philippi*** - Acts 16:14-34 tells of two of the first converts in Philippi: Lydia, a businesswoman who may have been a Jew or a Jewish proselyte; and a Roman jailer. The response of these two provided a clear demonstration that God’s Good News was for all classes, sexes, races, and nationalities.

Luke also mentions that when Lydia responded to Paul’s message, so did the members of her household (Acts 16:15). The same was true for the jailer—his family responded with him (Acts 16:34). No other specific converts are mentioned in this account in Acts, but the chapter concludes with: “Paul and Silas . . . met with the believers” (Acts 16:40). The plural seems to indicate that a small but vital group of believers had been forged. Clement, Euodia, and Syntyche may have been won to Christ during this time (see 4:2-3).

When Paul and Silas departed from Philippi, they left Luke there, in his hometown, to carry on the ministry. A few years later, at the end of his third missionary trip,

Paul visited Philippi prior to spending the winter in Corinth. When Paul wrote this letter, the church in Philippi was thriving, and he felt very close to the believers there.

**12. Who were the first gentile converts in Philippi?**

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**13. Who did Paul leave behind in Philippi when he left?**

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**Occasion and Purpose for Writing**

This is a very personal epistle. It is obvious from Paul's opening comments that he enjoyed a close friendship with the Philippian believers. During their visit to Philippi, Paul and Silas had witnessed an immediate and dramatic response to their message. And despite the fact that they were attacked and imprisoned, they had seen the church begin and then grow into a strong core of believers (Acts 16:40). During the course of Paul's ministry, the Philippian believers had continually come to his assistance through their gifts (4:15-18). At this time, nearly ten years later, the Philippians had again sent a gift to Paul to help him in his time of need (4:10, 14). Perhaps their donated funds were helping to pay for the rented house to which Paul was confined (Acts 28:30). In response to this gift and to their relationship over the years, Paul wrote to express his deep appreciation for their love, faithfulness, and generosity.

Paul also took the opportunity of this letter to deal with important issues in the church. He had heard of divisive rivalry and selfish ambition (2:3-4), so he gave strong counsel and even named names (4:2). Paul knew that the Judaizers could be a problem, so he gave clear instructions to avoid those men (3:2-3). He also warned of those who would go to the opposite extreme and live totally without the law or any personal discipline (3:17-19). None of these issues were full-blown problems that were threatening the life of the church, but Paul knew their destructive pattern. So he warned his beloved Christian brothers and sisters,

encouraging and challenging them to continue to stand strong and united and to live for Christ (1:27; 4:1, 4-9).

**14. Why was this letter written?**

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**The Message**

Philippians is Paul's joy letter. The church in that Macedonian city had been a great encouragement to Paul. The Philippian believers had enjoyed a special relationship with Paul, so he wrote them a personal expression of his love and affection. They had brought him great joy (4:1). Philippians is also a joyful book because it emphasizes the real joy of the Christian life. The concept of **rejoicing** or **joy** appears sixteen times in four chapters, and the pages radiate this positive message, culminating in the exhortation to "Always be full of joy in the Lord" (4:4).

In a life dedicated to serving Christ, Paul had faced excruciating poverty, abundant wealth, and everything in between. He even wrote this joyful letter from prison. Whatever the circumstances, Paul had learned to be content (4:11, 12), finding real joy as he focused all of his attention and energy on knowing Christ (3:8) and obeying him (3:12, 13).

**15. What was the main message that Paul wanted to convey in the Letter to the Philippians? Why?**

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**Main Themes and Importance for Today**

**16. What were the five (5) main themes in the letter to the Philippians? What is the importance of each for today?**

Theme:

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(Read: 1:3-6, 12-26; 2:1-4, 17-18; 3:1; 4:4-13)

Importance for today: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Theme: \_\_\_\_\_  
**(Read: 1:15-18; 2:5-11; 3:7-14)**

Importance for today: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Theme: \_\_\_\_\_  
**(Read: 1:15-26; 2:4, 17, 25-30; 3:7-14; 4:14-19)**

Importance for today: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Theme: \_\_\_\_\_  
**(Read: 1:15-18, 27-30; 2:1-4, 14-16; 4:2-3)**

