

A close-up photograph of a stone architectural detail, likely a frieze or cornice. The stone is a warm, reddish-brown color. A horizontal band of intricate, dark-colored carvings runs across the middle, featuring a repeating pattern of stylized, swirling acanthus leaves and scrolls. The carvings are set within a recessed channel. The stone shows signs of weathering and age, with some darker, possibly water-damaged areas. The background is a blurred, light-colored wall.

Huddle, Fall 2019

Philippians:  
Be of one mind

# Philippians is a favorite among believers

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- It is full of joy
- It tells us crucial things about Jesus' mind and mission in assuming human form (in chapter 2)
- It contains many memorable and moving verses:
  - ❖ "To live is Christ, to die is gain"
  - ❖ "I have learned the secret of contentment in any and all circumstances"
  - ❖ "Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I will say rejoice"
  - ❖ "whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, ...think about such things"
  - ❖ "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, with prayer and petition..."



# Christians often fail to understand Philippians on its own terms

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To understand any text you need to know:

1. Its *context*: Philippi was a Roman colony in Macedonia populated by veterans who had been granted citizenship and were devoted to Caesar
2. Its *type*: Philippians is a combination of standard letter types: the *friendship* letter, a letter of mutual support and affection, and the *letter of moral exhortation*, characterized by paradigms

# Friendship letters had several consistent features

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- They lack the patron-client language
- You don't say thank you
- Friends in the ancient world had common enemies
- Friends offer mutual support and affection for one another

The Philippians church was the *only* of Paul's churches to have this sort of friendship relationship, and the only one he accepted support from

# Philippians is a friendship letter based on reciprocity

<sup>1</sup> Paul and Timothy, servants<sup>1</sup> of Christ Jesus,  
To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops<sup>1</sup> and  
deacons!<sup>1</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>3</sup> I thank my God every time I remember you, <sup>4</sup> constantly praying with joy in every  
one of my prayers for all of you, <sup>5</sup> because of your sharing in the gospel from the  
first day until now. <sup>6</sup> I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work  
among you will bring it to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. <sup>7</sup> It is right for  
me to ask this way of you, because you were once partners in my work for the  
gospel. <sup>8</sup> I want to see you so that I may share with you the joy of your work,  
and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. <sup>9</sup> For God is my witness, how I long for all  
of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. <sup>10</sup> And this is my prayer, that your love  
may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight <sup>11</sup> to help you to  
determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and  
blameless, <sup>12</sup> having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through  
Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

<sup>13</sup> I want you to know, beloved,<sup>13</sup> that what has happened to me has actually  
helped to spread the gospel, <sup>14</sup> so that it has become known throughout the whole  
imperial guard<sup>14</sup> and to everyone else that my imprisonment is for Christ. <sup>15</sup> And  
most of the brothers and sisters<sup>15</sup> having been made confident in the Lord by my  
imprisonment, dare to speak the word<sup>16</sup> with greater boldness and without fear.  
<sup>17</sup> Some proclaim Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from goodwill. <sup>18</sup> These  
proclaim Christ out of love, knowing that I have been put here for the defense of  
the gospel. <sup>19</sup> Others proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely but  
intending to increase my suffering in my imprisonment. <sup>20</sup> What does it matter?  
Just this, that Christ is proclaimed in every way, whether out of false motives or  
true; and in that I rejoice.

Yes, and I will continue to rejoice. <sup>21</sup> For I know that through your prayers and the  
help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance. <sup>22</sup> It is my  
eager expectation and hope that I will not be put to shame in any way, but that by  
my speaking with all boldness, Christ will be exalted now as always in my body,  
whether by life or by death. <sup>23</sup> For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. <sup>24</sup> If I am  
to live in the flesh, that means fruitless labor for me; and I do not know which I  
prefer. <sup>25</sup> I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with  
Christ, for that is far better; <sup>26</sup> but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for  
you. <sup>27</sup> Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with  
all of you for your progress and joy in faith, <sup>28</sup> so that I may share abundantly in  
your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

<sup>29</sup> Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I am  
gone and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are  
standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the  
gospel, <sup>30</sup> and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is  
evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. <sup>31</sup> For  
he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of  
suffering for him as well— <sup>32</sup> since you are having the same struggle that you saw I  
had and now hear that I still have.

<sup>33</sup> If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any  
sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, <sup>34</sup> make my joy complete: be  
of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one  
mind. <sup>35</sup> Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others  
as better than yourselves. <sup>36</sup> Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to  
the interests of others. <sup>37</sup> Let the same mind be in you that was<sup>37</sup> in Christ Jesus,  
who, though he was in the form of God,

<sup>38</sup> did not think it equality with God,  
as something to be exploited,<sup>38</sup>  
<sup>39</sup> but emptied himself, taking the form of  
a slave, being born in human likeness,  
And being found in human form,

<sup>40</sup> he humbled himself  
and became obedient to the point of death—  
even death on a cross.

<sup>41</sup> Therefore God also highly exalted him  
and gave him the name  
that is above every name,

<sup>42</sup> so that at the name of Jesus  
every knee should bend,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
<sup>43</sup> and every tongue should confess  
that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

<sup>44</sup> Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my  
presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with  
fear and trembling; <sup>45</sup> for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will  
and to work for his good pleasure.

<sup>46</sup> Do all things without murmuring and arguing, <sup>47</sup> so that you may be blameless  
and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and  
perverse generation, in which you shine like stars in the world. <sup>48</sup> It is by your  
holding fast to the word of life that I can boast on the day of Christ that I did not  
run in vain or labor in vain. <sup>49</sup> But even if I am being poured out as a libation over  
the sacrifice and the offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you—  
<sup>50</sup> and in the same way you also must be glad and rejoice with me.

<sup>51</sup> I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, so that I may be cheered  
by news of you. <sup>52</sup> I have no one like him who will be genuinely concerned for  
your welfare. <sup>53</sup> All of them are seeking their own interests, not those of Jesus  
Christ. <sup>54</sup> But Timothy's<sup>54</sup> worth you know, how like a son with a father he has  
served with me in the work of the gospel. <sup>55</sup> I hope therefore to send him as soon  
as I see how things go with me; <sup>56</sup> and I trust in the Lord that I will also come  
soon.

<sup>57</sup> Still, I think it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus—my brother and co-  
worker and fellow soldier, your messenger<sup>57</sup> and minister to my need; <sup>58</sup> for he has  
been longing for<sup>58</sup> all of you, and has been distressed because you heard that he  
was ill. <sup>59</sup> He was indeed so ill that he nearly died. But God had mercy on him, and  
not only on him but on me also, so that I would not have one sorrow after  
another. <sup>60</sup> I am the more eager to send him, therefore, in order that you may  
rejoice at seeing him again, and that I may be less anxious. <sup>61</sup> Welcome him then  
in the Lord with all joy, and honor such people, <sup>62</sup> because he came close to death  
for the work of Christ, <sup>63</sup> risking his life to make up for those services that you  
could not give me.

<sup>64</sup> Finally, my brothers and sisters,<sup>64</sup> I rejoice<sup>64</sup> in the Lord.

To write the same things to you is not troublesome to me, and for you it is a  
safeguard.

<sup>65</sup> Beware of the dogs, beware of the evil workers, beware of those who mutilate the  
flesh!<sup>65</sup> For it is we who are the circumcision, who worship in the Spirit of God<sup>66</sup> and  
love the law of Christ Jesus and have no confidence in the flesh— <sup>67</sup> even  
though I too have reason for confidence in the flesh.

<sup>68</sup> If anyone has a mind that is proud, let him be<sup>68</sup> circumsised on  
the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a  
Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; <sup>69</sup> as to zeal, a persecutor of the  
church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

<sup>70</sup> Yet whatever gains I had, those I have come to regard as loss because of  
Christ. <sup>71</sup> More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing  
value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all  
things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ <sup>72</sup> and be  
found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but  
one that comes through faith in Christ, <sup>73</sup> the righteousness from God based on  
faith. <sup>74</sup> I want to know Christ! and the power of his resurrection and the sharing  
of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, <sup>75</sup> if somehow I may attain the  
resurrection from the dead.

