

## Philippians – “Rejoice in the Lord always...!”

#12 in series “Words of God to You”

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1. Author – “Paul and Timothy, bondservants of Jesus Christ...” [1:1a]
  - Timothy mentioned – but probably more as a partner in ministry than co-author. [cf. 2:19- 20]
  - Paul writes here NOT so much as an apostle, but simply as “a servant of Jesus Christ”.
2. Date – mid-50’s to early-60’s, from prison [cf. 1:12-24]
  - Paul was imprisoned in Caesarea [Acts 24:27], in Rome [Acts 28:30] and many other places as well [II Cor. 11:23, “...in prisons more frequently...”], including Philippi!
  - Possibly Rome has the edge; cf. 4:22 “the saints greet you, especially those of Caesar’s house”.
3. Destination – “to all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi...” [1:1b]
  - A Roman military colony and the leading city in Macedonia.
  - Paul’s main contact with Philippi:
    - Acts 16:11-15 – planted first European church in home of a God-worshipper named Lydia.
    - Acts 16:16-40 – Paul and Silas beaten and imprisoned – and the jailer gets saved!!
4. Purpose: to thank the Philippian believers for their partnership in the good news of Jesus. [1:3-5]
5. Philippians is difficult to outline – it is so personal and flows freely from theme to theme - but note the following key texts, pastoral encouragement and instruction:
  - 1:6 “...being confident...that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it...”
  - 1:14-18 “...only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is preached...”
  - 1:21 “For me to live is Christ, to die is gain...”
  - 1:29 “For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ...to suffer for His sake...”
  - 2:1-2 “...if there is any encouragement in Christ...be likeminded, have the same love...”
  - 2:5 “Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ...who made Himself of no reputation...”
  - 2:15 “...become blameless...in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation...”
  - 3:2 “Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the mutilation...”
  - 3:8 “...I count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord...”
  - 3:13-14 “...forgetting those things which are behind...I press toward the goal for the prize...”
  - 3:20 “For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior...”
  - 4:4 “Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!”
  - 4:6-7 “Be anxious for nothing but in everything...let your requests be made known to God...”
  - 4:8 “...whatever things are true, noble, just, pure, lovely...meditate on these things...”
  - 4:11-12 “I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content...”
  - 4:13 “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me!”
  - 4:19 “My God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus!”