Importance for today: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Theme: \_\_\_\_\_  
**(Read: 1:6, 9-11, 21-29; 2:12-13; 3:12-21; 4:4-13)**

Importance for today: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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[Source: Life Application New Testament Commentary and Adult LessonMaker]

# Letter to the Philippians

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## Overview and Historical Background

# Letter to the Philippians

## Resources

- Bible
- Teaching Schedule
- Participant Questionnaire/Worksheet
- Map of the Apostle Paul's Visits  
(A.D. 33 to 68)
- Outline of Philippians

*REJOICE*



# Letter to the Philippians

## Topics

*REJOICE*



# Letter to the Philippians

## Topics

- Authorship
- Date Written and Setting
- Audience/Addressees
- Occasion/Purpose for Writing
- Message and Themes
- Christian Living
- Humility
- Joy
- Self-sacrifice
- Unity

*REJOICE*



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# Letter to the Philippians

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**Open It Questions**

*REJOICE*



# Letter to the Philippians

## Open It Questions

1. What types of situations or circumstances bring you true joy?

*REJOICE*



# Letter to the Philippians

## Open It Questions

2. Can a person experience joy in the midst of trials and tribulations? Explain

*REJOICE*



# Letter to the Philippians

## Introduction

*REJOICE*



# Letter to the Philippians

## Introduction

Joy dominates this letter to the believers at Philippi. In fact, the concept of “rejoicing” or “joy” appears sixteen times in four chapters.

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# Letter to the Philippians

## Introduction

The pages radiate the positive, triumphant message that because of Christ's work for us ([2:6-11](#); [3:12](#)), because of the Holy Spirit's work in and through us ([1:6](#), [12-14](#), [18-26](#); [2:12-13](#); [4:4-7](#), [10-13](#)), and because of God's plan for us ([1:6](#), [9-10](#), [3:7-14](#), [20-21](#); [4:19](#)), we can and should REJOICE!

*REJOICE*



# Letter to the Philippians

## Introduction

As you read Paul's letter from prison to his beloved friends in Philippi, note all that you possess in Christ, and find your joy in him.

*REJOICE*



# Letter to the Philippians

## Background and Historical Context

*REJOICE*



# Letter to the Philippians

## Background and Historical Context - *Authorship*

3. Who is the author of Philippians? (1:1)

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# Letter to the Philippians

## Background and Historical Context - *Authorship*

Evidence for Paul's authorship of Philippians comes from the letter itself, as the very first sentence states: "This letter is from Paul and Timothy..." ([1:1a NLT](#)).

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# Letter to the Philippians

## Background and Historical Context - *Authorship*

Although Timothy's name also appears in the greeting, it soon becomes obvious that Paul alone is writing since he uses the first person throughout the letter.

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# Letter to the Philippians

## Background and Historical Context - *Authorship*

### First Person Examples Chapter 1:1-5

- “I am writing” (1:1)
- “I think of you” (1:3)
- “I give thanks to my God” (1:3)
- “Whenever I pray” (1:4)
- “I make my requests” (1:4)
- “my partners” (1:5)

*REJOICE*



# Letter to the Philippians

## Background and Historical Context – *Addressees*

4. To whom was this letter addressed (1:1)?

*REJOICE*



# Letter to the Philippians

## Background and Historical Context – *Addressees*

“Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:...”  
**(Philippians 1:1 KJV).**

*REJOICE*



# Letter to the Philippians

## Background and Historical Context – *Addressees*

While Paul greeted **all of God's people**, meaning the entire church, he singled out the church's leadership for greetings as well. **Elders** (bishops, pastors or overseers) were in charge of the church, overseeing it—watching over, nourishing, and protecting the spiritual lives of the believers.

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# Letter to the Philippians

## Background and Historical Context – *Addressees*

**Deacons** were selected to handle the church's external concerns. Some scholars think that the office of deacon first arose in response to a need in the Jerusalem church ([Acts 6:1-6](#)). These men functioned as deacons because they were responsible for specific administrative details of the church.

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# Letter to the Philippians

## Background and Historical Context – *Addressees*

The qualifications and duties of the elders are explained in detail in [1 Timothy 3:1-7](#) and [Titus 1:5-9](#). The qualifications and duties of deacons are spelled out in [1 Timothy 3:8-13](#).