<sup>76</sup> Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal! <sup>77</sup> I but I  
press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his  
own. <sup>78</sup> Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own! <sup>79</sup> But this one  
thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies  
ahead, <sup>80</sup> I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly<sup>80</sup> I call of God in  
Christ Jesus. <sup>81</sup> Let those of us then who are mature be of the same mind, and if  
you think differently about anything, this too God will reveal to you. <sup>82</sup> Only let us  
hold fast to what we have attained.

<sup>83</sup> Brothers and sisters,<sup>83</sup> I join in imitating me, and observe those who live  
according to the example you have in us. <sup>84</sup> For many live as enemies of the cross  
of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. <sup>85</sup> Their  
end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their  
minds are set on earthly things. <sup>86</sup> But our citizenship<sup>86</sup> is in heaven, and it is from  
there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>87</sup> He will transform the  
body of our humiliation<sup>87</sup> so that it may be conformed to the body of his glory. <sup>88</sup> By  
the power

<sup>89</sup> Therefore, my brothers and sisters,<sup>89</sup> I whom I love and long for, my joy and  
crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

<sup>90</sup> Urge Euodia and Urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. <sup>91</sup> Yes, and  
I ask you also, my loyal companion,<sup>91</sup> to help these women, for they have struggled  
beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-  
workers, whose names are in the book of life.

<sup>92</sup> Rejoice<sup>92</sup> in the Lord always; again I say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be  
known to everyone. <sup>93</sup> Do not let anyone see you are anxious, but in  
everything by your gentleness, be submissive to the Lord. <sup>94</sup> As you have  
made known to God? And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding,  
will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

<sup>95</sup> Finally, beloved! <sup>96</sup> Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just,  
whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any  
excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about<sup>96</sup> these  
things. <sup>97</sup> Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard  
and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

<sup>98</sup> I rejoiced<sup>98</sup> in the Lord greatly that now at last you have revived your concern for  
me; indeed, you were concerned for me, but had no opportunity to show  
it. <sup>99</sup> Not that I am referring to being in need; I have learned to be content  
with whatever I have. <sup>100</sup> I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to  
have plenty. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being well-  
fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need. <sup>101</sup> I can do all  
things through him who strengthens me. <sup>102</sup> In any case, it was kind of you to share  
my distress.

<sup>103</sup> You Philippians indeed know that in the early days of the gospel, when I left  
Macedonia, no church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving,  
except you alone. <sup>104</sup> For even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me help for my  
needs more than once. <sup>105</sup> Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the profit that  
accumulates to your account. <sup>106</sup> I have been paid in full and have more than  
enough; I am fully satisfied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts  
you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice, acceptable and pleasing to God. <sup>107</sup> And my  
God will fully satisfy every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ  
Jesus. <sup>108</sup> To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.

<sup>109</sup> Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The friends<sup>109</sup> I who are with me greet you. <sup>110</sup> All  
the saints greet you, especially those of the emperor's household.

<sup>111</sup> The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. <sup>112</sup>



# Philippians is a friendship letter and a letter of moral exhortation

Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus. To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops and deacons.<sup>1</sup>  
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>1</sup>I thank my God every time I remember you,<sup>2</sup> constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you,<sup>3</sup> because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now.<sup>4</sup> I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.<sup>5</sup> It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart,<sup>6</sup> for all of you share in God's grace,<sup>7</sup> with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel.<sup>8</sup> For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus.<sup>9</sup> And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight<sup>10</sup> to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless,<sup>11</sup> having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

<sup>12</sup>I want you to know, beloved,<sup>13</sup> that what has happened to me has actually helped to spread the gospel,<sup>14</sup> so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard<sup>15</sup> and to everyone else that my imprisonment is for Christ.<sup>16</sup> And most of the brothers and sisters,<sup>17</sup> having been made confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, dare to speak the word<sup>18</sup> with greater boldness and without fear.<sup>19</sup> Some proclaim Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from goodwill.<sup>20</sup> These proclaim Christ out of love, knowing that I have been put here for the defense of the gospel.<sup>21</sup> The others proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely but intending to increase my suffering in my imprisonment.<sup>22</sup> What does it matter? Just this, that Christ is proclaimed in every way, whether out of false motives or true; and in that I rejoice.

Yes, and I will continue to rejoice.<sup>23</sup> For I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance.<sup>24</sup> It is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be put to shame in any way, but that by my speaking with all boldness, Christ will be exalted now as always in my body, whether by life or by death.<sup>25</sup> For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain.<sup>26</sup> If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruit and labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer.<sup>27</sup> I am hard pressed between the two; my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better;<sup>28</sup> but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you.<sup>29</sup> Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith,<sup>30</sup> so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

<sup>31</sup>Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel,<sup>32</sup> and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing.<sup>33</sup> For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—<sup>34</sup> since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

## Address and greeting

<sup>6</sup>who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,

<sup>7</sup>but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,<sup>8</sup> he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

<sup>9</sup>Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name,

<sup>10</sup>so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend,

in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

<sup>11</sup>and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,

to the glory of God the Father.

<sup>12</sup>Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, your outpouring of salvation with fear and trembling,<sup>13</sup> for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

<sup>14</sup>Do all things without murmuring and arguing,<sup>15</sup> so that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, in which you shine like stars in the world.<sup>16</sup> It is by your holding fast to the word of life that I can boast on the day of Christ that I did not run in vain or labor in vain,<sup>17</sup> but even if I have been poured out as a libation over the sacrifice and the offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you—<sup>18</sup> and in the same way you also must be glad and rejoice with me.

<sup>19</sup>I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, so that I may be cheered by news of you,<sup>20</sup> for I have no one like him who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare.<sup>21</sup> All of them are seeking their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ.<sup>22</sup> But Timothy's<sup>23</sup> worth you know, how like a son with a father he has served with me in the work of the gospel.<sup>24</sup> I hope therefore to send him as soon as I see how things go with me,<sup>25</sup> and I trust in the Lord that I will also come soon.

<sup>26</sup>Still, I think it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus—my brother and co-worker and fellow soldier, your messenger<sup>27</sup> and minister to my need;<sup>28</sup> for he has been longing for<sup>29</sup> all of you, and has been distressed because you heard that he was ill.<sup>30</sup> He was indeed so ill that he nearly died, but God had mercy on him, and not only on him but on me also, so that I would not have one sorrow after another.<sup>31</sup> I am the more eager to send him, therefore, in order that you may rejoice at seeing him again, and that I may be less anxious.<sup>32</sup> Welcome him then in the Lord with all joy, and honor such people,<sup>33</sup> because he came close to death for the work of Christ,<sup>34</sup> risking his life to make up for those services that you could not give me.

others and sisters,<sup>1</sup> rejoice<sup>1</sup> in the Lord.

ne things to you is not troublesome to me, and for you it is a

dogs, beware of the evil workers, beware of those who mutilate the flesh!<sup>1</sup> For it is we who are the circumcision, who worship in the Spirit of God<sup>1</sup> and boast in Christ Jesus and have no confidence in the flesh—<sup>2</sup> even though I, too, have reason for confidence in the flesh.

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more:<sup>3</sup> circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee;<sup>4</sup> as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

<sup>5</sup>Yet whatever gains I had, those I have come to regard as loss because of Christ.<sup>6</sup> More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ<sup>7</sup> and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ,<sup>8</sup> the righteousness from God based on faith.<sup>9</sup> I want to know Christ! and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death,<sup>10</sup> if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

<sup>11</sup>Now I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal!<sup>12</sup> but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own.<sup>13</sup> Beloved,<sup>14</sup> I do not consider that I have made it my own!<sup>15</sup> but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead,<sup>16</sup> I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly<sup>17</sup> call of God in Christ Jesus.<sup>18</sup> Let those of us then who are mature be of the same mind, and if you think differently about anything, this too God will reveal to you.<sup>19</sup> Only let us hold fast to what we have attained.

