

Philippians

1 ¹Greetings from Paul and Timothy, servants of Jesus Christ.

To all of you in Philippi who are God's holy people* in Christ Jesus, including your elders^a and special servants.*

²Grace* and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul's Prayer

³I thank God every time I remember you. ⁴And I always pray for all of you with joy. ⁵I thank God for the help you gave me while I told people the Good News.* You helped from the first day you believed until now. ⁶I am sure that the good work God began in you will continue until he completes it on the day when Jesus Christ comes again.

⁷I know I am right to think like this about all of you because you are so close to my heart. This is because you have all played such an important part in God's grace* to me—now, during this time that I am in prison, and whenever I am defending and proving the truth of the Good News. ⁸God knows that I want very much to see you. I love all of you with the love of Christ Jesus.

⁹This is my prayer for you:

- that your love will grow more and more;
- that you will have knowledge
- and understanding with your love;
- ¹⁰ that you will see the difference
- between what is important and
- what is not and choose what is
- important;
- that you will be pure and blameless
- for the coming of Christ;
- ¹¹ that your life will be full of the many
- good works that are produced
- by Jesus Christ
- to bring glory* and praise to God.

Paul's Troubles Help the Lord's Work

¹²Brothers and sisters, I want you to know that all that has happened to me has helped to spread the Good News.* ¹³All the Roman guards and all the others here know that I am in prison for serving Christ. ¹⁴My being in prison has caused most of the believers* to put their trust in the Lord and to show more courage in telling people God's message.*

¹⁵Some people are telling the message about Christ because they are jealous and bitter. Others do it because they want to help. ¹⁶They are doing it out of love. They know that God gave me the work of defending the Good News. ¹⁷But those others tell about Christ because of their selfish ambition. Their reason for doing it is wrong. They only do it because they think it will make trouble for me in prison. ¹⁸But that doesn't matter. What is important is that they are telling people about Christ, whether they are sincere or not. So I am glad they are doing it.

I will continue to be glad, ¹⁹because I know that your prayers and the help the Spirit* of Jesus Christ gives me will cause this trouble to result in my freedom.^b ²⁰I am full of hope and feel sure I will not have any reason to be ashamed. I am certain I will have now the same boldness to speak freely that I always have. I will let God use my life to bring more honor to Christ. It doesn't matter whether I live or die. ²¹To me, the only important thing about living is Christ. And even death would be for my benefit.^c ²²If I continue living here on earth, I will be able to work for the Lord. But what would I choose—to live or to die? I don't know. ²³It would be a hard choice. Sometimes I want to leave this life and be with Christ. That would be

^a**1:1 elders** Here, literally, "overseers." See "elders" in the Word List.

^b**1:19 freedom** Or "salvation."

^c**1:21 death ... benefit** Paul says that death would be better, because death would bring him nearer to Christ.

much better for me; ²⁴however, you people need me here alive. ²⁵I am sure of this, so I know that I will stay here and be with you to help you grow and have joy in your faith. ²⁶When I am there with you again, you will be bursting with pride over what Christ Jesus did to help me.

²⁷Just be sure you live as God's people in a way that honors the Good News of Christ. Then if I come and visit you or if I am away from you, I will hear good things about you. I will know that you stand together with the same purpose and that you work together like a team to help others believe the Good News. ²⁸And you will not be afraid of those who are against you. All of this is proof from God that you are being saved and that your enemies will be lost. ²⁹God gave you the honor of believing in Christ. But that is not all. He also gave you the honor of suffering for Christ. Both of these bring glory* to Christ. ³⁰You saw the difficulties I had to face, and you hear that I am still having troubles. Now you must face them too.

Be United and Care for Each Other

2 ¹Think about what we have in Christ: the encouragement he has brought us, the comfort of his love, our sharing in his Spirit,* and the mercy and kindness he has shown us. If you enjoy these blessings, ²then do what will make my joy complete: Agree with each other, and show your love for each other. Be united in your goals and in the way you think. ³In whatever you do, don't let selfishness or pride be your guide. Be humble, and honor others more than yourselves. ⁴Don't be interested only in your own life, but care about the lives of others too.

Learn From Christ to Be Unselfish

⁵In your life together, think the way Christ Jesus thought. ⁶He was like God in every way, but he did not think that his being equal with God was something to use for his own benefit. ⁷Instead, he gave up everything, even his place with God. He accepted the role of a servant, appearing in human form. During his life as a man, ⁸he humbled himself by being fully obedient to God, even when that caused his death—death on a cross.

⁹So God raised him up to the most important place and gave him the name that is greater than any other name. ¹⁰God did this so that every person will bow down to honor the name of Jesus. Everyone in

heaven, on earth, and under the earth will bow. ¹¹They will all confess, "Jesus Christ is Lord," and this will bring glory* to God the Father.

Be the People God Wants You to Be

¹²My dear friends, you always obeyed what you were taught. Just as you obeyed when I was with you, it is even more important for you to obey now that I am not there. You must continue to live in a way that gives meaning to your salvation. Do this with fear and respect for God. ¹³Yes, it is God who is working in you. He helps you want to do what pleases him, and he gives you the power to do it.

