

DISCOVERING CHRIST'S JOY AMIDST LIFE'S TROUBLE

Sunday, September 15, 2019 — Philippians: Joy From Jail series— Pastor Andrew Coleman

Philippians 2:1-2

English Standard Version (ESV)

- 1** *Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus,
To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are at Philippi,
with the overseers and deacons:*
- 2** *Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord
Jesus Christ.*

PHILIPPIANS: A “Most Loved” and “Most Quoted” Letter of the New Testament:

- 1:7 *He who began a good work in you, will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ*
- 1:22 *for me to live is Christ and to die is gain*
- 2:4-11 *Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. 5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. 9 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*
- 3:8 *I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.*
- 3:13 *but one thing I do, forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.*
- 4:4-8 *Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say, rejoice... do not be anxious about anything, but with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.*
- 4:12 *I have learned, in whatever situation I am to be content*
- 4:1 *I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.*
- 4:19 *And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory.*

BACKGROUND OF PAUL and the PHILIPPIANS:

Death, resurrection and ascension of Christ	The Gospels	AD 33
Pentecost -- The Holy Spirit comes	Acts chapter 2	AD 33
Conversion of Saul (Paul)	Acts chapter 9	AD 33/34
Peter imprisoned/delivered; Herod Agrippa1 dies	Acts chapter 12	AD 44
Paul's 1 st Missionary Journey	Acts chapter 13	AD 46/47
Jerusalem Council (Paul attends)	Acts 15:1-12	AD 48
<u>Paul's 2nd Missionary Journey</u> (Paul visits <u>Philippi</u> in Acts 16)	Acts chapters 15-17	AD 50-51
Paul's 3 rd Missionary Journey	Acts chapter 18	AD 52-57
Paul under house arrest in Rome	Acts chapter 21	AD 62
<u>Paul receives gift from Philippi & writes them</u>	Acts chapter 28	AD 62
Paul is martyred (beheaded) in Rome		AD 64-67?
Titus sacks Jerusalem, destroys <u>the Temple</u>	World History	AD 70

IMPORTANT PERSPECTIVE ON PAUL'S LIFE:

After his conversion, Paul served his Messiah for more than 30 years by faithfully preaching salvation in Christ, making disciples and planting churches everywhere he went. At first he was doubted, feared, and avoided by Christians. At times he had Christians, Jews and Romans attacking him -- all at once. As the decades went by he would be whipped, beaten, jailed, tried, convicted, ship wrecked, snake bit, stoned, left for dead, run out of town, and abandoned many times. He walked thousands of miles in the heat and slept in the cold. He was often hungry and always in pain. He spent years of his life in various prisons until Nero finally beheaded him as a treasonous Roman citizen. And yet at the end of his life Paul would write this little letter that mentions joy or rejoicing 16 times -- from prison. Amazingly, here is not found bitterness, anger, despair, disillusionment or resentment. We only see a humility, gratitude and attitude that transcend the troubles of this life *through the joy of having Christ*.

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Jesus Christ.

- The Focus:** *'Christ Jesus' and 'the Lord Jesus Christ'*
Christ or Christos = a Greek title ('Anointed One' or 'Chosen One')
Jesus or Yeshua = a Jewish name ('Yahweh saves')
Lord or Kurios = a Greek title ('Lord' or 'Master' or 'Sovereign')
- The Writers:** *Paul and Timothy*
servants or doulos = literally meaning 'slaves'
Owned, servile, no rights, utter submission.
- The Recipients:** *to all the saints in Christ Jesus who are at Philippi,*
saints or hagios = literally 'holy ones'
Not a holiness of ourselves but 'in Christ Jesus'. (Ephesians 1 & Colossians 1)

2 Corinthians 5:17

*Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.
The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.*

Colossians 1:22 (Ephesians 1:4)

*he has now reconciled you in his body of flesh by his death, in order
to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him,*

OBSERVATIONS/APPLICATIONS as We Begin Philippians:

- 1) Christ is the great central focus. Not Paul. Not the Philippians. Not the Romans.
It's all about God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
- 2) Our hope for joy is based in Humility before God and others. ('slaves')
- 3) Our hope for joy is based in Christ's saving re-creation of us. ('saints')
- 4) Our hope for joy is based in the body of Christ -- the church.
(the saints in Christ Jesus WITH the overseers and deacons.)