

PHILIPPIANS

General Study Outline Series

*Alliterated
Expository*

by
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INTRODUCTION

It is my desire that these study booklets be a blessing and a help to all who use them.

These outlines were prepared as I preached through the book of Philippians. They are alliterated and expository outlines for those who enjoy a verse by verse study.

I am always interested in what other preachers prepare. I would be honored if you would share what you have with me.

May God bless you!

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1.

“THE JOY OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE”

Philippians 1

Introduction:

The book of Philippians will teach us the Biblical concept of joy.

I want us to look at the foundation upon which our joy rests. That foundation is the Christian life. This Christian life is impossible without Christ!

Keep in mind as we study this first chapter, that one of the foundation stones upon which joy rests is fellowship. “Fellowship” means to have in common. The common denominator is Christ.

I. THE GREAT PROMISE FOR THE CHRISTIAN LIFE (vs. 1-8)

(v. 6—“hath begun...will perform it”)

- A. The strength of the promise—“being confident”
- B. The source of the promise—“he which hath begun”

II. THE GREAT POTENTIAL FOR THE CHRISTIAN LIFE (vs. 9-20)

- A. To mature in the faith (vs. 9-11)
 - 1. To properly face the future (vs. 9-10)
 - 2. To purposely be filled with fruits (v. 11)
- B. To minister for the faith (vs. 12-20)
 - 1. By personal experience (v. 12)
“which happened unto me”
 - 2. To preach evangelistically (vs. 13-20)
“Christ is preached”

Note: God used Paul’s

- a. chains (vs. 12-14)
- b. critics (vs. 15-19)

c. crisis (vs. 20-26)

**III. THE GREAT PURPOSE OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE
(vs. 21-26)**

- A. To magnify Christ (vs. 21-24 cf. v. 20)
 - 1. That men might see Him.
 - 2. That men might be saved by Him.
- B. To minister for Christ (vs. 25-26)

**IV. THE GREAT PRIVILEGE OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE
(vs. 27-30)**

- A. The privilege of salvation (vs. 27-28)
- B. The privilege of suffering (vs. 29-30)

Let the joy of Christ be obvious in every area of your life!

2.

“SELFISH PRIDE— A TERRIBLE ENEMY TO JOY”

Philippians 2:1-11

Introduction:

There are numerous sins that can rob one of his Christian joy. It is obvious that the more blatant sins as murder, robbery, fornication, malice, hatred, or similar sins will certainly rob one of his joy.

But, so will pride, anger, jealousy, gossip, wicked imaginations and such sins rob one of their joy.

Paul looks at selfish pride as a joy robber.

I. PAUL GIVES THE CHURCH AN EXHORTATION TO GUARD AGAINST SELFISH PRIDE. (vs. 1-5)

A. First, he gives a negative exhortation. (vs. 1-2)
(Built upon a positive foundation of truth)

B. Second, he gives a positive exhortation. (v. 5)

II. PAUL GIVES THE CHURCH AN EXAMPLE TO GUARD AGAINST SELFISH PRIDE. (vs. 6-11)

A. Look at the man Christ Jesus. (vs. 6-7)

(Kenosis—self-emptying) Meant He put Himself under the direct control (will) of His Father.

1. He walked in His Father’s ways. (*Jn. 16:28*)

2. He willed His Father’s will. (*Jn. 5:30*)

3. He spoke His Father’s Word. (*Jn. 14:24*)

4. He did His Father’s work. (*Jn. 17:4*)

5. He rejoiced in His Father’s love. (*Jn. 10: 17*)

6. He sought His Father’s aid. (*Jn. 11:41*)

7. He aimed at His Father’s glory. (*Jn. 8:49*)

B. Look at the mission of Christ Jesus. (v. 8)

1. To identify with man.
 2. To die for man.
- C. Look at the majesty of Christ. (*vs. 9-10*)
1. As seen in His nature. (*v. 9*)
 2. As seen in His name. (*vs. 9-10; Rev. 19:11-16*)

3.

“THE JOY OF THE CHRISTIAN WORK”

Philippians 2:12-16

Introduction:

The Word of God tells us that it is good for a man to work. There can also be joy in work. May we study how the Lord has incorporated into Christian work—Christian joy.