<sup>20</sup>Brothers and sisters,<sup>21</sup> join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us.<sup>22</sup> For many false as enemies of the cross of Christ: I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears.<sup>23</sup> Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things.<sup>24</sup> But our citizenship<sup>25</sup> is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.<sup>26</sup> He will transform the body of our humiliation<sup>27</sup> so that it may be conformed to the body of his glory,<sup>28</sup> by the power

<sup>4</sup>Therefore, my brothers and sisters,<sup>1</sup> whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

<sup>2</sup>I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord.<sup>3</sup> Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion,<sup>4</sup> help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

<sup>5</sup>Rejoice!<sup>1</sup> in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice!<sup>2</sup> Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near.<sup>3</sup> Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God.<sup>4</sup> And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

<sup>5</sup>Finally, beloved!<sup>1</sup> whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about<sup>2</sup> these things.<sup>3</sup> Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

<sup>4</sup>Rejoice!<sup>1</sup> in the Lord greatly, that now at last you have revived your concern for me; indeed, you were concerned for me, but had no opportunity to show it.<sup>2</sup> Not that I am referring to being in need; for I have learned to be content with whatever I have.<sup>3</sup> I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being well-fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need.<sup>4</sup> I can do all things through him who strengthens me.<sup>5</sup> In any case, it was kind of you to share my distress.

<sup>6</sup>You Philippians indeed know that in the early days of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you alone.<sup>7</sup> For even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me help for my needs more than once.<sup>8</sup> Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the profit that accumulates to your account.<sup>9</sup> I have been paid in full and have more than enough; I am fully satisfied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice, acceptable and pleasing to God.<sup>10</sup> And my God will fully satisfy every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.<sup>11</sup> To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.

<sup>12</sup>Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The friends<sup>1</sup> who are with me greet you.<sup>2</sup> All the saints greet you, especially those of the emperor's household.

<sup>3</sup>The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.<sup>4</sup>

# Philippians is a friendship letter and a letter of moral exhortation

<sup>1</sup> Paul and Timothy, servants<sup>1</sup> of Christ Jesus,  
To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops<sup>1</sup> and  
deacons<sup>1</sup> |

<sup>2</sup> Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>3</sup> I thank my God every time I remember you. <sup>4</sup> Constantly praying with joy in every  
one of my prayers for all of you, <sup>5</sup> because of your sharing in the gospel from the first  
day until now. <sup>6</sup> I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work  
among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup> It is right for  
me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart,<sup>1</sup> for all  
of you share in God's grace<sup>1</sup> with me, both in my imprisonment and in the  
defense and confirmation of the gospel.<sup>1</sup> For God is my witness, how I long for all  
of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. <sup>9</sup> And this is my prayer, that your love  
may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight <sup>10</sup> to help you to  
determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and  
blameless, <sup>11</sup> having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through  
Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

<sup>12</sup> I want you to know, beloved,<sup>1</sup> that what has happened to me has actually  
helped to spread the gospel, <sup>13</sup> so that it has become known throughout the whole  
imperial guard<sup>1</sup> and to everyone else that my imprisonment is for Christ. <sup>14</sup> And  
most of the brothers and sisters<sup>1</sup> having been made confident in the Lord by my  
imprisonment, dare to speak the word<sup>1</sup> with greater boldness and without fear.  
<sup>15</sup> Some proclaim Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from goodwill. <sup>16</sup> These  
proclaim Christ out of love, knowing that I have been put here for the defense of  
the gospel. <sup>17</sup> Others proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely but  
intending to increase my suffering in my imprisonment. <sup>18</sup> What does it matter?  
Just this, that Christ is proclaimed in every way, whether out of false motives or  
true; and in that I rejoice.

Yes, and I will continue to rejoice. <sup>19</sup> For I know that through your prayers and the  
help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance. <sup>20</sup> It is my  
eager expectation and hope that I will not be put to shame in any way, but that by  
my speaking with all boldness, Christ will be exalted now as always in my body,  
whether by life or by death. <sup>21</sup> For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. <sup>22</sup> If I am  
to live in the flesh, that means fruitless labor for me; and I do not know which I  
prefer. <sup>23</sup> I am hard pressed between the two, my desire is to depart and be with  
Christ, for that is far better; <sup>24</sup> but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for  
you. <sup>25</sup> Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with  
all of you for your progress and joy in faith. <sup>26</sup> So that I may share abundantly in  
your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

<sup>27</sup> Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I  
come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are  
standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the  
gospel, <sup>28</sup> and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is  
evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. <sup>29</sup> For  
he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of  
suffering for him as well— <sup>30</sup> since you are having the same struggle that you saw I  
had and now hear that I still have.

<sup>31</sup> If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any  
sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, <sup>32</sup> make my joy complete: be  
of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one  
mind. <sup>33</sup> Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others  
as better than yourselves. <sup>34</sup> Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to  
the interests of others. <sup>35</sup> Let the same mind be in you that was<sup>1</sup> in Christ Jesus,  
who, though he was in the form of God,

## Prayer

did not think it was shameful to  
even death on a cross.

<sup>36</sup> Therefore God also highly exalted him  
and gave him the name  
that is above every name,

<sup>37</sup> so that at the name of Jesus  
every knee should bend,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
<sup>38</sup> and every tongue should confess  
that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

<sup>39</sup> Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my  
presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with  
fear and trembling; <sup>40</sup> for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will  
and to work for his good pleasure.

<sup>41</sup> Do all things without murmuring and arguing, <sup>42</sup> so that you may be blameless  
and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and  
perverse generation, in which you shine like stars in the world. <sup>43</sup> It is by your  
holding fast to the word of life that I can boast on the day of Christ that I did not  
run in vain or labor in vain. <sup>44</sup> But even if I am being poured out as a libation over  
the sacrifice and the offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you—  
<sup>45</sup> and in the same way you also must be glad and rejoice with me.

<sup>46</sup> I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, so that I may be cheered  
by news of you. <sup>47</sup> I have no one like him who will be genuinely concerned for  
your welfare. <sup>48</sup> All of them are seeking their own interests, not those of Jesus  
Christ. <sup>49</sup> But Timothy's<sup>1</sup> worth you know, how like a son with a father he has  
served with me in the work of the gospel. <sup>50</sup> I hope therefore to send him as soon  
as I see how things go with me; <sup>51</sup> and I trust in the Lord that I will also come  
soon.

<sup>52</sup> Still, I think it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus—my brother and co-  
worker and fellow soldier, your messenger<sup>1</sup> and minister to my need; <sup>53</sup> for he has  
been longing for<sup>1</sup> all of you, and has been distressed because you heard that he  
was ill. <sup>54</sup> He was indeed so ill that he nearly died. But God had mercy on him, and  
not only on him but on me also, so that I would not have one sorrow after  
another. <sup>55</sup> I am the more eager to send him, therefore, in order that you may  
rejoice at seeing him again, and that I may be less anxious. <sup>56</sup> Welcome him then  
in the Lord with all joy, and honor such people, <sup>57</sup> because he came close to death  
for the work of Christ,<sup>1</sup> risking his life to make up for those services that you  
could not give me.

<sup>58</sup> Finally, my brothers and sisters,<sup>1</sup> rejoice<sup>1</sup> in the Lord.

To write the same things to you is not troublesome to me, and for you it is a  
safeguard.

<sup>59</sup> Beware of the dogs, beware of the evil workers, beware of those who mutilate the  
flesh!<sup>1</sup> <sup>60</sup> For it is we who are the circumcision, who worship in the Spirit of  
God<sup>1</sup> and boast in Christ Jesus and have no confidence in the flesh— <sup>61</sup> even  
though I, too, have reason for confidence in the flesh.

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: <sup>62</sup> circumcised  
on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a  
Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; <sup>63</sup> as to zeal, a persecutor of the  
church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

<sup>64</sup> Yet whatever gains I had, those I have come to regard as loss because of  
Christ. <sup>65</sup> More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing  
value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all  
things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ <sup>66</sup> and be  
found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but  
one that comes through faith in Christ,<sup>1</sup> the righteousness from God based on  
faith. <sup>67</sup> I want to know Christ<sup>1</sup> and the power of his resurrection and the sharing  
of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, <sup>68</sup> if somehow I may attain the  
resurrection from the dead.

<sup>69</sup> Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal!<sup>1</sup> but I  
press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his  
own. <sup>70</sup> Beloved,<sup>1</sup> I do not consider that I have made it my own!<sup>1</sup> but this one  
thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies  
ahead. <sup>71</sup> I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly<sup>1</sup> I call of God in  
Christ Jesus. <sup>72</sup> Let those of us then who are mature be of the same mind, and if  
you think differently about anything, this too God will reveal to you. <sup>73</sup> Only let us  
hold fast to what we have attained.

