

PHILIPPIANS

Conversational Version

Salutation

1:¹Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ^{Messiah} Jesus, to the saints in Philippi and *their* bishops and deacons. ²Grace and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. **Phil 1:1-2**

Prayer for the Philippians

³I'm grateful for the memories I have of you. ⁴I gladly mention you in my prayers ⁵because of your fellowship in the gospel since day one. ⁶I'm confident that the good work God began in you he'll keep perfecting till Christ comes. ⁷It's right for me to regard you that way because in my imprisonment and defense of the gospel, you've shared your grace with me. ⁸God is witness, I long for you with the affections Jesus has. ⁹I pray that your love will keep growing along with knowledge and insight ¹⁰so you'll approve what's excellent, be sincere, and keep your conscience clear till Christ comes. ¹¹That way the fruit that comes from goodness will fill you, *the fruit* that comes through Jesus Christ to God's glory and praise. **Phil 1:3-11**

Progress Despite Limiting Circumstances

¹²I want you to know that what's happened to me has turned out to promote the good news. ¹³My imprisonment has become well-known throughout the Praetorian Guard and elsewhere. ¹⁴More believers have trusted in the Lord and because of my imprisonment have dared to speak the message more boldly. ¹⁵Some people are preaching Christ out of spite and strife; others out of good will. ¹⁶Some do it out of love because they know I'm set to defend the good news. ¹⁷The others present him out of rivalry, not sincerely. They think they can stir up trouble for me in *my* imprisonment. ¹⁸What then? Whether in pretense or truth, Christ is getting presented and I'm glad. ¹⁹I know it'll lead to my release through your prayer and the support of the Spirit of Jesus Christ. ²⁰That fits with my deep desire and hope that I'll never be shamed, but hold Christ in high honor in my body whether by life or death—as always, so now. ²¹For me, to live *is* Christ, to die *is* better. ²²But if living means productive work, I don't know what to choose. ²³I'm torn between wanting to leave and be with Christ (better for me) ²⁴and *wanting to* stay (more necessary for you). ²⁵I'm convinced I'll stay and stand with you for your progress and joy in the faith, ²⁶so the pride you have in Christ Jesus will increase in connection with me when I can be with you again. **Phil 1:12-26**

Living in a Way Fit for Christ

²⁷Make sure you conduct yourselves in a way that's appropriate for the good news about Christ. Then, whether I can come to see you or not, I can hear that you're standing firm in one

spirit with one mind, that you're striving together by trusting in the good news,²⁸ and that you're not alarmed by your opponents. Their opposition is evidence for their destruction and your salvation—a situation that comes from God.²⁹ For the sake of Christ, you've had the opportunity to believe in him and suffer for him.³⁰ You're facing the same struggle you saw me face and hear that I'm facing now.

Phil 1:27-30

Christ's Extreme Example of Humility

2:¹ So, if there's any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any fellowship with the Spirit, any affection and compassion,² fill me with happiness. That way you'll have the same attitude, love, purpose, and unity of spirit.³ Don't do anything selfish out of empty conceit, but in humility consider each other more important than yourself.⁴ Don't just look at your own interests, but at the interests of other people too.⁵ Take the attitude Christ Jesus took.

⁶ Although he was in the form of deity,
he didn't consider being equal to God
something to hang onto.

⁷ He emptied himself,
and took the place of a servant.

In the form of a man,

⁸ he humbled himself to the point of dying,
even dying on a cross.

⁹ So God lifted him up above all others

¹⁰ so every knee in heaven, on earth, and under the earth
would kneel to him;

¹¹ and every tongue would acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord—
to the glory of God the Father.

Phil 2:1-11

Being Lights in the World

¹² So, as you've always followed my instructions—whether I'm around or not, work out *the implications of* your salvation with fear and trembling.¹³ God is at work in you to will and do what he delights in.¹⁴ Do everything without grumbling or arguing¹⁵ so you'll be God's blameless, innocent, well-behaved children. You're living in a crooked, perverse time, where you shine like lights in the world.

¹⁶ Hold onto the life-giving message so when Christ comes, I can take satisfaction in you because I didn't labor for nothing.¹⁷ Even if I get poured out like a drink offering on the altar in service to your faith, I'll rejoice and rejoice with you.¹⁸ You'll^p rejoice too along with me.

Phil 2:12-18

Timothy's Coming

¹⁹I hope to send Timothy to lift my spirits by finding out how you're doing. ²⁰I don't have anybody like-minded who will sincerely concern himself with your welfare. ²¹*Other people* tend to look after their own concerns more than Christ's. ²²But you know how valuable he has proved to be, how he has served with me in the good news like a child with his father. ²³So I hope to send him as soon as I see how my situation *here* turns out. ²⁴I'm confident in the Lord that I can come soon as well.