I. THERE IS AN OUTWARD WORK. (v. 12)

- A. The work should involve the correct motive.
“ye have always obeyed”; “your own salvation”
- B. The work should involve the correct manner.
“with fear and trembling”

II. THERE IS AN INWARD WORK. (v. 13)

- A. It is a work that only God can determine.
“to will”
- B. It is a work that only God can do.
“do of His good pleasure”
 - 1. He does it according to His own purpose.
 - 2. He does it according to His own pleasure.

III. THERE IS AN EARTHLY WORK. (vs. 14-15)

- A. Reverence the Lord as you work on earth. (v.14)
 - 1. In your conversation
 - 2. In your conduct
- B. Reveal the Light as you work on earth. (v. 15)

IV. THERE IS AN ETERNAL WORK. (v. 16)

- A. There are rewards to be won.
- B. There is a race to be run.

4.

“PEOPLE WORKING WITH PEOPLE”

Philippians 2:17-30

Introduction:

This section deals with the interaction of people in the ministry. God works through people, but in His glorious providence. He is not limited to working through just one person, but many.

For Paul to effectively minister, his heart had to be right towards the ministry. Consider these three things:

- I. Paul's heart for the beloved
- II. Paul's hope for the beloved
- III. Paul's help for the beloved

I. PAUL'S HEART FOR THE BELOVED (vs. 17-23a)

- A. His was a sacrificial heart. (v. 17)
 1. Genesis 35:14 describes this offering: Jacob set up a pillar at Bethel “and he poured a drink offering thereon, and he poured oil thereon.”
 2. Leviticus and Numbers tells us that it was added to the burnt offering and the meal offering. (Never added to a sin or trespass offering.)
 3. It is associated with service.
- B. His was a sincere heart. (v. 18)
- C. His was a servant's heart. (v. 19-22)
- D. His was a sharing heart. (v. 23a)

II. PAUL'S HOPE FOR THE BELOVED (vs. 23-24)

- A. Paul hope to send companions. (v. 23) “soon”
- B. Paul hope to shortly come. (v. 24) “shortly”

III. PAUL'S HELP FOR THE BELOVED (vs. 28-30)

- A. It was a caring help. (v. 28) “carefully”
- B. It was a Christian help. “receive him therefore in the Lord”

5.

“SALVATION”

Philippians 3:1-3

Introduction:

This third chapter is a flowing artesian of truth. For that reason may we drink slowly from His precious Word. As we do, may we consider:

- I. The might of the saved
- II. The message to the saved
- III. The mark of the saved

I. THE MIGHT OF THE SAVED (v.1)

Note: To rejoice in the Lord (*Rom, 5:3-5; James 1:2-4*)

- one must be saved
- one must be sure
- one must be satisfied

A. The command to rejoice. (An easy command—“rejoice”)

B. The character of our rejoicing. (In the Lord)

II. THE MESSAGE TO THE SAVED (v.2)

A. A message to beware of dogs (FALSE PREACHERS)

1. Jesus said, “Give not that which is holy unto dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you.” (*Matt. 7:6*)
2. Isaiah said of the religious leaders of his day: “They are all ignorant, they are all dumb dogs, they cannot bark; sleeping, lying down, loving to slumber.” (*Isa. 56:10*)
3. They are greedy dogs which can never have enough, and they are shepherds that cannot understand: they all look to their own way, every one for his gain.” (*Isa. 56:11*)

(The Talmud refers to the Gentiles as dogs—“Gentile Dog.”)

B. A message to beware of evil workers. (FOUL PLANNERS)

C. A message to beware of the concision. (those mutilated)

(FALSE PROFESSORS) (*Rom. 4:6-12 - Col. 2:9-12*)

III. THE MARK OF THE SAVED (v.3)

A. You know them by their manner of worship.
“which worship God in the spirit”

B. You know them by their motivation for worship.
“rejoice in Christ Jesus”

C. You know them by their methods of worship.
“have no confidence in the flesh”

6.

“IT’S JESUS OR NOTHING”

Philippians 3:4-14

Introduction:

In this section Paul states his attainments.