<sup>74</sup> Brothers and sisters,<sup>1</sup> join in imitating me, and observe those who live  
according to the example you have in us. <sup>75</sup> For many false as enemies of the cross  
of Christ: I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. <sup>76</sup> Their  
end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their  
minds are set on earthly things. <sup>77</sup> But our citizenship<sup>1</sup> is in heaven, and it is from  
there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>78</sup> He will transform the  
body of our humiliation<sup>1</sup> that it may be conformed to the body of his glory.<sup>1</sup> By  
the power

<sup>79</sup> of God.

<sup>80</sup> Therefore, my brothers and sisters,<sup>1</sup> whom I love and long for, my joy and  
crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

<sup>81</sup> Urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. <sup>82</sup> Yes, and  
I ask you also, my loyal companion,<sup>1</sup> help these women, for they have struggled  
beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-  
workers, whose names are in the book of life.

<sup>83</sup> Rejoice<sup>1</sup> in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice!<sup>1</sup> <sup>84</sup> Let your gentleness be  
known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>85</sup> Do not worry about anything, but in  
everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be  
made known to God. <sup>86</sup> And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding,  
will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

<sup>87</sup> Finally, beloved,<sup>1</sup> whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just,  
whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any  
excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about<sup>1</sup> these  
things. <sup>88</sup> Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard  
and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

<sup>89</sup> I rejoiced<sup>1</sup> in the Lord greatly that now at last you have revived your concern for  
me; indeed, you were concerned for me, but had no opportunity to show  
it. <sup>90</sup> Not that I am referring to being in need; I have learned to be content with  
whatever I have. <sup>91</sup> I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to  
have plenty. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being well-  
fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need. <sup>92</sup> I can do all  
things through him who strengthens me. <sup>93</sup> In any case, it was kind of you to share  
my distress.

<sup>94</sup> You Philippians indeed know that in the early days of the gospel, when I left  
Macedonia, no church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving,  
except you alone. <sup>95</sup> For even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me help for my  
needs more than once. <sup>96</sup> Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the profit that  
accumulates to your account. <sup>97</sup> I have been paid in full and have more than  
enough; I am fully satisfied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts  
you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice, acceptable and pleasing to God. <sup>98</sup> And my  
God will fully satisfy every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ  
Jesus. <sup>99</sup> To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.

<sup>100</sup> Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The friends<sup>1</sup> who are with me greet you. <sup>101</sup> All  
the saints greet you, especially those of the emperor's household.

<sup>102</sup> The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. |



# Philippians is a friendship letter and a letter of moral exhortation

<sup>1</sup> Paul and Timothy, servants<sup>1</sup> of Christ Jesus,  
To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops<sup>1</sup> and  
deacons!<sup>1</sup>  
<sup>2</sup> Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>1</sup> I thank my God every time I remember you,<sup>2</sup> constantly praying with joy in every  
one of my prayers for all of you,<sup>3</sup> because of your sharing in the gospel from the  
first day until now.<sup>4</sup> I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work  
among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.<sup>5</sup> It is right for  
me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart,<sup>6</sup> for all  
of you share in God's grace,<sup>7</sup> with me, both in my imprisonment and in the  
defense and confirmation of the gospel.<sup>8</sup> For God is my witness, how I long for all  
of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus.<sup>9</sup> And this is my prayer, that your love  
may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight<sup>10</sup> to help you to  
determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and  
blameless,<sup>11</sup> having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through  
Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

<sup>12</sup> I want you to know, beloved,<sup>13</sup> that what has happened to me has actually  
helped to spread the gospel,<sup>14</sup> so that it has become known throughout the whole  
imperial guard<sup>15</sup> and to everyone else that my imprisonment is for Christ.<sup>16</sup> And  
most of the brothers and sisters,<sup>17</sup> having been made confident in the Lord by my  
imprisonment, dare to speak the word<sup>18</sup> with greater boldness and without fear.  
<sup>19</sup> Some proclaim Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from goodwill.<sup>20</sup> These  
proclaim Christ out of love, knowing that I have been put here for the defense of  
the gospel,<sup>21</sup> the others proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely but  
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Just this, that Christ is proclaimed in every way, whether out of false motives or  
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Yes, and I will continue to rejoice,<sup>24</sup> for I know that through your prayers and the  
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all of you for your progress and joy in faith,<sup>31</sup> so that I may share abundantly in  
your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

<sup>32</sup> Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I  
come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are  
standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the  
gospel,<sup>33</sup> and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is  
evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing.<sup>34</sup> For  
he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of  
suffering for him as well—<sup>35</sup> since you are having the same struggle that you saw I  
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of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one  
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as better than yourselves.<sup>39</sup> Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to  
the interests of others.<sup>40</sup> Let the same mind be in you that was<sup>41</sup> in Christ Jesus,  
<sup>42</sup> who, though he was in the form of God,  
did not regard equality with God  
as something to be exploited,  
<sup>43</sup> but emptied himself,  
taking the form of a slave,  
being born in human likeness.  
And being found in human form,  
<sup>44</sup> he humbled himself  
and became obedient to the point of death—  
even death on a cross.  
<sup>45</sup> Therefore God also highly exalted him  
and gave him the name  
that is above every name,  
<sup>46</sup> so that at the name of Jesus  
every knee should bend,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
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## Paul's affairs: his imprisonment

<sup>48</sup> and in the same way you also must be glad and rejoice with me.

<sup>49</sup> I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, so that I may be cheered  
by news of you.<sup>50</sup> I have no one like him who will be genuinely concerned for  
your welfare.<sup>51</sup> All of them are seeking their own interests, not those of Jesus  
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<sup>81</sup> I already obtained this or have already reached the goal!<sup>82</sup> I but I  
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<sup>4</sup> Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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<sup>12</sup> I want you to know, beloved,<sup>13</sup> that what has happened to me has actually  
helped to spread the gospel, <sup>14</sup> so that it has become known throughout the whole  
imperial guard<sup>15</sup> and to everyone else that my imprisonment is for Christ. <sup>16</sup> And  
most of the brothers and sisters,<sup>17</sup> having been made confident in the Lord by my  
imprisonment, dare to speak the word<sup>18</sup> with greater boldness and without fear.  
<sup>19</sup> Some proclaim Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from goodwill. <sup>20</sup> These  
proclaim Christ out of love, knowing that I have been put here for the defense of  
the gospel. <sup>21</sup> The others proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely but  
intending to increase my suffering in my imprisonment. <sup>22</sup> What does it matter?  
Just this, that Christ is proclaimed in every way, whether out of false motives or  
true; and in that I rejoice.

Yes, and I will continue to rejoice. <sup>23</sup> For I know that through your prayers and the help  
of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance. <sup>24</sup> It is my  
eager expectation and hope that I will not be put to shame in any way, but that by  
my speaking with all boldness, Christ will be exalted now as always in my body,  
whether by life or by death. <sup>25</sup> For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. <sup>26</sup> If I am  
to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I  
prefer. <sup>27</sup> I am hard pressed between the two, my desire is to depart and be with  
Christ, for that is far better; <sup>28</sup> but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for  
you. <sup>29</sup> Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with  
all of you for your progress and joy in faith, <sup>30</sup> so that I may share abundantly in  
your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

<sup>31</sup> Only live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I  
come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are  
standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the  
gospel, <sup>32</sup> and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is  
evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. <sup>33</sup> For  
he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of  
suffering for him as well — <sup>34</sup> since you are having the same struggle that you saw I  
had and now hear that I still have.

