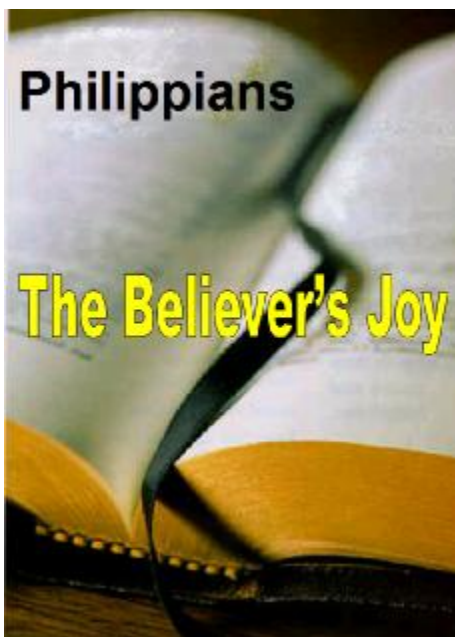


The Bible Companion Series

THE BELIEVER'S JOY IN THE LORD

The Epistle to the Philippians



A Bible-Believing Study Guide

AV 1611 Bible Companion

“Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice.”

Philippians 4:4

INSTRUCTOR'S EDITION

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A Note Concerning the Cork Bible Institute

This study course is intended to be used in conjunction with the Cork Bible Institute and contains a Final Exam that can be applied towards credit in the Institute. If you want your participation in this course to be part of an overall course accreditation, please inform Pastor Ledbetter and he will make sure your records are retained. Your attendance will be recorded, and there will be a class project for you to complete by the end of the ten week course.

Class Project:

To pass this course, you will need to write a three page report on:

“JOY – How the Believer remains joyful when they want to give up”.

Introduction to Philippians

The Believer's Joy is in the Lord

Introduction

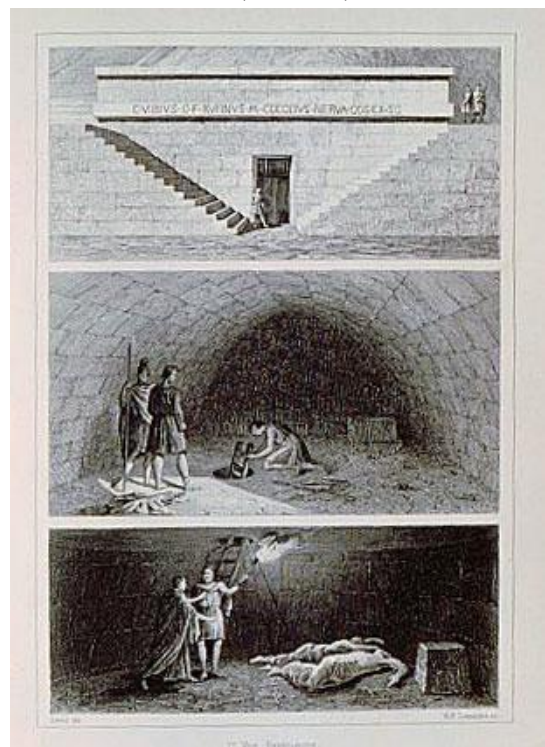
I. Book Introduction

- A. Key verse: Philippians 4:4. Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice.
- B. Key word: "Joy". Found 16 times in 4 chapters. Someone said that Paul's chains must have sounded like "joy bells" to him!
- C. Theme: 1. God is all-sufficient to meet all our needs: through His presence, provision, and protection. 2. Rejoice in the Lord regardless of the circumstances.
- D. Author

- 1. The Apostle Paul
- 2. Written down by Timothy, a new helper with Paul. He grew up nearby in Lystra, and even though taught the holy Scriptures by his Mother Eunice and Grandmother Lois (2Tim 2:5), Paul led him to Christ (1Tim 1:2)

- E. Written to the Church at Philippi, from the Mamertine Prison at Rome.
- F. Date Written: A.D. 63 (approximately) - Ten years after Paul was imprisoned at Rome.
- G. Not a letter you would expect from PRISON!
- H. Who are the Philippians?

- 1. Today, Philippi is an excavated ruin, dug up by French archaeologists from 1914 to 1938 and still being excavated today. When Paul arrived, it was one of the leading cities of Macedonia, founded in the 350 b.c. by Alexander the Great's father, Philip of Macedonia, and surrounded by fortified walls.
- 2. In 42 BC., the army of Mark Antony and Octavian (later Caesar Augustus--Luke 2:1) defeated the army of Brutus and Cassius, the assassins of Julius Caesar, on the Plain of Philippi. In honour of his victory, Octavian made Philippi a Roman colony and settled the veterans of the battle there.
- 3. The impressive ruins cover many acres



I. Data:

- 1. The Background of this writing is given in Acts 16.
 - a. Part of Paul's second missionary journey. Travels 1,300 miles from Jerusalem to Philippi, in JUST TWO YEARS!!!
 - b. You will find Philippi in ruins today, but Paul found Macedonia spiritually in ruins.
 - c. Accompanied by Silas, Timothy and possibly Luke, Paul preached for the first time on European soil in Philippi (Acts 16:12-40)
 - d. The Church in Philippi began with three converts: a wealthy woman named Lydia, a demon-possessed slave girl, and a Philippian jailer. What a church family!!!
 - e. While in Philippi, his exorcism of a demon from a slave girl caused a great uproar in the city, which led to their (Paul and Silas) arrest and public beating (Acts 16:16-24). Beaten and sore, they began to sing – JOY! After several hours passed, an earthquake caused their prison to be opened. When the jailer awoke, he prepared to kill himself, thinking all the prisoners had escaped and knowing that he would be severely punished. Paul stopped him, indicating that all the prisoners were in fact still there. The jailer then became one of the first Christians in Europe (Acts 16:25-40). At this time, there was barely a Jewish community and no synagogue (Acts 16:13). Those Jews present did not seem to include any men and met by the river, a common meeting place in the absence of a synagogue.
 - f. Paul visited the city on two other occasions, in 56 and 57 AD.

