

Philippians Expanded & Explained

Chapter 1

1 Paul, the apostle to the Gentiles and Timothy, his scribe and companion, bond-servants of Christ Jesus, having been bought by Him, and to whom our will are entirely in subjection.

To all the saints – the ones set aside for a sacred purpose – who are so because of their eternal position in Christ Jesus who are in the Roman colony of Philippi, including the ones who have been recognized by the local church as having been made by the Holy Spirit to be overseers and deacons: 2 The Greek greeting of grace be to you all and the Jewish greeting of peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we enjoy both grace and peace.

3 I am continuing to good-grace my God in all my remembrance of you, 4 always offering prayer with grace-given joy in my every prayer for you all, 5 in view of your ongoing financial and other participation in the gospel from the first day, when Lydia became a believer, until now, since you have just sent additional support through Epaphroditus.

6 For I [Paul] have already been persuaded [to the point of confidence] of this very thing, that He [the Lord] who in the past started a good work in you [as you participated in the sharing of the gospel] will bring that work to completion until the day of Christ Jesus [when He comes for His church].

7 For it is only morally and spiritually right for me to both have this mindset and to feel this way about you all, because I have and hold you in my very heart, since both in my bonded imprisonment and in the legal defense and confirmation of the good message, you all are continually fellow sharers of this God-given gift of ministry with me. 8 For God [is] my unimpeachable and all-knowing witness, how I long for you all with the deep-seated affection that has the person of Christ Jesus as its source.

9 And for this I am continuing to make specific requests directed to God, that the self-sacrificial love of you all, with God as its source, will be continuing to overflow still more and more, entirely within the bounds of intensive personal knowledge and comprehensive discernment, 10 so that you will be giving approval to the things that pass examination, in order to be unmixed with evil and spiritually whole until the day when Christ returns for His church; 11 having in the past been completely filled to overflowing with the product of right standing with God and having continuing results into the future, that being by means of Jesus Christ, to the unmatched splendor and the extolling of the virtues and accomplishments of God.

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12 Now I want you to be aware, my brethren in Christ, that my circumstances have worked out for the clearing of the way of the good message of Jesus Christ, 13 so that my being constantly bound to a soldier in the cause of Christ has become well known throughout the whole praetorian guard and to others in Caesar's household, to believers, and to other Jews and Gentiles alike, 14 and that most of the brethren in Christ, having been made confident because of my being constantly bound to a soldier, are acting much more boldly, speaking the word of God without fear.

15 Some [of those speaking boldly], to be sure, are preaching the true message of Christ even if they are doing it from the fleshly motivations of envy and strife, but some others are also [speaking boldly] with motivations springing from good will that is characteristic of the life of Christ in the believer; 16 the latter preach the true message of Christ out of a heart of love which proceeds from the very life of Christ, having fully seen that I am appointed by God's own doing for the systematic defense of the good message; 17 the former proclaim the true message of Christ out of fleshly selfish ambition rather than from pure motives originating in the person of Jesus Christ, continuing to think that they are causing me distress in my being continually chained to a praetorian guard.

18 What really matters in the progress of the gospel then? Only that in every way, whether in fleshly motivations or from motivations that are in line with the truth, the true message of Christ is proclaimed; and in this progress of the gospel I am now continuing to rejoice. Yes, and I will in the future rejoice repeatedly as well.

19 For I have in the past come to the complete understanding that this legal appeal to Caesar [in the midst of a bold proclamation of the gospel] will result at journey's end for my deliverance from these current circumstances of being constantly chained to a praetorian guard, by means of your prayers on my behalf [which is a part of your greater participation with me] and the freely given provision by means of the Spirit who is sent by Jesus Christ and who always directs my attention to Him, 20 all of which is entirely consistent with my intense anticipation and confident expectation which are entirely in Jesus Christ, that I will not be put to shame before my Lord Jesus Christ in anything, but that with all boldness, Christ will in the present and in the future, be exalted and glorified and honored and magnified in my physical body, whether by means of my being given life and freedom or by means of this legal appeal resulting in my death.