<sup>2</sup> If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any  
sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, <sup>3</sup> make my joy complete: be  
of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one  
mind. <sup>4</sup> Do nothing from self-wish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others  
as better than yourselves. <sup>5</sup> Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to  
the interests of others. <sup>6</sup> Let the same mind be in you that was<sup>7</sup> in Christ Jesus,  
<sup>8</sup> who, though he was in the form of God,  
did not regard equality with God  
as something to be exploited,  
<sup>9</sup> but emptied himself,  
taking the form of a slave,  
being born in human likeness.  
And being found in human form,  
<sup>10</sup> he humbled himself  
and became obedient to the point of death—  
even death on a cross.  
<sup>11</sup> Therefore God also highly exalted him  
and gave him the name  
that is above every name,  
<sup>12</sup> so that at the name of Jesus  
every knee should bend,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
<sup>13</sup> and every tongue should confess  
that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

<sup>14</sup> Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my  
presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with  
fear and trembling; <sup>15</sup> for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will  
and to work for his good pleasure.

<sup>16</sup> Do all things without murmuring and arguing, <sup>17</sup> so that you may be blameless  
and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and  
perverse generation, in which you shine like stars in the world. <sup>18</sup> It is by your  
holding fast to the word of life that I can boast on the day of Christ that I did not  
run in vain or labor in vain. <sup>19</sup> But even if I have been poured out as a libation over  
the sacrifice and the offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you—  
<sup>20</sup> and in the same way you also must be glad and rejoice with me.

<sup>21</sup> I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, so that I may be cheered  
by news of you. <sup>22</sup> I have no one like him who will be genuinely concerned for  
your welfare. <sup>23</sup> All of them are seeking their own interests, not those of Jesus  
Christ. <sup>24</sup> But Timothy's<sup>25</sup> I worth you know, how like a son with a father he has  
served with me in the work of the gospel. <sup>26</sup> I hope therefore to send him as soon  
as I see how things go with me; <sup>27</sup> and I trust in the Lord that I will also come  
soon.

<sup>28</sup> Still, I think it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus—my brother and co-  
worker and fellow soldier, your messenger<sup>29</sup> and minister to my need; <sup>30</sup> for he has  
been longing for<sup>31</sup> all of you, and has been distressed because you heard that he  
was ill. <sup>32</sup> He was indeed so ill that he nearly died. But God had mercy on him, and  
not only on him but on me also, so that I would not have one sorrow after  
another. <sup>33</sup> I am the more eager to send him, therefore, in order that you may  
rejoice at seeing him again, and that I may be less anxious. <sup>34</sup> Welcome him then  
in the Lord with all joy, and honor such people, <sup>35</sup> because he came close to death  
for the work of Christ, <sup>36</sup> risking his life to make up for those services that you  
could not give me.

<sup>3</sup> Finally, my brothers and sisters,<sup>1</sup> rejoice<sup>2</sup> in the Lord.

To write the same things to you is not troublesome to me, and for you it is a  
safeguard.

<sup>3</sup> Beware of the dogs, beware of the evil workers, beware of those who mutilate the  
flesh!<sup>4</sup> For it is we who are the circumcision, who worship in the Spirit of  
God<sup>5</sup> and boast in Christ Jesus and have no confidence in the flesh— <sup>6</sup> even  
though I, too, have reason for confidence in the flesh.

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: <sup>7</sup> circumcised  
on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a  
Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; <sup>8</sup> as to zeal, a persecutor of the  
church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

<sup>9</sup> Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of  
Christ. <sup>10</sup> More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing  
value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all  
things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ <sup>11</sup> and be  
found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but  
one that comes through faith in Christ,<sup>12</sup> the righteousness from God based on  
faith. <sup>13</sup> I want to know Christ<sup>14</sup> and the power of his resurrection and the sharing  
of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, <sup>15</sup> if somehow I may attain the  
resurrection from the dead.

<sup>16</sup> Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal;<sup>17</sup> but I  
press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his  
own. <sup>18</sup> Beloved,<sup>19</sup> I do not consider that I have made it my own;<sup>20</sup> but this one  
thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies  
ahead, <sup>21</sup> I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly<sup>22</sup> call of God in  
Christ Jesus. <sup>23</sup> Let those of us then who are mature be of the same mind; and if  
you think differently about anything, this too God will reveal to you. <sup>24</sup> Only let us  
hold fast to what we have attained.

<sup>25</sup> Brothers and sisters,<sup>1</sup> join in imitating me, and observe those who live  
according to the example you have in us. <sup>2</sup> For many live as enemies of the cross  
of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. <sup>3</sup> Their  
end is destruction; their god is the belly, and their glory is in their shame; their  
minds are set on earthly things. <sup>4</sup> But our citizenship<sup>5</sup> is in heaven, and it is from  
there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup> He will transform the  
body of our humiliation<sup>7</sup> so that it may be conformed to the body of his glory;<sup>8</sup> by  
the power

<sup>4</sup> Therefore, my brothers and sisters,<sup>1,2</sup> whom I love and long for, my joy and  
crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

<sup>1</sup> Urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. <sup>2</sup> Yes, and  
I ask you also, my loyal companion,<sup>3</sup> help these women, for they have struggled  
beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-  
workers, whose names are in the book of life.

<sup>4</sup> Rejoice!<sup>5</sup> In the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice! <sup>6</sup> Let your gentleness be  
known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>7</sup> Do not worry about anything, but in  
everything bring by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be  
made known to God. <sup>8</sup> And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding,  
will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

<sup>9</sup> Finally, beloved,<sup>1</sup> whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just,  
whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any  
excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about<sup>2</sup> these  
things. <sup>3</sup> Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard  
and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

<sup>4</sup> Rejoice!<sup>5</sup> In the Lord greatly that now at last you have revived your concern for  
me; indeed, you were concerned for me, but had no opportunity to show  
it. <sup>6</sup> Not that I am referring to being in need; for I have learned to be content  
with whatever I have. <sup>7</sup> I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to  
have plenty. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being well-  
fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need. <sup>8</sup> I can do all  
things through him who strengthens me. <sup>9</sup> In any case, it was kind of you to share  
my distress.

<sup>10</sup> You Philippians indeed know that in the early days of the gospel, when I left  
Macedonia, no church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving,  
except you alone. <sup>11</sup> For even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me help for my  
needs more than once. <sup>12</sup> Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the profit that  
accumulates to your account. <sup>13</sup> I have been paid in full and have more than  
enough; I am fully satisfied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts  
you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice, acceptable and pleasing to God. <sup>14</sup> And my  
God will fully satisfy every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ  
Jesus. <sup>15</sup> To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.

<sup>16</sup> Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The friends<sup>17</sup> I who are with me greet you. <sup>18</sup> All  
the saints greet you, especially those of the emperor's household.  
<sup>19</sup> The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. <sup>20</sup>

## The Philippians' affairs and exhortation based on Christ's paradigm

# Philippians is a friendship letter and a letter of moral exhortation

<sup>1</sup> Paul and Timothy, servants<sup>1</sup> of Christ Jesus,  
To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops<sup>1</sup> and  
deacons<sup>1</sup> |

<sup>2</sup> Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>1</sup> I thank my God every time I remember you. <sup>2</sup> I constantly pray with joy in every  
one of my prayers for all of you, <sup>3</sup> because of your sharing in the gospel from the  
first day until now. <sup>4</sup> I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work  
among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. <sup>5</sup> It is right for  
me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart. | For all  
of you share in God's grace | with me, both in my imprisonment and in the  
defense and confirmation of the gospel. <sup>6</sup> For God is my witness, how I long for all  
of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. <sup>7</sup> And this is my prayer, that your love  
may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight <sup>8</sup> to help you to  
determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and  
blameless. <sup>9</sup> Having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through  
Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

<sup>1</sup> I want you to know, beloved, | that what has happened to me has actually  
helped to spread the gospel. <sup>2</sup> So that it has become known throughout the whole  
imperial guard<sup>1</sup> and to everyone else that my imprisonment is for Christ. <sup>3</sup> And  
most of the brothers and sisters<sup>1</sup> having been made confident in the Lord by my  
imprisonment, dare to speak the word<sup>1</sup> with greater boldness and without fear.  
<sup>4</sup> Some proclaim Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from goodwill. <sup>5</sup> These  
proclaim Christ out of love, knowing that I have been put here for the defense of  
the gospel. <sup>6</sup> The others proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely but  
intending to increase my suffering in my imprisonment. <sup>7</sup> What does it matter?  
Just this, that Christ is proclaimed in every way, whether out of false motives or  
true, and in that I rejoice.