1. He was so loyal a Jew that he had never lost the Hebrew speech.
2. He was not only a religious Jew, he was a member of their strictest and the most self-disciplined sect.
3. He had in his heart a burning zeal for what he had thought was the cause of God.
4. He had a record in Judaism in which no man could mark a fault.

All these things Paul might have claimed to set down on the credit side of the balance, but when he met Christ, he wrote them off as nothing more than bad debts.

I. WHAT PAUL REFUSED FOR CHRIST (vs. 4-8)

(This section contains notes borrowed from Lehman Strauss.)

A. He refused to trust in his ritual—“circumcised the eighth day” (vs. 4-5)

1. Every loyal Jew practiced the sacred rite of circumcision on the eighth day.
 - a. Zacharias and Elisabeth brought John the Baptist on the eighth day.
 - b. Mary brought the infant Jesus for circumcision on the eighth day according to the Mosaic law.
 - c. Paul testified the same.
 - d. The Ishmaelites were also circumcised, but when they were 13 years of age.

“But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.” (*Phil. 3:7*)

B. He refused to trust in his relationship—“of the

stock of Israel” (v. 5)

1. Paul could have taken pride in being a direct descendant of Jacob. It added dignity to his pedigree.

“But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.” (*Phil. 3:7*)

C. He refused to trust in his respectability—“of the tribe of Benjamin” (v. 5)

1. The tribe of Benjamin was known for its unwavering loyalty to the throne of David when the ten tribes separated to divide the kingdom.
2. Respectability is a notable trait in any family, but such an ancestral heritage will never put a sinner in good standings with God.

D. He refused to trust in his race—“an Hebrew of the Hebrews” (v. 5)

1. Paul traces his pedigree to the first Hebrew, Abraham. Though living at Tarsus and receiving his education there, he never departed from Hebrew tradition.
2. Never let your race become a barrier between Christ and yourself.

E. He refused to trust in his religion—“as touching the law, a Pharisee” (v. 5)

1. The Pharisee today is a personification of false pride, arrogance, and contempt, but the Pharisee of the oldest order in Israel stood for a morality of the highest and strictest kind.

-Council at Jerusalem—“Men and brethren, I am a Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee.” (*Acts 23:6*)

- Before Agrippa—“After the most straitest sect of our religion I lived a Pharisee.” (*Acts 26:5*)

Paul later admitted that he was sincere but wrong.

F. He refused to trust in his reputation—“concerning zeal, persecuting the church” (v. 6)

1. Luke described His zeal in this manner—
“breathing out threatenings and slaughter
against the disciples of the Lord”; “zeal of God
but...” (*Rom. 10:2*)

“But what things were gain to me, those I counted
loss for Christ.” (*Phil. 3:7*)

G. He refused to trust in his righteousness. "touching
the righteousness which is in the law, blameless." v. 6-8

II. WHAT PAUL RECEIVED IN CHRIST (vs. 9-14)

A. A new righteousness (v. 9)

“And be found in him, not having mine own
righteousness...”

B. A new relationship (vs. 10-11)

“That I may know him”

C. A new reward. (vs. 12-14)

“for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ
Jesus.”

7.

“THE WALK THAT MARKS THE CHRISTIAN”

Philippians 3:15-21

Introduction:

God’s Holy Word places much emphasis on the walk of the believer. Even in the secular world there is a saying that describes inconsistency in one’s walk. It goes like this: “He’s a likeable fellow, but he just does not walk his talk.”

May I ask you today, “Are you walking your talk?”

Notice with me these three aspects of the Christian walk:

1. The proper walk
2. The perverted walk
3. The protected walk

I. THE PROPER WALK (*vs. 15-18*)

This third chapter deals with 3 themes. It deals with [1] salvation, [2] sanctification, [3] glorification. To achieve maturity, there must be a work of sanctification. It’s evidence will be one’s walk.

- A. To walk a proper Christian walk one must have the mind of Christ. (*vs. 15-16 cf. 2:5*)
 1. To have the mind of Christ one must have the righteousness of Christ. He must be justified.
 2. Some say when one is justified God sees you, “just as if you had never sinned.” That definition comes way too short. God sees you “having never sinned.”
- B. To walk a proper Christian walk we must be men of the cross. (*vs. 17-18*)
 1. by believing
 2. by bearing

II. THE PERVERTED WALK (v. 19)

“Pervert” means to twist, bend, or to express some degree of abnormality. The Christian should walk the straight (compressed) walk.

