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## Philippians

The book of Philippians is a letter written by the Apostle Paul to the Christian community in Philippi, a city in Greece. It is one of the letters that Paul wrote to different churches during his missionary journeys, and it is one of the books in the New Testament of the Christian Bible.

Here is a brief summary of the book of Philippians:

Chapter 1: In the first chapter, Paul expresses his gratitude for the Philippians and their partnership in spreading the gospel. He also encourages them to remain steadfast in their faith and to be joyful in all circumstances.

Chapter 2: In the second chapter, Paul encourages the Philippians to imitate Christ's humility and selflessness. He also speaks of Timothy and Epaphroditus, two of his companions who are with him in Rome.

Chapter 3: In the third chapter, Paul warns the Philippians against false teachers who promote circumcision and other Jewish customs as necessary for salvation. He emphasizes that salvation comes through faith in Christ alone.

Chapter 4: In the final chapter, Paul urges the Philippians to rejoice in the Lord, to pray and give thanks, and to focus on what is true, honorable, just, pure, lovely, and commendable. He also thanks them for their generosity and support.

Overall, the book of Philippians is a letter of encouragement and exhortation to the Christian community in Philippi, urging them to remain steadfast in their faith and to imitate Christ's humility and selflessness. It emphasizes the importance of joy, gratitude, and a focus on what is good and true, even in difficult circumstances.

Philippians 1  
New International Version

1 Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus,

To all God's holy people in Christ Jesus at Philippi, together with the overseers and deacons[a]:

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

Thanksgiving and Prayer

3 I thank my God every time I remember you. 4 In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy 5 because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, 6 being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

7 It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me. 8 God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

9 And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, 10 so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, 11 filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

Paul's Chains Advance the Gospel

12 Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters,[b] that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel. 13 As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard[c] and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. 14 And because of my chains, most of the brothers and sisters have become confident in the Lord and dare all the more to proclaim the gospel without fear.

15 It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill. 16 The latter do so out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. 17 The former preach Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing that they can stir up trouble for me while I am in chains. 18 But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice.

Yes, and I will continue to rejoice, 19 for I know that through your prayers and God's provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance.[d] 20 I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. 21 For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. 22 If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! 23 I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; 24 but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body. 25 Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in

the faith, 26 so that through my being with you again your boasting in Christ Jesus will abound on account of me.

#### Life Worthy of the Gospel

27 Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit,[e] striving together as one for the faith of the gospel 28 without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you. This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved—and that by God. 29 For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him, 30 since you are going through the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have.

#### Footnotes

Philippians 1:1 The word deacons refers here to Christians designated to serve with the overseers/elders of the church in a variety of ways; similarly in Romans 16:1 and 1 Tim. 3:8,12.

Philippians 1:12 The Greek word for brothers and sisters (adelphoi) refers here to believers, both men and women, as part of God's family; also in verse 14; and in 3:1, 13, 17; 4:1, 8, 21.

Philippians 1:13 Or whole palace

Philippians 1:19 Or vindication; or salvation

Philippians 1:27 Or in one spirit

Chapter 1 of the book of Philippians is the opening chapter of the letter that the Apostle Paul wrote to the Christian community in Philippi. Here is a full description of the chapter:

Verse 1-2: Paul begins by introducing himself and his co-author, Timothy, and addressing the letter to the "saints" in Philippi, including the overseers and deacons.

Verse 3-8: Paul expresses his gratitude for the Philippians and their partnership in spreading the gospel. He also expresses his confidence that God will continue to work in and through them.

Verse 9-11: Paul prays for the Philippians, asking that their love may abound more and more in knowledge and all discernment, so that they may approve what is excellent and be pure and blameless for the day of Christ.

Verse 12-18: Paul reflects on his own imprisonment in Rome and how it has actually served to advance the gospel. He rejoices that Christ is being preached, even by those who do so with impure motives.

Verse 19-26: Paul expresses his hope and confidence that he will be released from prison and able to visit the Philippians again. He also emphasizes his desire to remain faithful to Christ, whether in life or in death.

Verse 27-30: Paul encourages the Philippians to live in a manner worthy of the gospel, standing firm in one spirit and striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, even in the face of persecution.

Overall, Chapter 1 of Philippians sets the tone for the rest of the letter by expressing Paul's gratitude, confidence, and hope in the midst of difficult circumstances. It also

emphasizes the importance of living in a manner worthy of the gospel, with love, discernment, and unity, even in the face of opposition.