Yes, and I will continue to rejoice. <sup>2</sup> For I know that through your prayers and the  
help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance. <sup>3</sup> It is my  
eager expectation and hope that I will not be put to shame in any way, but that by  
my speaking with all boldness, Christ will be exalted now as always in my body,  
whether by life or by death. <sup>4</sup> For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. <sup>5</sup> If I am  
to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I  
prefer. <sup>6</sup> I am hard pressed between the two; my desire is to depart and be with  
Christ, for that is far better; <sup>7</sup> but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for  
you. <sup>8</sup> Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with  
all of you for your progress and joy in faith. <sup>9</sup> So that I may share abundantly in  
your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

<sup>1</sup> Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I  
come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are  
standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the  
gospel. <sup>2</sup> And are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is  
evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. <sup>3</sup> For  
he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of  
suffering for him as well— <sup>4</sup> since you are having the same struggle that you saw I  
had and now hear that I still have.

<sup>2</sup> If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any  
sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, <sup>3</sup> make my joy complete: be  
of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one  
mind. <sup>4</sup> Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others  
as better than yourselves. <sup>5</sup> Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to  
the interests of others. <sup>6</sup> Let the same mind be in you that was <sup>7</sup> in Christ Jesus,  
<sup>8</sup> who, though he was in the form of God,  
did not regard equality with God  
as something to be exploited,

<sup>9</sup> but emptied himself,  
taking the form of a slave,  
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And being found in human form,  
<sup>10</sup> he humbled himself  
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<sup>1</sup> Therefore God also highly exalted him  
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every knee should bend,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
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presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with  
fear and trembling; <sup>2</sup> for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will  
and to work for his good pleasure.

<sup>1</sup> Do all things without murmuring and arguing, <sup>2</sup> so that you may be blameless  
and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and  
perverse generation, in which you shine like stars in the world. <sup>3</sup> It is by your  
holding fast to the word of life that I can boast on the day of Christ that I did not  
run in vain or labor in vain. <sup>4</sup> But even if I am being poured out as a libation over  
the sacrifice and the offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you—  
<sup>5</sup> and in the same way you also must be glad and rejoice with me.

<sup>1</sup> I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, so that I may be cheered  
by news of you. <sup>2</sup> I have no one like him who will be genuinely concerned for  
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been longiling for<sup>1</sup> all of you, and has been distressed because you heard that he  
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not only on him but on me also, so that I would not have one sorrow after  
another. <sup>4</sup> I am the more eager to send him, therefore, in order that you may  
rejoice at seeing him again, and that I may be less anxious. <sup>5</sup> Welcome him then  
in the Lord with all joy, and honor such people, <sup>6</sup> because he came close to death  
for the work of Christ, <sup>7</sup> risking his life to make up for those services that you  
could not give me.

<sup>3</sup> Finally, my brothers and sisters, | rejoice<sup>1</sup> in the Lord.

To write the same things to you is not troublesome to me, and for you it is a  
safeguard.

<sup>1</sup> Beware of the dogs, beware of the evil workers, beware of those who mutilate the  
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Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; <sup>2</sup> as to zeal, a persecutor of the  
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<sup>1</sup> Yet whatever gains I had, those I have come to regard as loss because of  
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value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all  
things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ <sup>3</sup> and be  
found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but  
one that comes through faith in Christ. <sup>4</sup> The righteousness from God based on  
faith. <sup>5</sup> I want to know Christ! and the power of his resurrection and the sharing  
of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, <sup>6</sup> if somehow I may attain the  
resurrection from the dead.

<sup>1</sup> Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal! | but I  
press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his  
<sup>2</sup> Beloved, | I do not consider that I have made my own! | but this one  
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everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be  
made known to God. <sup>4</sup> And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding,  
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accumulates to your account. <sup>4</sup> I have been paid in full and have more than  
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God will fully satisfy every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ  
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<sup>3</sup> The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. |

## Information about movements of intermediaries



# Philippians is a friendship letter and a letter of moral exhortation

<sup>1</sup> Paul and Timothy, servants<sup>1</sup> of Christ Jesus,  
To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops<sup>1</sup> and  
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<sup>2</sup> Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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one of my prayers for all of you, <sup>5</sup> because of your sharing in the gospel from the first  
day until now. <sup>6</sup> I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work  
among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup> It is right for  
me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart<sup>1</sup> | for all  
of you share in God's grace<sup>1</sup> | with me, both in my imprisonment and in the  
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of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. <sup>9</sup> And this is my prayer, that your love  
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Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

<sup>12</sup> I want you to know, beloved, | that what has happened to me has actually  
helped to spread the gospel. <sup>13</sup> so that it has become known throughout the whole  
imperial guard<sup>1</sup> and to everyone else that my imprisonment is for Christ. <sup>14</sup> And  
most of the brothers and sisters<sup>1</sup> | having been made confident in the Lord by my  
imprisonment, dare to speak the word<sup>1</sup> | with greater boldness and without fear.  
<sup>15</sup> Some proclaim Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from goodwill. <sup>16</sup> These  
proclaim Christ out of love, knowing that I have been put here for the defense of  
the gospel. <sup>17</sup> Others proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely but  
intending to increase my suffering in my imprisonment. <sup>18</sup> What does it matter?  
Just this, that Christ is proclaimed in every way, whether out of false motives or  
true; and in that I rejoice.

Yes, and I will continue to rejoice. <sup>19</sup> For I know that through your prayers and the  
help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance. <sup>20</sup> It is my  
eager expectation and hope that I will not be put to shame in any way, but that by  
my speaking with all boldness, Christ will be exalted now as always in my body,  
whether by life or by death. <sup>21</sup> For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. <sup>22</sup> If I am  
to live in the flesh, that means fruitless labor for me; and I do not know which I  
prefer. <sup>23</sup> I am hard pressed between the two; my desire is to depart and be with  
Christ, for that is far better; <sup>24</sup> but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for  
you. <sup>25</sup> Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with  
all of you for your progress and joy in faith. <sup>26</sup> so that I may share abundantly in  
your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

<sup>27</sup> Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I  
come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are  
standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the  
gospel. <sup>28</sup> and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is  
evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. <sup>29</sup> For  
he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of  
suffering for him as well— <sup>30</sup> since you are having the same struggle that you saw I  
had and now hear that I still have.

<sup>31</sup> If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any  
sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, <sup>32</sup> make my joy complete: be  
of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one  
mind. <sup>33</sup> Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others  
as better than yourselves. <sup>34</sup> Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to  
the interests of others. <sup>35</sup> Let the same mind be in you that was <sup>36</sup> in Christ Jesus,  
<sup>37</sup> who, though he was in the form of God,  
did not regard equality with God  
as something to be exploited,

<sup>38</sup> but emptied himself,  
taking the form of a slave,  
being born in human likeness.  
And being found in human form,  
<sup>39</sup> he humbled himself  
and became obedient to the point of death—  
even death on a cross.  
<sup>40</sup> Therefore God also highly exalted him  
and gave him the name  
that is above every name,  
<sup>41</sup> so that at the name of Jesus  
every knee should bend,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
<sup>42</sup> and every tongue should confess  
that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

<sup>43</sup> Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my  
presence, but much more now in my absence, your out your own salvation with  
fear and trembling; <sup>44</sup> for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will  
and to work for his good pleasure.

<sup>45</sup> Do all things without murmuring and arguing, <sup>46</sup> so that you may be blameless  
and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and  
perverse generation, in which you shine like stars in the world. <sup>47</sup> It is by your  
holding fast to the word of life that I can boast on the day of Christ that I did not  
run in vain or labor in vain. <sup>48</sup> But even if I am being poured out as a libation over  
the sacrifice and the offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you—  
<sup>49</sup> and in the same way you also must be glad and rejoice with me.

<sup>50</sup> I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, so that I may be cheered  
by news of you. <sup>51</sup> I have no one like him who will be genuinely concerned for  
your welfare. <sup>52</sup> All of them are seeking their own interests, not those of Jesus  
Christ. <sup>53</sup> But Timothy's<sup>1</sup> | worth you know, how like a son with a father he has  
served with me in the work of the gospel. <sup>54</sup> I hope therefore to send him as soon  
as I see how things go with me; <sup>55</sup> and I trust in the Lord that I will also come  
soon.