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# Letter to the Philippians

**Background and Historical Context**  
*Date Written and Setting*

5. Approximately when was Philippians written, and where was the Apostle Paul when he wrote it?

*REJOICE*



# Letter to the Philippians

**Background and Historical Context**  
*Date Written and Setting*

Paul's Letter to the Philippians was written from prison in Rome in approximately A.D. 61.

*REJOICE*



## — Letter to the Philippians

### Background/Historical Context

*Date Written and Setting*

6. What have the letters to the Philippians, Ephesians, Colossians, and the letter to Philemon come to be known as?

***REJOICE***



## — Letter to the Philippians

**Background/Historical Context**

*Date Written and Setting*

During the years of house arrest, Paul wrote what have come to be known as the “*Prison Epistles*”—Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, and Philemon.

***REJOICE***



## — Letter to the Philippians

### Background/Historical Context

*Setting – The City of Philippi*

7. What two empires was the City of Philippi a part of?

***REJOICE***



## — Letter to the Philippians

### Background/Historical Context

#### *Setting – The City of Philippi*

The Macedonian (northern Greece today) city of Philippi was named after Philip of Macedon (the father of Alexander the Great). Surrounded by mountains and close to the sea, Philippi became a strategic city in the *Greek empire*. In 167 B.C. it became part of the *Roman Empire*.

*REJOICE*



## — Letter to the Philippians

### Background/Historical Context

*Setting – The City of Philippi*

8. What citizenship rights did the residents of Philippi obtain in 167 B.C.?

*REJOICE*



## — Letter to the Philippians

### Background/Historical Context *Setting – The City of Philippi*

In 27 B.C., the City of Philippi was given the right to the Law of Italy together with many rights and privileges, including immunity from taxation. The residents of Philippi were very conscious and proud of their Roman citizenship and heritage (see [Acts 16:20-21](#)).

***REJOICE***



# Letter to the Philippians

**Background and Historical Context**  
*Setting – The City of Philippi*

9. What was the dominant culture of the residents of Philippi?

***REJOICE***



# Letter to the Philippians

**Background and Historical Context**  
*Setting – The City of Philippi*

Although thoroughly colonized by the Romans after 31 B.C., Philippi was still more Greek in culture than Roman.

***REJOICE***



## — Letter to the Philippians

**Background/Historical Context**  
*Setting – The Church at Philippi*

10. Who founded the church in Philippi?

*REJOICE*



## — Letter to the Philippians

**Background/Historical Context**  
*Setting – The Church at Philippi*

The church at Philippi in ancient Macedonia was the first European church founded by Paul. Thus, it represents the first major penetration of the gospel into Gentile territory (see [Philippians 4:14-15](#)).

***REJOICE***



## — Letter to the Philippians

**Background/Historical Context**  
*Setting – The Church at Philippi*

11. When was the Church at Philippi founded?

***REJOICE***



## — Letter to the Philippians

### Background/Historical Context *Setting – The Church at Philippi*

[Acts 16:9-40](#) tells how the Church at Philippi began. On Paul's second missionary journey in about A.D. 51, prevented by the Holy Spirit from preaching in Asia and in Bythynia, Paul and Silas traveled to Troas, the farthest Asian port on the Aegean Sea.

***REJOICE***



## — Letter to the Philippians

### Background/Historical Context *Setting – The Church at Philippi*

While in Troas, God spoke to Paul through a vision, telling him to take the gospel to Europe. In this vision, a Greek man begged, “Come over here and help us” ([Acts 16:9](#)). Immediately, Paul and his traveling companions set sail for Samothrace and Neapolis, continuing on to Philippi.