21 For to me [Paul], the living of this life is summed up entirely in the person of Jesus Christ, and to have died so as to be with Him is gain. 22 But if I am to continue to live in the flesh, this will mean fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which to choose. 23 But I am hard-pressed from both directions, having the desire to depart and be with

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Christ, for that is very much better; 24 yet to remain on in the flesh is more necessary for your sake, so that I can continue ministry among you.

25 Having in the past been fully persuaded that my coming to you for further ministry among you is truly needed, I perceive that I will stay here on earth and continue my ministry with you all for your strategic spiritual advancement and God-given joy in faith, 26 so that your rejoicing and glorying in my presence may overflow in rejoicing about and entirely within Christ Jesus, by means of my being with you again.

27 Only you must live in your condition in a manner consistent with your position as heavenly citizens, entirely within the truth of the good message about the person of Christ, so that independent of whether I come and see you or remain absent [not depending in the least upon the legal outcome of my appeal to Caesar], I will hear of you that you are in your condition continuing to stand firmly upon your eternally held position, in spiritual unity, with one perspective and way of thinking continuing to strive together – standing your ground together & contending totally in unison - for the specific faith conveyed to you that is the one truly good message; 28 your living as heavenly citizens will then be such that you are not in any way alarmed and terrified by the threatening behavior of your spiritual opponents [as if your position in Christ could somehow be threatened] --which threatening is evidence of their being on the path to spiritual and eternal destruction, but which lack of fear on your part is evidence of your condition being consistent with your eternally held position of salvation in Christ, and that unique and precious salvation, as you know, knowing that both the evidence and the salvation originate from the eternal being and unchangeable character of God Himself.

29 For to you [the church in Philippi] it has been given out of undeserved grace regarding Christ, not only the continually believing into Him, but also the continually suffering regarding Him, 30 right now continually having in your personal possession the same athletic-like conflict which you saw in me [while I was in Philippi with you], and now hear about me [now that I am in Rome being continually chained to a Praetorian guard].

Chapter 2

1 Therefore since [there is] certain called alongside ministry in and through us based upon our position in Christ, certain alongside heart to heart communication, certain sharing and joint participation because of the work and presence of the Spirit we all have in common, certain affection, tenderness compassion and mercies [based on your position in Christ and the accompanying ministries in and among you], 2 you must by logical conclusion fill up my grace-given joy to the point of completion by being of the same thinking and perspective, [having] the same self-sacrificing love which has God as its source, [being] souls together because of who Christ is and who you all are in Him, all of you together thinking as one person, since you all have the one mind of

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Christ, thinking nothing which springs from the fleshly mind set on selfish ambition or empty glory, but in extreme contrast with a humble self estimation holding the needs of one another within the body of Christ as more important than the needs of your own selves; 4 each one of you not having a perspective of mind that is looking out for your own personal interests at the exclusion of others, but in extreme contrast each one of you having a perspective that also looks out for the interests of others in the body of Christ.

5 You all must, because of the profound character of who you are in Christ and the life you have in Him, be continuing to be minded in yourselves - that same being minded as was in Christ Jesus, 6 who, in the expression of His essential nature being deity, did not regard the heavenly glories, privileges and honors of His deity something to be retained at all costs 7 but abandoning the heavenly glories, privileges and honors due Himself, taking upon Himself the form of a bond-servant to His Father, and being made in outward expression like earthly men. 8 Being found in outward expression as an earthly man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to His Father to the point of death, even a most humbling and humiliating death on a universally despised cross.

9 For this reason [as given in verses 5-8] God the Father highly exalted Christ, and grace-gave Him the name of the identity which is above every other named identity in the created universe, 10 so that at the named identity of the God-exalted Jesus Christ every being will acknowledge Christ's supreme authority and position: those beings in the heavenlies and earthlies and underearthlies, 11 and that every tongue will confess agreement that Jesus Christ is Lord of all creation, attributing glory to God the Father, as established between them in eternity past.