<sup>56</sup> Still, I think it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus—my brother and co-  
worker and fellow soldier, your messenger<sup>1</sup> and minister to my need; <sup>57</sup> for he has  
been longing for<sup>1</sup> | all of you, and has been distressed because you heard that he  
was ill. <sup>58</sup> He was indeed so ill that he nearly died. But God had mercy on him, and  
not only on him but on me also, so that I would not have one sorrow after  
another. <sup>59</sup> I am the more eager to send him, therefore, in order that you may  
rejoice at seeing him again, and that I may be less anxious. <sup>60</sup> Welcome him then  
in the Lord with all joy, and honor such people, <sup>61</sup> because he came close to death  
for the work of Christ, | risking his life to make up for those services that you  
could not give me.

<sup>62</sup> Finally, my brothers and sisters, | rejoice<sup>1</sup> | in the Lord.

To write the same things to you is not troublesome to me, and for you it is a  
safeguard.

<sup>63</sup> Beware of the dogs, beware of the evil workers, beware of those who mutilate the  
flesh! | <sup>64</sup> For it is we who are the circumcision, who worship in the Spirit of  
God | and boast in Christ Jesus and have no confidence in the flesh— <sup>65</sup> even  
though I, too, have reason for confidence in the flesh.

## Concluding exhortations

found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but  
one that comes through faith in Christ, | the righteousness from God based on  
faith. <sup>1</sup> I want to know Christ! and the power of his resurrection and the sharing  
of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, <sup>2</sup> if somehow I may attain the  
resurrection from the dead.

<sup>3</sup> Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal! | but I  
press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his  
own. <sup>4</sup> Beloved, | I do not consider that I have made it my own! | but this one  
thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies  
ahead. <sup>5</sup> I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly | call of God in  
Christ Jesus. <sup>6</sup> Let those of us then who are mature be of the same mind, and if  
you think differently about anything, this too God will reveal to you. <sup>7</sup> Only let us  
hold fast to what we have attained.

<sup>8</sup> Brothers and sisters, | join in imitating me, and observe those who live  
according to the example you have in us. <sup>9</sup> For many live as enemies of the cross  
of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. <sup>10</sup> Their  
end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their  
minds are set on earthly things. <sup>11</sup> But our citizenship<sup>1</sup> | is in heaven, and it is from  
there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>12</sup> He will transform the  
body of our humiliation<sup>1</sup> | so that it may be conformed to the body of his glory. | by  
the power

<sup>13</sup> Therefore, my brothers and sisters, | whom I love and long for, my joy and  
crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

<sup>14</sup> I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. <sup>15</sup> Yes, and  
I ask you also, my loyal companion, | to help these women, for they have struggled  
beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-  
workers, whose names are in the book of life.

<sup>16</sup> Rejoice<sup>1</sup> | in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice! | <sup>17</sup> Let your gentleness be  
known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>18</sup> Do not worry about anything, but in  
everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be  
made known to God. <sup>19</sup> And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding,  
will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

<sup>20</sup> Finally, beloved, | whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just,  
whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any  
excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about<sup>1</sup> | these  
things. <sup>21</sup> Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard  
and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

<sup>22</sup> I rejoiced<sup>1</sup> | in the Lord greatly that now at last you have revived your concern for  
me; indeed, you were concerned for me, but had no opportunity to show  
it. <sup>23</sup> Not that I am referring to being in need; I have learned to be content  
with whatever I have. <sup>24</sup> I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to  
have plenty. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being well-  
fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need. <sup>25</sup> I can do all  
things through him who strengthens me. <sup>26</sup> In any case, it was kind of you to share  
my distress.

<sup>27</sup> You Philippians indeed know that in the early days of the gospel, when I left  
Macedonia, no church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving,  
except you alone. <sup>28</sup> For even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me help for my  
needs more than once. <sup>29</sup> Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the profit that  
accumulates to your account. <sup>30</sup> I have been paid in full and have more than  
enough; I am fully satisfied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts  
you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice, acceptable and pleasing to God. <sup>31</sup> And my  
God will fully satisfy every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ  
Jesus. <sup>32</sup> To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.

<sup>33</sup> Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The friends<sup>1</sup> | who are with me greet you. <sup>34</sup> All  
the saints greet you, especially those of the emperor's household.

<sup>35</sup> The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. |

# Philippians is a friendship letter and a letter of moral exhortation

<sup>1</sup> Paul and Timothy, servants<sup>1</sup> of Christ Jesus,  
To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops<sup>1</sup> and  
deacons<sup>1</sup> |

<sup>2</sup> Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>1</sup> I thank my God every time I remember you. <sup>2</sup> constantly praying with joy in every  
one of my prayers for all of you, <sup>3</sup> because of your sharing in the gospel from the  
first day until now. <sup>4</sup> I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work  
among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. <sup>5</sup> It is right for  
me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart. | For all  
of you share in God's grace. | with me, both in my imprisonment and in the  
defense and confirmation of the gospel. <sup>6</sup> For God is my witness, how I long for all  
of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus. <sup>7</sup> And this is my prayer, that your love  
may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight <sup>8</sup> to help you to  
determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and  
blameless. <sup>9</sup> Having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through  
Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

<sup>10</sup> I want you to know, beloved, | that what has happened to me has actually  
helped to spread the gospel. <sup>11</sup> so that it has become known throughout the whole  
imperial guard<sup>1</sup> and to everyone else that my imprisonment is for Christ. <sup>12</sup> And  
most of the brothers and sisters<sup>1</sup> having been made confident in the Lord by my  
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<sup>13</sup> Some proclaim Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from goodwill. <sup>14</sup> These  
proclaim Christ out of love, knowing that I have been put here for the defense of  
the gospel. <sup>15</sup> The others proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely but  
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Just this, that Christ is proclaimed in every way, whether out of false motives or  
true; and in that I rejoice.

Yes, and I will continue to rejoice. <sup>17</sup> For I know that through your prayers and the  
help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance. <sup>18</sup> It is my  
eager expectation and hope that I will not be put to shame in any way, but that by  
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to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I  
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Christ, for that is far better; <sup>22</sup> but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for  
you. <sup>23</sup> Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with  
all of you for your progress and joy in faith. <sup>24</sup> so that I may share abundantly in  
your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

<sup>25</sup> Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I  
come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are  
standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the  
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he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of  
suffering for him as well— <sup>28</sup> since you are having the same struggle that you saw I  
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<sup>29</sup> If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any  
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of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one  
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as better than yourselves. <sup>32</sup> Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to  
the interests of others. <sup>33</sup> Let the same mind be in you that was <sup>34</sup> in Christ Jesus,  
<sup>35</sup> who, though he was in the form of God,  
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<sup>43</sup> Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, so now, without murmuring and arguing, <sup>44</sup> so that you in  
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the sacrifice and the offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice  
<sup>46</sup> and in the same way you also must be glad and rejoice with me.

<sup>47</sup> I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, so that I may be  
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<sup>53</sup> Still, I think it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus—my brother and co-  
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not only on him but on me also, so that I would not have one sorrow after  
another. <sup>56</sup> I am the more eager to send him, therefore, in order that you may  
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for the work of Christ, | <sup>59</sup> risking his life to make up for those services that you  
could not give me.

<sup>60</sup> Finally, my brothers and sisters, | <sup>61</sup> rejoice<sup>1</sup> in the Lord.

To write the same things to you is not troublesome to me, and for you it is a  
safeguard.

<sup>62</sup> Beware of the dogs, beware of the evil workers, beware of those who mutilate the  
flesh! | <sup>63</sup> For it is we who are the circumcision, who worship in the Spirit of  
God | and boast in Christ Jesus and have no confidence in the flesh— <sup>64</sup> even  
though I, too, have reason for confidence in the flesh.

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: <sup>65</sup> circumcised  
on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a  
Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; <sup>66</sup> as to zeal, a persecutor of the  
church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

<sup>67</sup> Yet whatever gains I had, those I have come to regard as loss because of  
Christ. <sup>68</sup> More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing

Matters of reciprocity:  
you took care of me,  
God will take care of  
you

<sup>69</sup> Therefore, my brothers and sisters, | <sup>70</sup> whom I love and long for, my joy and  
crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

<sup>71</sup> Urge Euodia and Urge Syntyche<sup>1</sup> to be of the same mind in the Lord. <sup>72</sup> Yes, and  
I ask you also, my loyal companion, | <sup>73</sup> help these women, for they have struggled  
beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-  
workers, whose names are in the book of life.