Phil 2:19-24

News About Epaphroditus

²⁵I've also needed to send Epaphroditus, my brother, fellow worker, fellow soldier, and your messenger to my need. ²⁶He's been longing to see you; he's been anxious because you heard he was sick. ²⁷He was sick—to the point of death, but God had mercy on him—and on me so I wouldn't have grief on top of grief. ²⁸More earnestly, then, I've sent him so when you see him, you can be happy, and I won't feel so sad. ²⁹Welcome him in the Lord with joy; hold men like him in high regard. ³⁰He nearly died because of his work for Christ, risking his life to finish your service to me.

Phil 2:25-30

No Confidence in the Flesh

^{3:1}So, family *of Christ*, be happy in the Lord. Writing things like these is not hard for me to do, and it reinforces you. ²Watch out for dogs, evil doers, the 'false Circumcision.' ³We are the 'Circumcision,' who serve by God's spirit, who take pride in Christ Jesus, who don't put confidence in what's physical. ⁴If anybody could put confidence in that, I sure *could*: ⁵*I was* circumcised on the eighth day, from the nation of Israel, tribe of Benjamin, the truest of Hebrews. As to the Law, *I was* a Pharisee. ⁶As to zeal, *I* persecuted the church. As to legal goodness, *I was* blameless. ⁷*But^{ms}* what were gains to me I consider losses for Christ. ⁸Everything's a loss compared to knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. I lost everything on account of him and considered it rubbish so I could gain him. ⁹I don't have a goodness of my own—from keeping the Law; *I have* a goodness *that comes* from trusting Christ, a goodness that God gives conditioned on trust. ¹⁰*I want* to know him, the power his resurrection has, and fellowship with his sufferings. *I want to live in* conformity with his death ¹¹so I can attain resurrection from the dead, whatever it takes.

Phil 3:1-11

Pressing on Toward Perfection

¹²I'm not already perfect, but I press on toward what Christ laid hold of me for. ¹³I don't consider myself to have achieved it; but forgetting what's behind and reaching out for what's ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal, the prize that comes from God's upward call in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵As many as are perfect should take that attitude. If in anything you have a different attitude,

God will make it clear for you. ¹⁶However, let's keep conducting ourselves at the level we've reached. **Phil 3:12-16**

Following Paul's Example

¹⁷Imitate me and watch the ones that follow our example. ¹⁸Many live as enemies of the cross, as I used to say and tell you now, weeping. ¹⁹Their end is destruction, their God is their stomach, their honor is their shame, their minds are on earthly things. ²⁰Our citizenship lies in heaven, from where we wait for our Savior to come. ²¹He'll transform our humble bodies to be like his glorious body. *He'll do that* by using the power he used to subject everything to himself. **4:1** So, fellow Christians loved and longed for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord.

Phil 3:17-4:1

Keeping a Positive Outlook

²I urge Euodia and Syntyche to work in harmony in the Lord. ³Yes, and I ask you, loyal yoke fellow, help them. They struggled together with me in the gospel, with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names *are* in the Book of Life.

⁴Always be^{pl} happy in the Lord; I'll say *it* again, be happy. ⁵Let everybody see your^{pl} gentle *spirit*. The Lord *is* near. ⁶Don't worry, but in prayer and supplication make your requests to God accompanied by gratitude. ⁷God's peace, which goes beyond understanding, will keep watch over your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸So think about what's true, honorable, just, pure, worth praising, morally excellent. ⁹Practice what you've learned and received, *what you've* heard and seen in me; and the God who brings peace will be with you.

¹⁰I was so glad when you showed your concern for me once again. For a long time, you didn't have a chance to demonstrate it. ¹¹I'm not saying that because I've been in need. I've learned to be content in any circumstance, ¹²humble or otherwise. In any and all things, I've learned the secret of how to be full or hungry, to have a lot or to lack. ¹³I can do everything by the One who enables me. ¹⁴But you've done well to share in my difficulties. **Phil 4:2-14**

Appreciation for Philippians' Support

¹⁵You Philippians know that back when I'd presented the good news to you and left Macedonia, you were the only church that supported me financially. ¹⁶Even in Thessalonica time and again you sent *gifts* to help with my expenses. ¹⁷I'm not looking for the gift, but for the balance that's building up in your account. ¹⁸I have everything I need and more. Epaphroditus brought me what you sent, a sweet aroma, an acceptable sacrifice that pleases God. ¹⁹And in Christ Jesus, my God will take care of your needs out of his wealth in glory. ²⁰To our God and Father *be* glory forevermore. Amen. **Phil 4:15-20**

Greetings

- ²¹Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The Christians that are with me send their regards.
- ²²All the saints say hello, notably the ones in Caesar's household.
- ²³The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ *be* with your spirit. **Phil 4:21-23**

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