

PHILIPPIANS Lesson 4

Verses 1-5, Thankful for the Brethren

16 May 2022

Joy and rejoicing: The Apostle Paul was able to remain **joyful** in all his trials and afflictions because he was focused on pressing toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus (3:14). Jesus Christ endured the cross for the **joy** that was set before Him (Heb 12:2).

Php 2:1-5 We ought to have the same mind that was also in Christ Jesus (vs 5). He put other's first, willing to suffer for the benefit of others. A true minister of Christ will gladly take the position of a servant and live for others instead of for self.

CHAPTER 1

Vs 2 Paul is suffering in prison, and yet he sends grace and peace from God to the brethren at Philippi.

3-5 Paul thanks God (vs 3) for these "Saints in Christ Jesus" (vs 1). He has joy when he prays for them (vs 4). He counts it a blessing to be in fellowship with them (vs 5).

- Their fellowship is "**in the gospel**" (vs 5). Every one of them had a common goal: to further the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- We often take the brethren for granted. We ought to thank God for giving us people that we can fellowship with who are aiming for the same mark that we are. True unity in Christ is something to be thankful for and something to rejoice about.
- Notice, Paul's prayer was "**for you all**" (vs 4). He didn't exclude any member of the church.
 - Paul had joy in his life because he prayed for others, not himself.

FROM THE FIRST DAY UNTIL NOW (vs 5)

Acts 16:1-28 Here are the details of Paul's first encounter with the Philippians.

Paul and Silas had their backs beaten (vs 22), they were cast into prison (vs 23), and had their feet put in stocks (vs 24).

Vs 25 ²⁵ **And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God...**

- **James 5:13**, "...Is any merry? let him sing psalms."
- **Proverbs 17:22**, "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine."

Vs 26 ²⁶ **Every one's bands were loosed.** ²⁸ **We are all here.**

- All the prisoners had opportunity to escape but chose not to. They wanted to find out Who Paul and Silas were singing about and what could cause these men to sing and rejoice in such a situation. How could they be so confident?
 - **Php 1:6** "**Being confident of this very thing.**"
 - **Php 1:14** "**And many of the brethren in the Lord, waxing confident by my bonds!**"
 - **Acts 16:28**, Paul's confidence in the Lord inspired others to be confident also.

Php 1:5 When Paul says, "**From the first**," he reminds these believers at Philippi that the joy of the Lord is greater than beatings, bonds, darkness, imprisonment, and loss of liberty.

Php 1:28-30 The authorities at Philippi saw Paul as the bad guy (**evident token of perdition**), but God showed the Philippian believers that Paul was the good guy (**evident token...of salvation**).

Exhibit joy and rejoicing in your bad times. It will spread and cause somebody to come to Jesus.

Jew, Greek, bond, free, male, and female were all made one in Christ Jesus that first day in Philippi (**Gal 3:28**).