2. Christ is mentioned 36 times.
3. Sin is only mentioned once.
4. This is called the Joy epistle.
5. Gives us the "secret of joy."
6. Teaches us how to live above our circumstances.
7. Some form of joy is mentioned 16 times.
8. Pessimism is not the rule in Philippians despite the constant threat of difficult circumstances.
9. Rebukes Philippians for disunity- this is inconsistent with the unity of the Body of Christ.
10. Commands the believers to "Be ye followers of me." (1 Cor. 4:16 and 11:1; Phil. 3:17 and 4:9)
11. This Letter is one of the four prison epistles (letters written by Paul from prison). The others were: Ephesians, Colossians, and Philemon,

J. Chronology - Significant Events in Paul's Second Missionary Journey

1. 50 A.D.

- a. Paul and Barnabas attend the "Council of Jerusalem" (see Acts 15).

2. 51 A.D.

- a. Second missionary journey begins. Paul and Barnabas travel to Antioch.
- b. At Antioch John Mark (who left them at Perga on their first missionary journey) wishes to rejoin Paul/Barnabas. A disagreement ensues between Paul and Barnabas about whether to allow Mark to come with them. The argument is so heated that Paul finally decides to take Silas with him to Tarsus, Derbe, Lystra, Iconium and Antioch in Pisidia. Barnabas takes John Mark and travels to the island of Cypress (Cyprus).
- c. At Lystra Paul meets Timothy, who accompanies him on the rest of his journey.

3. 52 A.D.

- a. Paul/Silas/Timothy travel to Troas, Philippi, Thessalonica and Berea (Berea).
- b. Jews from Thessalonica come to Berea and stir up the people against Paul. He is sent by sea to Athens. Silas and Timothy stay in Berea for a time. It is possible Timothy later travels to Athens, meets Paul, and is sent to revisit Thessalonica.
- c. Paul travels to Corinth and writes 1 Thessalonians. Timothy and Silas are with him. Paul meets Aquila and Priscilla.
- d. Claudius expels the Jews from Rome (see Acts 18:2)

4. 53 A.D.

- a. Paul stays in Corinth and writes 2 Thessalonians.

5. 54 A.D.

- a. Paul, Aquila and Priscilla leave Corinth in the Spring and arrive at Ephesus. Aquila and Priscilla stay in Ephesus as Paul travels on to Jerusalem. Paul arrives in the city in the Summer (Pentecost). He then goes to Antioch.
- b. Death of Claudius and accession of Nero.

6. *Chronology and Events taken from The Life & Epistles of St. Paul by Conybeare and Howson*



II. Basic Outlines - This Book describes...

1. The Christian's Look
 - a. Inward Look, ch. 1
 - b. Backward Look, ch. 2
 - c. Forward Look, ch. 3
 - d. Upward Look, ch. 4
2. The Christian's Saviour
 - a. Christ our Passion, ch. 1
 - b. Christ our Pattern, ch. 2
 - c. Christ our Prize, ch. 3
 - d. Christ our Power, ch. 4
3. The Christian's Mind
 - a. Happy Mind, ch. 1
 - b. Humble Mind, ch. 2
 - c. Heavenly Mind, ch. 3
 - d. Holy mind, ch. 4
4. The Christian's Life
 - a. Believer's Purpose, ch. 1
 - b. Believer's Pattern, ch. 2
 - c. Believer's Prize, ch. 3
 - d. Believer's Provision, ch. 4

III. Lesson - Greeting

- A. Paul and Timothy
 1. Team – Paul and Silas, Paul and Barnabas, Barnabas and John Mark
 2. Servants - serving the Lord, doing the Lord's business
 3. Yes they had authority, but they were servant leaders
- B. To All the Saints
 1. Sanctified people – holy people, clean, washed, God's children!
 2. The saints on earth – equal with the saints in heaven!!!
 3. These saints lived in Philippi, Ephesus (Eph 1:1), Rome (Rom 1:7), etc
 4. They were not loners, but grouped, assembled together into local churches (1Cor 1:2; Rom 16:5)
- C. And to the Church Leaders (Cf 1Tim 3:1-13)
 1. Bishops
 - a. Qualified, Ordained Elders who pastored a Church
 - b. Paid by the local church
 - c. Married
 - d. Ministering the word
 - e. Well respected
 2. Deacons
 - a. Qualified, Ordained Elders who served a Church
 - b. Paid by the local church
 - c. Married
 - d. Ministering food and necessities
 - e. Well respected
 3. Where are the...
 - a. Priests
 - b. Arch-bishops

- c. Monsignors
- d. Cannons
- e. Prelates
- f. Cardinals
- g. Popes
- h. Vicars
- i. Etc

D. Grace and Peace from God

- 1. More powerful than our Enemies, Problems, Poverty, etc
- 2. Get God's grace, and you are saved from hell
- 3. Live in God's grace and you are saved from self
- 4. The peace of God