12 So then [based on the things that have been said in the verses before], the ones whom I love with a love having God as its origin, just as you have always listened attentively to what I have taught, with the intent of application, not only in my special presence along-side you, but now much more in my absence, you must, as a logical conclusion springing from your position of salvation [which you already have], take it to its conclusion in your present condition with respect and profound reverence, 13 for it is God who is constantly actively energizing in you, through both the having in mind for His purpose and the actively energizing, all under the benevolent intent [of Him].

14 In keeping with the spiritual unity which each of you already has in your position in Christ, do all things continually in your condition without an undertone of grumbling or disputing founded in suspicion and doubt, which springs from and produces spiritual death; 15 in order that you will become people with whom nobody can find blame regarding external behavior and unadulterated at heart, your being related to God being evident to others and being as free of blemish as Christ Himself,

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that being true while you are right in the very midst of people who by character are morally and spiritually crooked and twisted, among whom you appear as shining lights in the darkest world, 16 everyone among you giving their utmost attention to the message which springs from Christ who is our very life and the only hope of life in them, so that in the day when all believers stand in judgment before Christ I will have reason, in your having been rewarded as well, to glory because I did not run in vain nor toil in vain, because you did not run in vain nor toil in vain either.

17 But even if I am right now continuing to be figuratively speaking “poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrifice and service of your faith” – in which case both are pointing to Christ the ultimate and final sacrifice, and are pleasing to God in our present service, I rejoice with God’s grace-given joy within myself and share my grace-given joy mutually and together with you all, in a joy and unity that this world cannot begin to comprehend. 18 All of you too (every single one), I urge you – since it is of utmost spiritual importance - based upon who you are in Christ both individually and together, rejoice with God’s grace-given joy together within and amongst each other in the same way as you have seen in me, and likewise share your grace-given joy which you have together with and in union with me.

19 But I personally hope, holding that hope subject to the will of the Lord Jesus, to send Timothy to you soon, among the reasons being that I also may be cheered and encouraged when I learn of your condition since the last report we had of you, eagerly anticipating your spiritual progress. 20 For I have not here in Rome even one person who is so like-minded as Timothy who will truly be far more concerned for your welfare than his own, so as to make the forty day trip on foot each way, and looking past all traveling risks as well. 21 For all the others, except for Timothy, seek after their own personal interests, rather than the ultimate spiritual concerns of others, in view of who Christ Jesus is and our eternal position in Him. 22 But, you know by personal experience Timothy’s tested and examined character, that as a devoted child would his father, he served as a wholly owned bondservant, making his will entirely subject to Christ, right alongside me for the past 12 years.

23 Therefore I hope, which hope is subject to the will of the Lord Jesus, to send Timothy to you immediately upon my turning my attention from being focused upon you so as to see how things go with my legal proceedings; 24 and being optimistic about my circumstances, I have confidence, subject to the will of the Lord, that I also will be coming to visit you shortly as well, following Timothy’s visit to you.

25 But I, having carefully considered the facts, was compelled to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother in the Lord and together worker in the service of the gospel and together soldier, taking a stand alongside me in his position in Christ, who is also your special messenger and the one who in sacred service has ministered to my needs while I am in prison; 26 because he was intensely longing for you all and was greatly

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distressed because you had heard that he was sick. 27 For indeed he was sick, being right next to physical death, but God had mercy on him, and not on him only but also on me, so that I would not have sorrow upon sorrow as a result of Epaphroditus death while in service to my needs. 28 Therefore I have sent him all the more eagerly – with urgency - so that when you see him again, when he arrives with this letter, you may rejoice and I may be less concerned about you. 29 You must welcome him then, having the Lord's view of things, with all grace-given joy, and hold men who are in character like him to be considered of high value; 30 because in extreme service he came close to death for the work of Christ, in delivering my support funds, providing me updates on the condition of your church body, and caring for me, putting his own life at risk to complete the balance of your service to my needs as I carry out my special commission from the Lord.