¹⁴Do everything without complaining or arguing ¹⁵so that you will be blameless and pure, children of God without any fault. But you are living with evil people all around you, who have lost their sense of what is right. Among those people you shine like lights in a dark world, ¹⁶and you offer them the teaching that gives life. So I can be proud of you when Christ comes again. You will show that my work was not wasted—that I ran in the race and won.

¹⁷Your faith makes you give your lives as a sacrifice* in serving God. Maybe I will have to offer my own life with your sacrifice. But if that happens, I will be glad, and I will share my joy with all of you. ¹⁸You also should be glad and share your joy with me.

News About Timothy and Epaphroditus

¹⁹With the blessing of the Lord Jesus, I hope I will be able to send Timothy to you soon. I will be glad to learn how you are. ²⁰I have no one else like Timothy, who genuinely cares for you. ²¹Others are interested only in their own lives. They don't care about the work of Christ Jesus. ²²You know the kind of person Timothy is. He has served with me in telling the Good News* like a son with his father. ²³I plan to send him to you quickly, as soon as I know what will happen to me. ²⁴I am sure the Lord will help me come to you soon.

²⁵For now, I think I must send Epaphroditus back to you. He is my brother in God's family, who works and serves with me in the Lord's army. When I needed help, you sent him to me, ²⁶but now he wants very much to see all of you again. He is worried because you heard that he was sick. ²⁷He was sick and near death. But God helped him and me too, so that I would not have even more grief. ²⁸So I want very much to send him to you. When

you see him, you can be happy. And I can stop worrying about you. ²⁹Welcome him in the Lord with much joy. Give honor to people like Epaphroditus. ³⁰He should be honored because he almost died for the work of Christ. He put his life in danger so that he could help me. This was help that you could not give me.

Christ Is More Important Than Anything

3 ¹And now, my brothers and sisters, be filled with joy in the Lord. It is no trouble for me to write the same things to you again. I want to be sure that you are prepared.

²Be careful of the dogs—those people whose work does no one any good. They want to cut off everyone who isn't circumcised.^a ³But we are the ones who have the true circumcision^b—we who worship God through his Spirit.* We don't trust in ourselves or anything we can do. We take pride only in Christ Jesus. ⁴Even if I am able to trust in myself, still I don't do it. If anyone else thinks they have a reason to trust in themselves, they should know that I have a greater reason for doing so. ⁵I was circumcised on the eighth day after my birth. I am from the people of Israel* and the tribe of Benjamin. I am a true Jew, and so were my parents. The law* was very important to me. That is why I became a Pharisee.* ⁶I was such a fanatic that I persecuted* the church.* And no one could find fault with how I always obeyed the law.

⁷At one time all these things were important to me. But because of Christ, I decided that they are worth nothing. ⁸Not only these things, but now I think that all things are worth nothing compared with the greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. Because of Christ, I lost all these things, and now I know that they are all worthless trash. All I want now is Christ. ⁹I want to belong to him. In Christ I am right with God, but my being right does not come from following the law. It comes from God through faith. God uses my faith in^c Christ

to make me right with him. ¹⁰All I want is to know Christ and the power that raised him from death. I want to share in his sufferings and be like him even in his death. ¹¹Then there is hope that I myself will somehow be raised from death.

Trying to Reach the Goal

¹²I don't mean that I am exactly what God wants me to be. I have not yet reached that goal. But I continue trying to reach it and make it mine. That's what Christ Jesus wants me to do. It is the reason he made me his. ¹³Brothers and sisters, I know that I still have a long way to go. But there is one thing I do: I forget what is in the past and try as hard as I can to reach the goal before me. ¹⁴I keep running hard toward the finish line to get the prize that is mine because God has called me through Christ Jesus to life up there in heaven.

¹⁵All of us who have grown to be spiritually mature should think this way too. And if there is any of this that you don't agree with, God will make it clear to you. ¹⁶But we should continue following the truth we already have.

¹⁷Brothers and sisters, join together in following my example. Also, learn by watching those who are living the way we showed you. ¹⁸There are many who live like enemies of the cross of Christ. I have often told you about them. And it makes me cry to tell you about them now. ¹⁹The way they live is leading them to destruction. They have replaced God with their own desires. They do shameful things, and they are proud of what they do. They think only about earthly things. ²⁰But the government that rules us is in heaven. We are waiting for our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, to come from there. ²¹He will change our humble bodies and make them like his own glorious body. Christ can do this by his power, with which he is able to rule everything.

Some Things to Do

4 ¹My dear brothers and sisters, I love you and want to see you. You bring me joy and make me proud of you. Continue following the Lord as I have told you.

²Euodia and Syntyche, you both belong to the Lord, so please agree with each other. ³For this I make a special request to my friend who has served with me so faithfully: Help these women. They worked hard with me in telling people the Good

^a3:2 *want to cut off ... circumcised* There is a play on words here in Greek. The key word is like "circumcision" (see the Word List), but it means "mutilation" or "cutting to pieces."

