

# Joy & contentment in living a gospel- centered life

- **Philippians 1**
- Sermon by Brother Jason Coke
- (10<sup>th</sup> November 2019)

I can do all things  
—through Christ  
who strengthens me.

phil. 4:13

The background features several sets of curved lines in shades of gray, some solid and some dashed, creating a sense of movement and depth. A blue speech bubble shape is positioned on the left side, containing the title text.

## Context of Scripture

- A. Scripture is the spread of God's glory, from creation to the end of time.
- B. Glorify God - God is most glorified, when he created people
- C. Philippians is an Epistle (letter) – Application of the Gospel in our lives.
- D. Paul is writing to existing believers in Philippi

## Context of Philippians (Philippians 1:1-2)

A) Written by Paul (also called by his Jewish name “Saul”)

1. As the commission was given in Acts 1:8 and the spirit empowered believers in Acts 2, Paul thought the Christians were going against God, so he persecuted them and had them sent to prison.
2. He also approved of Stephen’s killing, the first Christian martyr. (Acts 7-8)
3. On his way to the city of Damascus, Paul encountered the risen Jesus, accepted the Gospel, and was baptized. (Acts 9)
4. From this point on, Paul spread the message to the Jews and then to the Gentiles. (Acts 13:42-49)

B) Written to  
the church in  
Philippi (Acts  
18)

1. As Paul was heading on a missionary trip toward Asia (modern-day Turkey) to take the Gospel to the Gentiles, the spirit stopped him from doing ministry there, but called him toward Macedonia (northern Greece) (Acts 16:6-10)
2. After arriving in the city of Philippi, Paul met Lydia and led her family to Christ, - the first Christians in Philippi.
3. The local people eventually threw Paul in prison. (Acts 16:16-24)
4. While in prison, Paul continued to have joy. (Acts 16:25)
5. Paul led the jailer and his family to Christ (Acts 16:26-34)
6. Paul moved on, leaving behind a church in Philippi (and possibly Luke)

# Theme of Philippians :

Joy and contentment in living a gospel-centered life.

# Paul's Prayer of Joy (Philippians 1:3-11)

## **A. Deep love**

1. One of Paul's first church plants
2. Paul remembered his time in prison in Philippi as he is now in prison

## **B. Thankful to the church's partnership in spread of the gospel (Phil. 1:3-7)**

1. They sent people to help with the work (Phil. 2:25-30)
2. They financially supported the work. (Phil. 4:15-20)

## **C. Paul desired for the church to continue growing in their knowledge (Phil. 1:8-11)**

1. To be pure/holy/blameless (inward)
2. To produce the "fruit" of a Christian (outward)
3. For the purpose of spreading God's glory

- 1. Paul found joy focusing on the Gospel

- 2. Paul's encouragement to them (the church)



Paul found joy  
focusing on the  
Gospel

**A. While writing the letter from jail, Paul told them that God is again using this trial for the spread of the Gospel (Phil 1:12-14)**

1. Paul recognizes God's sovereignty in his trials.
2. The gospel was spreading inside and beyond Paul's jail.
3. Believers around the world were being encouraged (even today)

**B. Paul shared his secret to joy (Phil 1:15-24)**

1. Paul was confident that the gospel will spread even through those who do ministry with the wrong motives (Phil 1:15-19)
2. Paul desired that his motives and actions would be honoring to Christ (Phil 1:20)
3. Paul didn't fear death but trusted the sovereign God. (Phil 1:21-28)

## Paul's Encouragement (to others)

- A. We must all live our lives worthy of the Gospel (Phil 1:27-30)

1. If you want to find true joy :-

- you must be obedient to the Gospel (the commands of the Scripture)
- share the gospel.
- be unified with other believers in spreading the gospel.
- don't be afraid or ashamed of the gospel.
- be willing to suffer for the gospel

B. When you obediently follow Christ, every moment is a divine opportunity from God to make his name known. Living a life worthy of the gospel is what gives us joy.