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# Letter to the Philippians

## Background/Historical Context

### *Setting – The City of Philippi*

MACEDONIA  
Philippi (2 & 3)



## — Letter to the Philippians

**Background/Historical Context**  
*Setting – The People of Philippi*

12. Who were the first gentile converts in Philippi?

*REJOICE*



## — Letter to the Philippians

### Background/Historical Context *Setting – The People of Philippi*

[Acts 16:14-34](#) tells of two of the first converts in Philippi: Lydia, a businesswoman who may have been a Jew or a Jewish proselyte; and a Roman jailer. The response of these two provided a clear demonstration that God's Good News was for all classes, sexes, races, and nationalities. **(See Galatians 3:28)**

*REJOICE*



## — Letter to the Philippians

**Background/Historical Context**  
*Setting – The People of Philippi*

“There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male and female. For you are all one in Christ Jesus” (**Galatians 3:28 NLT**)

***REJOICE***



## — Letter to the Philippians

**Background/Historical Context**  
*Setting – The People of Philippi*

13. Who did Paul leave behind in Philippi when he left?

*REJOICE*



## — Letter to the Philippians

**Background/Historical Context**  
*Setting – The People of Philippi*

When Paul and Silas departed from Philippi, they left Luke there, in his hometown, to carry on the ministry.

***REJOICE***



## — Letter to the Philippians

**Background/Historical Context**  
*Occasion and Purpose*

14. Why was this letter written?

*REJOICE*



## — Letter to the Philippians

### Background/Historical Context *Occasion and Purpose*

During the course of Paul's ministry, the Philippian believers had continually come to his assistance through their gifts ([4:15-18](#)). At this time, nearly ten years later, the Philippians had again sent a gift to Paul to help him in his time of need ([4:10](#), [14](#)).

*REJOICE*



## — Letter to the Philippians

**Background/Historical Context**  
*Occasion and Purpose*

In response to this gift and to their relationship over the years, Paul wrote to express his deep appreciation for their love, faithfulness, and generosity.

***REJOICE***



## — Letter to the Philippians

### Background/Historical Context

### *The Message*

15. What was the main message that Paul wanted to convey in the Letter to the Philippians? Why?

***REJOICE***



# — Letter to the Philippians

**Background/Historical Context**

*The Message*

Joy

Rejoicing

Contentment

*REJOICE*



## — Letter to the Philippians

### Background/Historical Context

### *The Message*

The Philippian believers had enjoyed a special relationship with Paul, so he wrote them a personal expression of his love and affection. They had brought him *great joy* ([4:1](#)).

Philippians is also a joyful book because it emphasizes the real joy of the Christian life.

***REJOICE***



## — Letter to the Philippians

### Background/Historical Context

### *The Message*

The concept of *rejoicing* or *joy* appears sixteen times in four chapters, and the pages radiate this positive message, culminating in the exhortation to “Always be full of joy in the Lord” ([4:4](#)).

***REJOICE***



## — Letter to the Philippians

### Background/Historical Context

### *The Message*

Paul even wrote this joyful letter from prison. Whatever the circumstances, Paul had learned to ***be content*** ([4:11, 12](#)), finding real joy as he focused all of his attention and energy on knowing Christ ([3:8](#)) and obeying him ([3:12, 13](#)).

***REJOICE***



## — Letter to the Philippians

**Background/Historical Context**

*Main Themes/Importance Today*

16. What were the five (5) main themes in the letter to the Philippians? What is the importance of each for today?

***REJOICE***



# — Letter to the Philippians

**Background/Historical Context**

*Main Themes/Importance Today*

## Five main themes—

- Joy (1:3-6, 12-26; 2:1-4, 17-18; 3:1; 4:4-13)
- Humility (1:15-18; 2:5-11; 3:7-14)
- Self-sacrifice (1:15-26; 2:4, 17, 25-30; 3:7-14; 4:14-19)
- Unity (1:15-18, 27-30; 2:1-4, 14-16; 4:2-3)
- Christian Living (1:6, 9-11, 21-29; 2:12-13; 3:12-21; 4:4-13)

***REJOICE***



## — Letter to the Philippians

**Background/Historical Context**

*Main Themes/Importance Today*

**Joy** (1:3-6, 12-26; 2:1-4, 17-18; 3:1; 4:4-13)

Paul's example of maintaining an attitude of Joy in spite of life's trials and adversities.

With sins forgiven, our future secure, and our lives in God's control, we can be content . . . and have joy. Yes, we can have joy, even in hardship.

***REJOICE***



# Letter to the Philippians

**Background/Historical Context**  
*Main Themes/Importance Today*

## Humility (1:15-18; 2:5-11; 3:7-14)

If anyone had the right to boast, it was Paul. Yet he continued to lay aside personal ambition and glory in order to know Christ ([3:7-11](#)) and to glorify him ([3:12-14](#)).

