

# PHILIPPIANS

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**1. TITLES:**

- A. The Epistle to the Philippians
- B. The Book of Joy and Rejoicing

**2. AUTHOR:**

Written by Paul, the apostle to the Gentiles.

**3. DATE:**

Probably written between 60 and 64 A.D. during Paul's first imprisonment at Rome (Acts 28).

**4. KEY WORDS:**

- A. Joy, Rejoice – 18
- B. Mind (ed, s) – 10

**5. KEY VERSES: 2:2; 4:4**

**6. PURPOSE:**

- A. To thank the church for their gifts and to inform them of Paul's intended visit.
- B. To warn them against the Judaizing false teachers.
- C. To exhort them to be likeminded by having the mind of Christ.
- D. To encourage them to rejoice in all circumstances.

**7. MESSAGE:**

- A. The Christian life is one of joy and rejoicing which is independent of all circumstances.
- B. The key to unity (being likeminded) is having the mind of Christ.

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## 8. OUTLINE:

Rejoice in:

- I. Christ our Life (1:21) ..... Ch. 1
- II. Christ our Mind (2:5) ..... Ch. 2
- III. Christ our Goal (3:10, 14) ..... Ch. 3
- IV. Christ our Strength (4:13) ..... Ch. 4

## 9. SUMMARY:

The church at Philippi was founded by Paul and Silas on Paul's second missionary journey (Acts 16). Some of the first converts were gained as a result of Paul's rejoicing while in prison and it is very fitting that Paul while in prison at Rome would write an epistle of joy to this church. The theme of joy and rejoicing can be traced through the epistle as follows: Joy and Prayer (1:4-6), Joy and Opposition (1:14-18), Joy and Faith (1:25, 26), Joy and Unity (2:2), Joy and Ministry (2:14-16), Joy and Sacrifice (2:17, 18), Joy and Victory (2:25-29), Rejoicing in the Lord (3:1-3), Rejoicing Always (4:4), Rejoicing in All Circumstances (4:10-12). It is also interesting to note that faith, love, unity, and humility are seen as being at the root of joy.

## 10. CHRIST SEEN:

Christ is seen as our Joy, our Life, our Mind, our Goal, and our Strength.