Chapter 3

As for the rest of what I have to say to you who share a birthing into the family of God with me, let me preface it with this pivotal and essential truth: you must of logical necessity express that grace-given joy which springs from and has its basis in the Lord – who He is, what He has done, and who we are in Him. To write the same things again, as I have before, is no bother to me – even by repetition, and it is a foolproof spiritual safeguard for every single one of you and the church body as a whole.

2 You must of logical necessity, based on your eternally fixed position in Christ, be in continuing cautious awareness of the pack of those legalists who are viciously & indiscriminately attacking & spiritually scavenging unclean food, of the ones who are basically evil in what they seek to accomplish, of those who seek to make a name for themselves & falsely presume to impress God by mutilating their followers in a manner that is in keeping with pagan rituals & practices 3 for we who are in Christ in our position are by the expression of that position in our present condition - the very life of Christ – continuing to have the circumcision which is a mark on the heart, exclusive of gender, since we worship in the Spirit of God so as to focus our attention upon & behold Jesus Christ & find ample reason to glory in the unique person & accomplishments of Christ Jesus, & place absolutely no confidence in human credentials,⁴ although I, Paul, could overwhelm the credentials of the Judaizers, if I had any confidence in human credentials. If anyone else, such as any of the Judaizers, has a perspective such as to put confidence in human credentials, I have far more impressive human credentials than any of them: 5 I was circumcised on the eighth day in accordance with Mosaic Law, so I am born into the nation of Israel through Law abiding parents, and I am not a Gentile convert, as many of the Judaizers are; I am born of the bloodline of the tribe of Benjamin, which is the kingly lineage of Saul, Benjamin being the only son of Jacob actually born in the land of Israel; I am in every way the very epitome of all that makes one a Hebrew; as to the Law given through Moses, I am in every regard a leader in the party of the Pharisees; 6 as to measuring my human qualifications by the degree of zeal for the Law, I was the foremost and

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most aggressive persecutor of those who claim salvation through faith in Christ alone, even pursuing them to the point of death; as to the righteousness which can be established by external obedience to the Mosaic Law and all its extensions and convolutions through tradition, I was repeatedly found blameless in the estimation of my peers, the Pharisees

7 But whatever things were in the past entered in my personal ledger being valued as gain from my perspective [being my Jewish lineage, heritage and accomplishments as measured by Mosaic Law and the tradition of the Pharisees], those things I have now after careful consideration completely valued as and entered in my personal ledger as a total loss for the sake of Christ. 8 Beyond that, I have a perspective such that I now continually count all things to be entered in my personal ledger as a loss in view of realizing the surpassing value, above all present and former things, of the personal knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all the things I once valued as a gain in my personal ledger, and now continue to count them in value only a totally worthless waste on the basis that I have in the past gained Christ, 9 and in order that I will be found by Him in Him, not then or now having a righteousness from my own self-efforts which has been achieved by keeping the Mosaic Law and the human traditions added to it by the Pharisees, but in sharp contrast, that righteousness which is completely through faith, trust and confidence in the person and work of Christ, that is, the very eternally established measure of absolute righteousness which is Christ Himself, which comes from God only on the basis of faith in Christ,

10 My aim and constant aspiration is that I would continually know Jesus Christ personally and also know the unique and extraordinary power of His specific resurrection in my present life and that I would know the common participation in His sufferings, by God's doing outwardly expressing the inner nature of Jesus Christ in my life by reason of my being identified with Him in His death; 11 so then – in God-given fulfillment of my confident expectation - I will arrive at the intended destination which is the out-resurrection out from the dead ones, having then, a resurrection body as does Jesus Christ, with whom I have been identified.