^b3:3 *we are ... circumcision* Literally, "we are the circumcision." Paul uses the word "circumcision" (see the Word List) here in a spiritual sense of believers who share in the new agreement that God gave his people through Jesus.

^c3:9 *my faith in* Or "the faithfulness of."

News,* together with Clement and others who worked with me. Their names are written in the book of life.

⁴Always be filled with joy in the Lord. I will say it again. Be filled with joy.

⁵Let everyone see that you are gentle and kind. The Lord is coming soon. ⁶Don't worry about anything, but pray and ask God for everything you need, always giving thanks for what you have. ⁷And because you belong to Christ Jesus, God's peace will stand guard over all your thoughts and feelings. His peace can do this far better than our human minds.^a

⁸Brothers and sisters, continue to think about what is good and worthy of praise. Think about what is true and honorable and right and pure and beautiful and respected. ⁹And do what you learned and received from me—what I told you and what you saw me do. And the God who gives peace will be with you.

Paul Thanks the Philippian Believers

¹⁰I am so happy, and I thank the Lord that you have again shown your care for me. You continued to care about me, but there was no way for you to show it. ¹¹I am telling you this, but not because I need something. I have learned to be satisfied with what I have and with whatever happens. ¹²I know how to live when I am poor and when I have plenty. I have learned the secret of how to live through any kind of

situation—when I have enough to eat or when I am hungry, when I have everything I need or when I have nothing. ¹³Christ is the one who gives me the strength I need to do whatever I must do.

¹⁴But it was good that you helped me when I needed help. ¹⁵You people in Philippi remember when I first told the Good News* there. When I left Macedonia,* you were the only church* that gave me help. ¹⁶Several times you sent me things I needed when I was in Thessalonica. ¹⁷Really, it is not that I want to get gifts from you. But I want you to have the benefit that comes from giving. ¹⁸I have everything I need. I have even more than I need. I have all I need because Epaphroditus brought your gift to me. Your gift is like a sweet-smelling sacrifice* offered to God. God accepts that sacrifice and it pleases him. ¹⁹My God will use his glorious riches to give you everything you need. He will do this through Christ Jesus. ²⁰Glory* to our God and Father forever and ever. Amen.*

²¹Give our greetings to God's people there—to each one who belongs to Christ Jesus. Those in God's family who are with me send you their greetings. ²²And greetings to you from all of God's people here, especially those who work in the service of the emperor.*

²³The grace* of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

^a4:7 can do ... minds Literally, "surpasses (is better than) every mind," which could also have the meaning, "is beyond all understanding."

License Agreement for Bible Texts

July 27, 2001

Copyright © 2001 by World Bible Translation Center

All rights reserved.

These Scriptures:

- Are copyrighted by World Bible Translation Center.
- Are not public domain.
- May not be altered or modified in any form.
- May not be sold or offered for sale in any form.
- May not be used for commercial purposes (including, but not limited to, use in advertising or Web banners used for the purpose of selling online ad space).
- May be distributed without modification in electronic form for non-commercial use. However, they may not be hosted on any kind of server (including a Web or ftp server) without written permission. A copy of this license (without modification) must also be included.
- May be reprinted for non-commercial use, but only without modification or any additional text or commentary.
- May be quoted for any purpose, up to 1,000 verses, without written permission. However, the extent of quotation must not comprise a complete book nor should it amount to more than 50% of the work in which it is quoted. A copyright notice must appear on the title or copyright page using this pattern: "Taken from the HOLY BIBLE: EASY-TO-READ VERSION © 2001 by World Bible Translation Center, Inc. and used by permission." If the text quoted is from one of WBTC's non-English versions, the printed title of the actual text quoted will be substituted for "HOLY BIBLE: EASY-TO-READ VERSION." The copyright notice must appear in English or be translated into another language. When quotations from WBTC's text are used in non-saleable media, such as church bulletins, orders of service, posters, transparencies or similar media, a complete copyright notice is not required, but the initials of the version (such as "ERV" for the Easy-to-Read Version in English) must appear at the end of each quotation.

Any use of these Scriptures other than those listed above is prohibited. For additional rights and permission for usage, such as the use of WBTC's text on a Web site, or for clarification of any of the above, please [contact World Bible Translation Center](#) in writing or by email at distribution@wbtc.com.

World Bible Translation Center
P.O. Box 820648
Fort Worth, Texas 76182, USA
Telephone: 1-817-595-1664
Toll-Free in US: 1-888-54-BIBLE
E-Mail: info@wbtc.com

World Bible Translation Center's web site: <http://www.wbtc.com>

This license is subject to change without notice. The current license can be found at:
<http://www.wbtc.com/downloads/biblelicense.htm>

To order a copy of this text online, go to:
<http://www.wbtc.com/order/default.htm>

If the text in this document does not display correctly, use Adobe Acrobat Reader 3.0 or higher.

Download Adobe Acrobat Reader from:

<http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>