- A. Notice the characteristics of the perverted walk.
 - 1. Look at what their end is—“whose end is destruction.”
 - 2. Look at what their enjoyment is—“whose God is their belly.”
 - a. Worldly appetites
 - b. Worldly activities
- B. Notice the course of the perverted walk.
(Prov. 4:10-19; 25-27)
 - 1. It is not the “way of wisdom” (Prov. 4:10-11)
 - 2. It is “the way of the wicked” (Prov. 4:19)

III. THE PROTECTED WALK (vs. 20-21)

- A. Remember that our citizenship is in Heaven.
(v. 20a)
- B. Remember the coming of One from Heaven.
(v. 20b)
- C. Remember the changing of us for Heaven. (v. 21)

8.

“THREE PRINCIPLES FOR DEALING WITH ANXIETY”

Philippians 4:1-9

Introduction:

How do you deal with anxieties, pressures, and problems? A survey was made that indicated that most of our worries were not legitimate matters of concern. According to this survey only 8% were, 92% were not.

I will attention to 3 principles in God’s Word that deals with anxiety.

Moderation is a restraining of passions—not running to extremes.

I. RECOGNIZE THE LORD’S PRESENCE. (vs. 1-5)

A. The Lord was right there during the Flood.

Genesis 7:1—*“And the Lord said unto Noah, Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous before me in this generation.”*

B. The Lord was right there at the Fight.

I Samuel 17:37—*“David said moreover, The Lord that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine. And Saul said unto David, Go, and the Lord be with thee.”*

C. The Lord was right there in the Furnace.

Daniel 3:24-25—*“Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astonished, and rose up in haste, and spake, and said unto his counsellors, Did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire? They answered and said unto the king, True, O king. He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God.”*

D. The Lord is with you in the Faith.

Ephesians 3:17-19—*“That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.”*

II. REST THROUGH PRAYER (vs. 6-8)

A. Prayer should be marked by adoration.

B. Prayer should be marked by supplication.

Supplicate: A special entreaty in time of personal need. Appealing to the mercies of God.

C. Prayer should be marked by appreciation.

D. Prayer should be marked by continuation.

Don't worry about anything, but pray about everything.

III. REGARD THE POWERFUL, PREACHED WORD. (v. 9)

A. The Pastor's responsibility to preach the Word.

B. The people's responsibility to practice (“do”) the Word.

9.

“REJOICING IN THE LORD GREATLY”

Philippians 4: 10-23

Introduction:

Paul rejoiced in the Lord. There were reasons for his rejoicing. There was a great Lesson that he had learned; there was a great Law that he had obtained; and a great Love that he had shown.

May we be challenged to rejoice in the Lord as we consider “The Great Lesson that Paul Learned.”

I. THERE WAS A GREAT LESSON THAT PAUL HAD LEARNED. (vs. 10-12)

A. Paul learned to be Spiritually Content. (vs. 10-11) (Phil. 3: 13)

Note: The word “content” is a word that was understood by the pagans to mean “entirely self-sufficient.” They proposed to reach that state by a certain pathway of the mind.

1. They proposed to eliminate all desire by saying, “if you want to make a man happy, add not to his possessions, but take away from his desires.”
2. They proposed to eliminate all emotion until a man had come to a stage when he did not care what happened to himself or anyone else.

Note: It began with a common household utensil:

- if it breaks, say, “I don’t care”
- something happens to a pet, “I don’t care”
- something happens to yourself, “I don’t care”
- something happens to a love one, “I don’t care”

The Stoic aim was to abolish every feeling of the human heart. Love was rooted out of life

and caring was forbidden. Paul's contentment was not like this. His was not a human achievement, but a contentment that he had learned by faith in Christ Jesus.

B. Paul learned to be Spiritually Contrite. (v. 12)

(Phil 3:8) "Do count them but dung"

He considered himself to be the least of the apostles.
(I Corinthians 15:9-10; I Corinthians 2: 1-5)

C. Paul learned to be Spiritually Controlled. (v. 12b)

(Phil. 3: 14) "I press toward the mark..."