12 Just so you don't misunderstand me, I want you to know that I have not even at this point already taken possession by my own actions of total knowledge of Christ or of conformity with Him, nor have I already been made completely spiritually mature by being conformed to His image by God's own doing, but, I am right now continuing to press on without hesitation or letup in order that I will take down as a prize that for which I also was taken down as a prize by Christ Jesus at the time when He pursued me as a prize. 13 Brethren in Christ – having spiritual relationship with one another because of relationship with Him, I do not make a judgment regarding myself, based on careful consideration, as having already taken down the prize; but I have one thing in my focus: I am constantly in the process of forgetting what lies in the past and I am

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continually reaching forward to what lies ahead in the future, 14 I am right now continuing to press on without hesitation or letup, looking with constant attention toward the person of Christ for the prize of the upward call of God in the heavenlies, when this life is completed at His declaration, which upward call to me as the victor I have by reason of my being in Christ Jesus, which will bring me to a place of being rewarded by Christ and being fully conformed to Him – only at that victorious moment will my condition be permanently conformed to the position I already have in Christ.

15 Let us therefore, as the character of those who are approaching spiritual maturity, have this mindset, involving all of the mind, and settled perspectives and values; and if in any regarding any one of you has a mindset that is not in line with what I have written above, He will bring you to a place of personally understanding these essential truths that I have just now written down. 16 however, let us as believers in Christ continue along together in an orderly and consistent manner in our condition, as is fitting to the eternal position that we already have now in Christ.

17 Brethren in Christ – those having spiritual relationship with one another because of positional relationship with Him, you must of logical conclusion, based on your position in Christ, be followers together of the pattern of beholding Christ that I have shown you, and likewise pay close attention to those among you who are also beholding Christ so as to live in the context of life according to the template you have in us – as we are likewise occupied with Christ. 18 I must make this critical distinction because there are many on this earth who live, of whom I often told you when I was with you, and now tell you even weeping out loud, that they are enemies of the cross of Christ, standing opposed to or abusing His grace, and standing opposed to the sufficiency of His death on the cross. 19 These are the ones whose destination is spiritual destruction because they stand opposed to the cross of Christ, whose worship as to a god is directed to their appetite, being a slave to it, and whose highest expression of glory is no better than their shame, whose mindset is entirely focused upon and pivoting on earthly objects, events and processes.

20 For just as you are all living in a colony far from Rome, every one of you recognizes the immense earthly value of Roman citizenship, every one of us as believers already have our citizenship, with all of its rights and privileges, fixed permanently in the heavenlies, and from the heavenlies we are continuing with eager anticipation to await a Savior with which Rome's emperor cannot begin to compare, the Lord [having supreme authority] Jesus [whose very name means "Savior"] Christ [the Anointed One, as Prophet, Priest & King]; 21 [the Lord Jesus Christ] who will transfer the form of this body, which has not yet been glorified but is still subject to the reigning principles of this present earth and is still now part of the Old Creation, into the full outward expression of the inner nature we have in our eternal position in Christ so as to have in completeness the very likeness of the body of His glory as

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resurrected, as under the New Creation. That will come by the putting into action of the awesome authority that Christ has of the kind that will place all things without exception into entire subjection to Himself.

Chapter 4

1 Therefore, based upon the inspired truths that I have just written to you, you whom I love with the love which has God Himself as its source and who have an eternal spiritual relationship with me based on your mutual eternal spiritual relationship with the Lord and whom I long for because you are so dear to me, the very ones in whom I find grace-given joy independent of my circumstances and are my living symbol of spiritual victory, in these ways I have explained above, stand firm as the Lord's soldiers upon the position you have permanently in the Lord who purchased your position with His very life, those whom I love with God's love.

