

Doing time with joy



Paul's Letter from Rome to the Philippians

1. There's joy in ministry partnerships

Philippians 1:1-11

1:1 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.

9 And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, 10 so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, 11 filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

Peace to you

▼ Greetings from us servants

▲ First greetings

Philippians 1:1 Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus,

▲ Further greetings

Philippians 4:21 The brothers who are with me send greetings. 22 All the saints send you greetings, especially those who belong to Caesar's household.

▼ Greetings to you saints and supervisors

Philippians 1:1 To all the saints in Christ Jesus at Philippi, together with the overseers and deacons:

▼ Grace to you from our Savior

Philippians 1:2 Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Preciate you people

▼ Thanks for your financial supply

Philippians 1:3 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.

▼ Thanks for your faithful support

Philippians 1:7 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.

Praying for you

▼ Praying from overflow

Philippians 1:4 In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy

▼ Praying for overflow

▲ Praying for larger longer love

Philippians 1:9 And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more

▲ Praying for deeper discernment

Philippians 1:9 in knowledge and depth of insight, 10 so that you may be able to discern what is best

▲ Praying for purity and productivity

Philippians 1:10 and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, 11 filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—

▲ Praying for greater glory to God

Philippians 1:11 to the glory and praise of God.

Paul's defiant declarations—

- ▶ I'm still alive here in jail!
- ▶ I'm still on assignment from Jesus!
- ▶ I'm still accompanied on this journey!
- ▶ I'm still abounding with joy!

Our daily decisions—

- ▶ Let's pitch the pity partying, people!
- ▶ Let's plot and plod with partners!
- ▶ Let's pray and pull for people!
- ▶ Let's publicize our praises!

Acts 16:6-40 *Paul Plants a Church at Philippi, 50AD*

Paul and his team are called by a vision to Macedonia

⁶ Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia. ⁷ When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to. ⁸ So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas. ⁹ During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." ¹⁰ After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

Paul arrives at Philippi and meets Lydia at the river

¹¹ From Troas we put out to sea and sailed straight for Samothrace, and the next day on to Neapolis. ¹² From there we traveled to Philippi, a Roman colony and the leading city of that district of Macedonia. And we stayed there several days. ¹³ On the Sabbath we went outside the city gate to the river, where we expected to find a place of prayer. We sat down and began to speak to the women who had gathered there. ¹⁴ One of those listening was a woman named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth from the city of Thyatira, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message. ¹⁵ When she and the members of her household were baptized, she invited us to her home. "If you consider me a believer in the Lord," she said, "come and stay at my house." And she persuaded us.

Paul casts an evil spirit out of a slave girl

¹⁶ Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling. ¹⁷ This girl followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved." ¹⁸ She kept this up for many days. Finally Paul became so troubled that he turned around and said to the spirit, "In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!" At that moment the spirit left her.

Paul and Silas are arrested and jailed

¹⁹ When the owners of the slave girl realized that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to face the authorities. ²⁰ They brought them before the magistrates and said, "These men are Jews, and are throwing our city into an uproar ²¹ by advocating customs unlawful for us Romans to accept or practice." ²² The crowd joined in the attack against Paul and Silas, and the magistrates ordered them to be stripped and beaten. ²³ After they had been severely flogged, they were thrown into prison, and the jailer was commanded to guard them carefully. ²⁴ Upon receiving such orders, he put them in the inner cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

After a midnight earthquake, Paul and Silas lead the jailer and his household to Christ

²⁵ About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. ²⁶ Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everybody's chains came loose. ²⁷ The jailer woke up, and when he saw the prison doors open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself because he thought the prisoners had escaped. ²⁸ But Paul shouted, "Don't harm yourself! We are all here!" ²⁹ The jailer called for lights, rushed in and fell trembling before Paul and Silas. ³⁰ He then brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" ³¹ They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household." ³² Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. ³³ At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his family were baptized. ³⁴ The jailer brought them into his house and set a meal before them; he was filled with joy because he had come to believe in God—he and his whole family.

Paul and Silas are released and depart from Philippi

³⁵ When it was daylight, the magistrates sent their officers to the jailer with the order: "Release those men." ³⁶ The jailer told Paul, "The magistrates have ordered that you and Silas be released. Now you can leave. Go in peace." ³⁷ But Paul said to the officers: "They beat us publicly without a trial, even though we are Roman citizens, and threw us into prison. And now do they want to get rid of us quietly? No! Let them come themselves and escort us out." ³⁸ The officers reported this to the magistrates, and when they heard that Paul and Silas were Roman citizens, they were alarmed. ³⁹ They came to appease them and escorted them from the prison, requesting them to leave the city. ⁴⁰ After Paul and Silas came out of the prison, they went to Lydia's house, where they met with the brothers and encouraged them. Then they left.

About eleven years later, prisoner Paul writes to the church at Philippi from house arrest at Rome

- 33 AD** – Saul/Paul is saved on the road to Damascus and immediately begins ministry – Acts 9
- 49 AD** – Paul sets out on his second missionary journey, eventually traveling into Macedonia – Acts 15-16
- 50 AD** – Paul plants a church in Philippi, a city in Macedonia, along with his partners (Silas, Timothy, and Luke) – Acts 16
- 55-57 AD** – Paul visits the Philippian church twice during his third missionary journey – Acts 20:1-3.
- 57 AD** – Paul is arrested in Jerusalem, then spends two years in prison at Caesarea – Acts 21-26
- 59 AD** – As a prisoner under Roman guard, Paul sets sail from Caesarea toward Rome – Acts 27-28
- 60 AD** – Paul arrives in Rome, where he spends two years (60-62 AD) under house arrest awaiting trial – Acts 28
- 60 AD** – Paul has several ministry partners with him while at Rome, including Timothy – Philippians 1:1; Colossians 1:1; Philemon 1:1

- ▶ Paul writes several letters to churches while under house arrest at Rome, including this letter to the Philippians.
- ▶ Paul sends the letter to Philippi with Epaphroditus, who had come from Philippi to bring Paul financial provision.
- ▶ In the text of the letter to the Philippians, Paul identifies himself as a prisoner multiples times.

I am in chains (1:7–1:13–1:17) — *the whole palace guard* (1:13) — *Caesar's household* (4:22)