Man is either going to be Spirit led or flesh led.
Ephesians 5:18 *"And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess: but be filled with the spirit."*

Just as Elijah (James 5:17) was a man of passion, so are we. Satan works through your passions.

1. Sexual passions—Proverbs 6:23-29

2. Social passions—Proverbs 7:5-13

3. Intellectual passions—Ecclesiastes 1:17-18

II. THERE WAS A GREAT LAW PAUL HAD OBTAINED (v. 13)

For Paul to rejoice in the Lord, he had to know the source of joy. The Bible says, *"the joy of the Lord is your strength"* (Neh. 8:10). Paul says, *"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me"* (v. 13). If you have the strength of the Lord, you also have His joy.

A. The personal aspect of Paul's great law. "I"

Paul knew that Almighty God was and always is interested in the individual. He works divinely through individuals. Examples from the Scriptures:

1. Abraham (through Isaac) was given a promise (covenant) that he would be the father of a nation.

2. Moses was given a rod (signifying leadership) to lead a nation.

3. David was given the use of a humble sling to save a nation.

4. Elisha was given a prophet's mantle to warn a nation.
5. Nehemiah was given a burden to rebuild a nation.
6. Paul was given a vision to preach to the nations.
7. The Superior One, the Lord Jesus Christ, was given a cross to save all nations (“whosoever will”).

Illustration: At Dr. Harold Sigtler's funeral (September 29, 1995), his classmate from 1944 heard Dr. Sigtler say 51 years ago that he wanted to be “that man” after a preacher challenged him with a message “Looking for a Man.”

- B. The positive aspect of Paul's great law.
 “Can Do” “Will Do” “Am Doing”

Illustration: Preachers are perhaps the world's greatest at putting together their “little resume” of accomplishments when in search for a church.

Listen to Paul's Resume (*I Corinthians 11:23-33*)

If anyone had reason to say, “I can't”—it was Paul. Will you be willing to accept the call, take the job, teach that class, sing in the choir, knock on doors with a “Can Do” attitude?

- C. The potential aspect of Paul's great law.
 “All Things”

Paul knew that the doing of “all things” involved setting proper priorities (*See Matt. 6:24-34*). Verse 33 says, “*But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you.*”

Don't pretend to do all things without first doing the “first” thing!

- D. The powerful aspect of Paul's great law.
 “Through Christ which strengtheneth me”

1. Moses said, “The Lord is my strength and song...”
(Ex. 15:2)
2. David said, “God is my strength and power...”
(II Sam. 22:33)
3. Paul said, “For when we were yet without strength, Christ died for the ungodly.”
(Rom. 5:6)
4. Isaiah said, “He is an everlasting strength”
(Isa. 26:4)

III. THERE WAS A GREAT LIFE THAT PAUL HAD LIVED. (vs. 14-23)

- A. He lived being concerned about others. (vs. 14-17)
 1. He was concerned enough to pray for others.
 - a. Romans 1:8-11
 - b. I Corinthians 1: 4
 - c. II Corinthians 5: 20
 - d. Philippians 1: 4, 9
 - e. Colossians 1:9
 - f. I Thessalonians 1: 2; 5: 23
 2. He was concerned enough to preach to others.
 - a. He preached the gospel to others.
 1. Romans 1:15; 15:19-20
 2. I Corinthians 1:17-18; 23
 3. II Corinthians 2:12
 4. Galatians 1:6-9
 - b. He challenged others to preach. (II Tim. 4:2)
 3. He was concerned enough to provoke others.
Note: “Provoke” as used in Hebrews 10:24, “To cause to sink into one’s ear.” (example: I Timothy 6:11-14)
- B. He lived with a contentment about himself. (v. 18)
 1. He was content with his duty. (II Cor. 5:6-9)
 2. He was content at his dying. II Timothy 4: 8
- C. Paul lived with a confidence in God. (vs. 19-23)
 1. Paul had confidence in the provisions of God.
(v. 19)
 2. Paul had confidence to the praising of God. (v. 20)