<sup>74</sup> Rejoice<sup>1</sup> in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. | <sup>75</sup> Let your gentleness be  
known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>76</sup> Do not worry about anything, but in  
everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be  
made known to God. <sup>77</sup> And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding,  
will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

<sup>78</sup> Finally, beloved, | <sup>79</sup> whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just,  
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<sup>94</sup> The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. |

BY THE GRACE OF GOD THE FATHER AND THE LORD JESUS CHRIST,  
THE POWER OF GOD AND THE LIFE OF GOD



# Philippians is a friendship letter and a letter of moral exhortation

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To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops<sup>1</sup> and  
deacons<sup>1</sup> |

<sup>2</sup> Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

<sup>3</sup> I thank my God every time I remember you. <sup>4</sup> constantly praying with joy in every  
one of my prayers for all of you, <sup>5</sup> because of your sharing in the gospel from the  
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of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one  
mind. <sup>33</sup> Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others  
as better than yourselves. <sup>34</sup> Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to  
the interests of others. <sup>35</sup> Let the same mind be in you that was <sup>36</sup> in Christ Jesus,  
<sup>37</sup> who, though he was in the form of God,  
did not regard equality with God  
as something to be exploited,

<sup>38</sup> but emptied himself,  
<sup>39</sup> taking the form of a slave,  
being born in human likeness.  
And being found in human form,  
<sup>40</sup> he humbled himself  
and became obedient to the point of death—  
even death on a cross.

<sup>41</sup> Therefore God also highly exalted him  
and gave him the name  
<sup>42</sup> that is above every name,

<sup>43</sup> so that at the name of Jesus  
every knee should bend,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
<sup>44</sup> and every tongue should confess  
that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

<sup>45</sup> Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my  
presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with  
fear and trembling; <sup>46</sup> for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will  
and to work for his good pleasure.

<sup>47</sup> Do all things without murmuring and arguing, <sup>48</sup> so that you may be blameless  
and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and  
perverse generation, in which you shine like stars in the world. <sup>49</sup> It is by your  
holding fast to the word of life that I can boast on the day of Christ that I did not  
live in vain or labor in vain. <sup>50</sup> But even if I am being poured out  
like a libation for the sacrifice and the offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice  
<sup>51</sup> and in the same way you also must be glad and rejoice with

<sup>52</sup> I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, so that  
by news of you, <sup>53</sup> I will have no one like him who will be genuine  
your welfare. <sup>54</sup> All of them are seeking their own interests, not  
Christ. <sup>55</sup> But Timothy's<sup>1</sup> | worth you know, how like a son he  
served with me in the work of the gospel. <sup>56</sup> I hope therefore to  
as I see how things go with me; <sup>57</sup> and I trust in the Lord that  
soon.

<sup>58</sup> Still, I think it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus—my  
worker and fellow soldier, your messenger<sup>1</sup> and minister to me  
who has been longing for<sup>1</sup> all of you, and has been distressed because you  
were ill. <sup>59</sup> He was indeed so ill that he nearly died. But God had mercy on him, and  
not only on him but on me also, so that I would not have one sorrow after  
another. <sup>60</sup> I am the more eager to send him, therefore, in order that you may  
rejoice at seeing him again, and that I may be less anxious. <sup>61</sup> Welcome him then  
in the Lord with all joy, and honor such people, <sup>62</sup> because he came close to death  
for the work of Christ, <sup>63</sup> risking his life to make up for those services that you  
could not give me.

<sup>64</sup> Finally, my brothers and sisters, | rejoice<sup>1</sup> in the Lord.

To write the same things to you is not troublesome to me, and for you it is a  
safeguard.

<sup>65</sup> Beware of the dogs, beware of the evil workers, beware of those who mutilate the  
flesh! | <sup>66</sup> For it is we who are the circumcision, who worship in the Spirit of  
God | and boast in Christ Jesus and have no confidence in the flesh— <sup>67</sup> even  
though I, too, have reason for confidence in the flesh.

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: <sup>68</sup> circumcised  
on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a  
Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; <sup>69</sup> as to zeal, a persecutor of the  
church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

<sup>70</sup> Yet whatever gains I had, those I have come to regard as loss because of  
Christ. <sup>71</sup> More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing  
value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all  
things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ <sup>72</sup> and be  
found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but  
one that comes through faith in Christ. | the righteousness from God based on  
faith. <sup>73</sup> I want to know Christ! and the power of his resurrection and the sharing  
of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, <sup>74</sup> if somehow I may attain the  
resurrection from the dead.

<sup>75</sup> Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal! | but I  
press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his  
<sup>76</sup> Beloved, | I do not consider that I have made it my own! | but this one  
thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies  
ahead. <sup>77</sup> I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly | call of God in  
Christ Jesus. <sup>78</sup> Let those of us then who are mature be of the same mind, and if  
you think differently about anything, this too God will reveal to you. <sup>79</sup> Only let us  
hold fast to what we have attained.

<sup>80</sup> Brothers and sisters, | join in imitating me, and observe those who live  
according to the example you have in us. <sup>81</sup> For many live as enemies of the cross

<sup>82</sup> Therefore, my brothers and sisters, | whom I love and long for, my joy and  
crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

<sup>83</sup> Urge Euodia and Urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. <sup>84</sup> Yes, and  
I ask you also, my loyal companion, | to help these women, for they have struggled  
beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-  
workers, whose names are in the book of life.

<sup>85</sup> Rejoice! | in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice! | <sup>86</sup> Let your gentleness be  
known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>87</sup> Do not worry about anything, but in  
everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be  
made known to God. <sup>88</sup> And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding,  
will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

<sup>89</sup> Finally, beloved! | whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just,  
whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any  
excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about | these  
things. <sup>90</sup> Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard  
and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

<sup>91</sup> Rejoice! | in the Lord greatly that now at last you have revived your concern for  
me; indeed, you were concerned for me, but had no opportunity to show  
it. | <sup>92</sup> Not that I am referring to being in need; for I have learned to be content  
with whatever I have. <sup>93</sup> I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to  
have plenty. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being well-  
fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need. <sup>94</sup> I can do all  
things through him who strengthens me. <sup>95</sup> In any case, it was kind of you to share  
my distress.

<sup>96</sup> You Philippians indeed know that in the early days of the gospel, when I left  
Macedonia, no church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving,  
except you alone. <sup>97</sup> For even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me help for my  
needs more than once. <sup>98</sup> Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the profit that  
accumulates to your account. <sup>99</sup> I have been paid in full and have more than  
enough; I am fully satisfied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts  
you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice, acceptable and pleasing to God. <sup>100</sup> And my  
God will fully satisfy every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ  
Jesus. <sup>101</sup> To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.

<sup>102</sup> Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The friends<sup>1</sup> who are with me greet you. <sup>103</sup> All  
the saints greet you, especially those of the emperor's household.

<sup>104</sup> The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

## Exchange of greetings with third parties

# We rejoin Philippians in chapter 2, itself a mixture of exhortation [vv. 1-18] and friendship [vv. 19-30]

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- In 2:4-11 Paul presents Jesus as *The Paradigm* of how they should be treating one another
  - ❖ In contrast, as servant, to the Roman Christians who are trying to undermine Paul
  - ❖ In contrast, as exalted Lord, to the Caesar Kyrios (lord) of the Philippians
  - ❖ *Both* are important in equipping the Philippians to resist the forces which seek to pull them apart, without and within
  - ❖ For a taste of the *exaltation*, play excerpt from Gordon Fee's third lecture at the 2005 Vineyard National Conference, 18:00-43:00



# Opening with prayer, followed by song

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Be still and know that I am God,  
be still and know that I am God,  
be still and know that I am God.

I am the Lord that healeth thee,  
I am the Lord that healeth thee,  
I am the Lord that healeth thee.

In thee, O Lord, I put my trust,  
In thee, O Lord, I put my trust,  
In thee, O Lord, I put my trust.