2 I come alongside Euodia to counsel her and I come alongside Syntyche to counsel her to be of the same spiritual mindset based upon the position and mind they share in the Lord by His accomplishment. 3 Indeed, true Syzygus, who is in every way one who pulls the same yoke (being a living example of being of the same mindset), I request of you also to work in a spirit of mutual assistance with these women who have joined with me in the athletically intense effort in the cause of the good news, together with Clement also and the rest of the ones who work together with me, whose names are on the list of citizens who have an eternally fixed position in the heavenlies.

4 You must, of logical necessity, based on your position in the Lord and with Him as the source, right now continue to express grace-given joy at all times and circumstances; I will say it again: you must continue to express grace-given joy! 5 The gentle spirit which is characteristic of Jesus Christ must be expressed by God's doing and be made known by their experience to all men. The Lord's coming for us imminent. 6 You must, of logical necessity based on your position in Christ, be anxious for absolutely nothing, but in sharp contrast to that anxiety, in everything by prayer and specific requests, all with a perspective and character of thanksgiving, your requests must be made known to God. 7 And as a result the peace which comes from God, which surpasses all worldly comprehension since it is not dependent upon circumstances, will scout out for your hearts and your minds, as you are founded upon your eternal position in Christ Jesus.

8 Finally, all of you, being spiritually related by reason of their mutual relationship in Christ, all those things that are true, all things honorable, all things right, all things pure, all things lovely, all things of good repute, since there is moral excellence and since there is worthiness of praise, carefully consider and reckon upon these things. 9 The things you have learned as a disciple and received from me your teacher and heard from me and seen as reality in me, you must put into practice by reason of your

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eternal position in Christ, and as you do so, the God of peace will be with you, so as to provide every resource - His life - for your doing so.

10 But I rejoiced greatly, with grace-given joy, in the person and work and position of the Lord, that now, having received your gift from Epaphroditus at last, you have revived your mindedness about me; indeed, you had that mindedness before, but because I was able to support myself by tentmaking until recently, you lacked opportunity. 11 It is not that I speak from severe lack, for I have actively learned as a disciple to be self sufficient entirely by Christ's sufficiency in whatever circumstances I happen to find myself.

12 I knew in the past with ongoing results even now how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have been taught by Christ completely in the past the revealed mystery of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need: 13 I can live through all extremes of need and prosperity by means of Him who provides in me the entire ability to do so. 14 Nevertheless, you have done well to share with me in my affliction by providing this gracious gift at this time.

15 You yourselves also are in fact well aware, Philippians of Rome, that at the first preaching of the gospel in Philippi, after I left Macedonia, where Philippi is located, no church shared as a fellowship with me in the friendly interactions of giving and receiving but you Philippians – your relationship with me being so special; 16 for even while we were in Thessalonica, and not even having left Macedonia yet, you sent multiple gifts that precisely met my specific and genuine need. 17 Please understand that I am not in the habit of seeking the gift that you send as an end in itself, but in sharp contrast, I habitually seek for the spiritual fruit which increases to your spiritual account, so that you may grow spiritually and be eternally rewarded for being used of the Lord by virtue of His life in you and being expressed through you.

18 But I have received everything in full – you owe me nothing more - and I now have an abundance of supply to meet my specific and real needs; I am amply supplied, having already received from Epaphroditus what you have sent. Your gift to me is received as a sacrifice to the Lord: a fragrant aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well-pleasing to God. 19 And the God with whom I have a personal relationship will supply all your genuine needs in keeping with the infinite quantity and eternal quality of His glorious riches made available to you by reason of your position in Christ Jesus. 20 Now to our mutual God and our Father be attributed the glory which is His very nature forever and ever. So be it. 21 I ask that you who read this greet every believer who has been made holy because of his position in Christ Jesus. The ones who have the same Father and are therefore your brethren, who are with me, greet every one of you in Philippi as well. 22 All the ones having been made saints here greet all of you, especially those who serve in various capacities in the service of Caesar. 23 The marvelous matchless grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.