

Philippians

(1) Introduction

Phil 1:1-6

Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, to all the saints in Christ Jesus at Philippi, together with the overseers and deacons: 2 Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 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. 7 It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart; for whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me. 8 God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus. NIV

The background of the letter...

Where was Paul when he penned this letter to the church at Philippi? 1:12-14

He was in prison, likely in Rome. And his imprisonment was for preaching the Gospel!

What time does this likely relate to in Paul's life? Acts 28:14-31 note vs.30-31

This is likely at the close of the Acts history of Paul. Under house arrest. Still preaching!

Early in this imprisonment, what significant thing happened? Acts 28:17, 23-29; Rom.11:25

The definitive rejection of the Gospel by the Jews (nationally), Gospel goes to Gentiles.

What is one of the primary reasons Paul wrote this letter? Phil.4:15-20 see ICor.4:9

As a thank-you to the Philippians who had supported him in his trials. The only ones!

And what is the overall key thought from the letter? 1:18, 2:17, 18, 28

It's a letter of joy in the Lord. Rejoice, regardless of your circumstances. Rejoice!

Paul's thankfulness begins...1:1-8

First of all, who is co-authoring this letter? 1:1; ITim.1:2 How are they identified? 1:1 (2:7)

Paul is writing with Timothy, his own 'son in the faith'. Both servants of Christ.(Ex.21:5-6)

And to whom is the letter addressed? 1:1b see ICor.1:2, 3:1-3; Rom.8:28-29

To the saints. Those (all) who are called to salvation. Not a reference to 'super' saints!

After his 'Pauline' salutation (1:2), how does Paul evaluate the church at Philippi? 1:3-5

Healthy and growing in the Lord! Totally thankful for them, evidenced by their help.

What clear Biblical truth is restated by Paul in 1:6a? Eph.1:4, 2:8-9; Jn.6:44; Rom.8:29-30, etc.

The good work of salvation was begun by Him! He chose us, draws us, seals us, forever.

And what's his point in 1:6b? Rom.8:29-30; Titus 3:4-8

What He has started (our very salvation), He will complete. It's His work, not ours!

How did Paul feel about these 'saints' at Philippi? 1:3-4 Why? 1:7-8

He loved them in the Lord, deeply. They were sharers in God's grace. He longed for them.

What's the lesson/application here for us?

We should also long for, want the best for, our brothers/sisters in Christ. It's just right!!

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