As Christ's representatives, believers should live as he would. This means putting others first and renouncing personal recognition. It also means serving others and looking out for their best interests. When we give up our self-interest, we can serve the Lord with joy, love, and kindness.

***REJOICE***



# Letter to the Philippians

Background/Historical Context  
*Main Themes/Importance Today*

**Self-sacrifice** (1:15-26; 2:4, 17, 25-30; 3:7-14; 4:14-19)

Christ suffered and died so that all who believe might have eternal life. Paul sacrificed himself for the ministry, taking every chance to tell others God's Good News, preaching and teaching even while in prison.

***REJOICE***



# Letter to the Philippians

**Background/Historical Context**  
*Main Themes/Importance Today*

**Self-sacrifice** (1:15-26; 2:4, 17, 25-30; 3:7-14; 4:14-19)

Reaching people for Christ, helping those in need, and changing our world will involve personal sacrifice. Christ gives us the power to do that. We must follow the example of Jesus and of godly leaders like Paul who demonstrate self-denying concern for others.

***REJOICE***



# Letter to the Philippians

**Background/Historical Context**  
*Main Themes/Importance Today*

**Unity** (1:15-18, 27-30; 2:1-4, 14-16; 4:2-3)

In every church, in every generation, controversial issues, personality conflicts, and other divisive issues arise. The tendency toward arguments and division intensifies during hard times, when people can turn against each other.

***REJOICE***



# Letter to the Philippians

**Background/Historical Context**  
*Main Themes/Importance Today*

**Unity** (1:15-18, 27-30; 2:1-4, 14-16; 4:2-3)

Christians should contend against their common enemy—Satan and his work in the world—and not against each other. We need all our resources, focus, and energy for the battle. When we are unified in love, Christ works through us, and we can make a difference for him. We need to keep before us the ideals of teamwork, consideration of others, and unselfishness.

***REJOICE***



# Letter to the Philippians

## *Outline*

- I. Christ, the believer's life rejoicing in spite of suffering ([1:1-30](#))
- II. Christ the believer's pattern, rejoicing in lowly service ([2:1-30](#))
- III. Christ, object of the believer's faith, desire, and expectation ([3:1-21](#))
- IV. Christ, the believer's strength, rejoicing over anxiety ([4:1-23](#))

***REJOICE***



# NEXT WEEK'S LESSON



## Letter to the Philippians “Thanksgiving and Prayer” Philippians 1:1-11

# Letter to the Philippians

## Background/Historical Context

### Setting – The City of Philippi

MACEDONIA

Philippi (2 & 3)



## Philippians Outline

- I. Christ, the believer's life rejoicing in spite of suffering (1:1-30)
  - A. Salutation (1:1-7)
  - B. Joy triumphing over suffering (1:8-30)
- II. Christ the believer's pattern, rejoicing in lowly service (2:1-30)
  - A. Exhortation to unity and meekness (2:1-4)
  - B. The sevenfold self-humbling of Christ (2:5-8)
  - C. The exaltation of Jesus (2:9-11)
  - D. The outworking of the inworked salvation (2:12-16)
  - E. The apostolic example (2:17-30)
- III. Christ, object of the believer's faith, desire, and expectation (3:1-21)
  - A. Warning against Judaizers (3:1-3)
  - B. Warning against trusting in legal righteousness (3:4-6)
  - C. Christ, object of the believer's faith for righteousness (3:7-9)
  - D. Christ, object of the believer's desire for fellowship in resurrection power (3:10-14)
  - E. The appeal for unity in the walk (3:15-16)
  - F. But truth is not to be compromised for the sake of unity (3:17-19)
  - G. Christ, object of the believer's expectation (3:20-21)
- IV. Christ, the believer's strength, rejoicing over anxiety (4:1-23)
  - A. Exhortation to unity and joy (4:1-4)
  - B. The secret of the peace of God (4:5-7)
  - C. The presence of the God of peace (4:8-9)
  - D. The victory over anxious care (4:10-23)

[Source: WORDsearch Outlines.]