

## PHILIPPIANS

### Conversational Version

#### **Salutation**

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

#### **Prayer for the Philippians**

**3**I'm grateful for the memories I have of you. **4**I gladly mention you in my prayers **5**because of your fellowship in the gospel since day one. **6**I'm confident that the good work God began in you he'll keep perfecting till Christ comes. **7**It'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. **8**God is witness, I long for you with the affections Jesus has. **9**I pray that your love will keep growing along with knowledge and insight **10**so you'll approve what's excellent, be sincere, and keep your conscience clear till Christ comes. **11**That 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**

**12**I want you to know that what's happened to me has turned out to promote the good news. **13**My imprisonment has become well-known throughout the Praetorian Guard and elsewhere. **14**More believers have trusted in the Lord and because of my imprisonment have dared to speak the message more boldly. **15**Some people are preaching Christ out of spite and strife; others out of good will. **16**Some do it out of love because they know I'm set to defend the good news. **17**The others present him out of rivalry, not sincerely. They think they can stir up trouble for me in *my* imprisonment. **18**What then? Whether in pretense or truth, Christ is getting presented and I'm glad. **19**I know it'll lead to my release through your prayer and the support of the Spirit of Jesus Christ. **20**That 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. **21**For me, to live *is* Christ, to die *is* better. **22**But if living means productive work, I don't know what to choose. **23**I'm torn between wanting to leave and be with Christ (better for me) **24**and *wanting to* stay (more necessary for you). **25**I'm convinced I'll stay and stand with you for your progress and joy in the faith, **26**so 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**

**27**Make 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,<sup>28</sup> 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.<sup>29</sup> For the sake of Christ, you've had the opportunity to believe in him and suffer for him.<sup>30</sup> 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:**<sup>1</sup> So, if there's any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any fellowship with the Spirit, any affection and compassion,<sup>2</sup> fill me with happiness. That way you'll have the same attitude, love, purpose, and unity of spirit.<sup>3</sup> Don't do anything selfish out of empty conceit, but in humility consider each other more important than yourself.<sup>4</sup> Don't just look at your own interests, but at the interests of other people too.<sup>5</sup> 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.<sup>13</sup> God is at work in you to will and do what he delights in.<sup>14</sup> Do everything without grumbling or arguing<sup>15</sup> 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.<sup>17</sup> 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.<sup>18</sup> You'll<sup>p</sup> rejoice too along with me.

**Phil 2:12-18**

### **Timothy's Coming**

<sup>19</sup>I hope to send Timothy to lift my spirits by finding out how you're doing. <sup>20</sup>I don't have anybody like-minded who will sincerely concern himself with your welfare. <sup>21</sup>*Other people* tend to look after their own concerns more than Christ's. <sup>22</sup>But 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. <sup>23</sup>So I hope to send him as soon as I see how my situation *here* turns out. <sup>24</sup>I'm confident in the Lord that I can come soon as well.

Phil 2:19-24

#### News About Epaphroditus

<sup>25</sup>I've also needed to send Epaphroditus, my brother, fellow worker, fellow soldier, and your messenger to my need. <sup>26</sup>He's been longing to see you; he's been anxious because you heard he was sick. <sup>27</sup>He 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. <sup>28</sup>More earnestly, then, I've sent him so when you see him, you can be happy, and I won't feel so sad. <sup>29</sup>Welcome him in the Lord with joy; hold men like him in high regard. <sup>30</sup>He 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

<sup>3:1</sup>So, family of Christ, be happy in the Lord. Writing things like these is not hard for me to do, and it reinforces you. <sup>2</sup>Watch out for dogs, evil doers, the 'false Circumcision.' <sup>3</sup>We are the 'Circumcision,' who serve by God's spirit, who take pride in Christ Jesus, who don't put confidence in what's physical. <sup>4</sup>If anybody could put confidence in that, I sure *could*: <sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>As to zeal, *I* persecuted the church. As to legal goodness, *I was* blameless. <sup>7</sup>But<sup>ms</sup> what were gains to me I consider losses for Christ. <sup>8</sup>Everything'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. <sup>9</sup>I 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. <sup>10</sup>I *want* to know him, the power his resurrection has, and fellowship with his sufferings. *I want to live in conformity with his death* <sup>11</sup>so I can attain resurrection from the dead, whatever it takes.

Phil 3:1-11

#### Pressing on Toward Perfection

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

God will make it clear for you. <sup>16</sup>However, let's keep conducting ourselves at the level we've reached.

**Phil 3:12-16**

### Following Paul's Example

<sup>17</sup>Imitate me and watch the ones that follow our example. <sup>18</sup>Many live as enemies of the cross, as I used to say and tell you now, weeping. <sup>19</sup>Their end is destruction, their God is their stomach, their honor is their shame, their minds are on earthly things. <sup>20</sup>Our citizenship lies in heaven, from where we wait for our Savior to come. <sup>21</sup>He'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. <sup>4:1</sup>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

<sup>2</sup>I urge Euodia and Syntyche to work in harmony in the Lord. <sup>3</sup>Yes, 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.

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

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

<sup>10</sup>I 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. <sup>11</sup>I'm not saying that because I've been in need. I've learned to be content in any circumstance, <sup>12</sup>humble 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. <sup>13</sup>I can do everything by the One who enables me. <sup>14</sup>But you've done well to share in my difficulties.

**Phil 4:2-14**

### Appreciation for Philippians' Support

<sup>15</sup>You 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. <sup>16</sup>Even in Thessalonica time and again you sent *gifts* to help with my expenses. <sup>17</sup>I'm not looking for the gift, but for the balance that's building up in your account. <sup>18</sup>I have everything I need and more. Epaphroditus brought me what you sent, a sweet aroma, an acceptable sacrifice that pleases God. <sup>19</sup>And in Christ Jesus, my God will take care of your needs out of his wealth in glory. <sup>20</sup>To our God and Father *be* glory forevermore. Amen.

**Phil 4:15-20**

**Greetings**

<sup>21</sup>Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The Christians that are with me send their regards.

<sup>22</sup>All the saints say hello, notably the ones in Caesar's household.

<sup>23</sup>The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ *be* with your spirit.

**Phil 4:21-23**

Translator: Virgil Warren

[christir.org](http://christir.org)