

# Lesson 1

## Joy in All Things

### Philippians 1:1-18

The Book of Philippians has become known as the book of joy. To many, it would seem impossible for Christians to have joy during a period in time when they were being persecuted for their faith and often facing death for their faith. And how could the Apostle Paul write this letter of joy while languishing in prison? As we study this wonderful epistle, we will learn the true source of the kind of joy we can experience in all things, even in the face of hardships and suffering, trials and tribulations; a joy that is not dependent on our circumstances.

#### **Read Philippians 1:1-18.**

- 1 To set the stage (so to speak), who is writing this letter and to whom is it addressed?
  - a. How does Paul describe himself and his companion, Timothy?
  - b. Define what Paul means by portraying himself and Timothy in that manner.
  
2. As you read verses 3-5 and 8, how would you describe Paul's feelings for the believers in Philippi?

3. As Paul prayed for the Philippian believers, what was it that he was thankful for?

a. What does it mean to you to be in fellowship with other believers at church? How does it impact your life?

b. How do you suppose being isolated and out of fellowship with other believers can affect someone's life?

4. In verse 6, Paul says he is confident "that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ."

a. What do you think Paul means by this?

1) According to the following verses, what is the good work He has begun in you?

Romans 8:29—

2 Timothy 2:19—

2 Corinthians 3:18—

- b. What are some ways God works in us to complete the good work He has begun?
  
- c. What does the term “day of Jesus Christ” mean?

PERSONAL: Can you think of a specific way God is working in your life at this point in time to complete the good work He has begun in you? What do you feel God wants you to do or not do and how can you carry that out in obedience to His leading? Commit now to walk in obedience and pray for God’s guidance and enabling as you respond to His will.

5. From verses 9-11, list the four parts of Paul’s prayer for the Philippians.

1) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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3) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

a. Choose one of the above that you would most want someone to pray about for you, just as Paul is praying for the Philippians. Explain why.

6. In verse 12 Paul states that his imprisonment has really served to advance the gospel. What are the two examples he cites for the Philippians in verses 13 and 14?

1) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. In verse 17, what does Paul say about God's will and purpose for Paul's being in prison?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
8. Why do you think Paul didn't care about the motives of those who preached Christ?
  - a. According to the following verses, from where does the power to save come?

Isaiah 55:11—

Romans 1:16—

Romans 10:17—

1 Corinthians 1:18—

9. Considering the previous question, do believers bear any responsibility at all regarding the salvation of unbelievers? Explain why or why not.
  - a. What are some ways we can share Jesus with others?
  - b. Choose one unbeliever you know and commit to pray for them regularly and to witness to them about Jesus.
  
10. Can you think of an instance of someone preaching the gospel for selfish ambition or for dishonest gain?
  - b. Do you think someone can come to the knowledge of the gospel even through someone who has ulterior motives for preaching the gospel?

Share one thing from this lesson that has ministered to you and how you will apply this lesson to your life.