Here are some important verses from Philippians chapter 1 in the Christian Bible, along with brief explanations and their location in the chapter:

1. Verse 6: "being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." This verse reminds us that God has started a good work in us and will continue to work in us until the day Jesus returns.
2. Verse 9: "And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight." This verse shows the apostle Paul's desire for the Philippians to grow in love, knowledge, and depth of insight.
3. Verse 21: "For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain." This verse expresses Paul's deep commitment to Christ, and his willingness to give up everything, including his own life, for the sake of the gospel.
4. Verse 27: "Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ." This verse encourages us to live in a way that is consistent with the gospel message, no matter what circumstances we face.
5. Verse 29: "For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him." This verse reminds us that being a follower of Christ involves not only believing in him, but also being willing to endure suffering for his sake.

The New Testament book of Philippians, specifically in Chapter 1, contains several important theological thoughts and has had significant theological influence in Christian theology.

Theological Thought in Philippians Chapter 1:

**Joy in Suffering:** One of the key theological themes in Philippians, which is introduced in Chapter 1, is the idea of finding joy and contentment in the midst of difficult circumstances. The apostle Paul, who wrote Philippians, was imprisoned when he wrote this letter, and yet he expresses joy and thanksgiving for the Philippians' partnership in the gospel. This theme underscores the Christian idea that even in suffering, believers can experience the presence and peace of God.

**The Advance of the Gospel:** Paul emphasizes in this chapter that his imprisonment has actually served to advance the gospel. He sees his circumstances as an opportunity to preach Christ to the guards and to embolden other believers to proclaim the gospel more courageously. This underscores the theological concept that God can use even challenging situations for His purposes and the spread of His message.

**Unity in Christ:** Paul encourages the Philippians to stand firm in one spirit and one mind, striving side by side for the faith of the gospel. This emphasis on unity is a recurring theme in the New Testament and reflects the theological importance of believers being of the same mind, love, and purpose in Christ.

The Preeminence of Christ: Throughout Philippians, including Chapter 1, Paul emphasizes the preeminence of Jesus Christ. He speaks of Christ as the one in whom believers find their joy, hope, and the source of their righteousness. This theological idea aligns with the broader New Testament teaching that Jesus is the central figure in the Christian faith.

Theological Influence:

The theological thoughts found in Philippians Chapter 1 have had a significant influence on Christian theology and practice:

Joy in Suffering: The idea of finding joy and contentment in the midst of suffering and adversity has been a source of comfort and inspiration for Christians throughout history. It has been used to encourage believers to maintain their faith and trust in God even in challenging circumstances.

The Advance of the Gospel: The concept that God can use difficult circumstances to advance His purposes has encouraged Christians to persevere in their mission and evangelism, even when facing opposition or persecution.

Unity in Christ: The call for unity in the body of believers has been a central theme in Christian ecclesiology (the study of the church). It has influenced the development of church structures and practices aimed at promoting unity among Christians.

The Preeminence of Christ: The theological emphasis on the preeminence of Christ has played a foundational role in Christian doctrine and Christology (the study of Christ). It has shaped the understanding of who Jesus is and His significance in the salvation of believers.

In summary, Philippians Chapter 1 contains theological thoughts related to joy in suffering, the advance of the gospel, unity in Christ, and the preeminence of Christ. These themes have had a lasting theological influence on Christian thought and practice, emphasizing the importance of faith, unity, and Christ-centered living.

Philippians 2

New International Version

Imitating Christ's Humility

2 Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, 2 then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. 3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, 4 not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

5 In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

6 Who, being in very nature[a] God,  
did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;  
7 rather, he made himself nothing  
by taking the very nature[b] of a servant,  
being made in human likeness.  
8 And being found in appearance as a man,  
he humbled himself  
by becoming obedient to death—  
even death on a cross!

9 Therefore God exalted him to the highest place  
and gave him the name that is above every name,  
10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
11 and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

#### Do Everything Without Grumbling

12 Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, 13 for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.

14 Do everything without grumbling or arguing, 15 so that you may become blameless and pure, “children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.”[c] Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky 16 as you hold firmly to the word of life. And then I will be able to boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor in vain. 17 But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you. 18 So you too should be glad and rejoice with me.

#### Timothy and Epaphroditus

19 I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, that I also may be cheered when I receive news about you. 20 I have no one else like him, who will show genuine concern for your welfare. 21 For everyone looks out for their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. 22 But you know that Timothy has proved himself, because as a son with his father he has served with me in the work of the gospel. 23 I hope, therefore, to send him as soon as I see how things go with me. 24 And I am confident in the Lord that I myself will come soon.

25 But I think it is necessary to send back to you Epaphroditus, my brother, co-worker and fellow soldier, who is also your messenger, whom you sent to take care of my needs. 26 For he longs for all of you and is distressed because you heard he was ill. 27 Indeed he was ill, and almost died. But God had mercy on him, and not on him only but also on me, to spare me sorrow upon sorrow. 28 Therefore I am all the more eager to send him, so

that when you see him again you may be glad and I may have less anxiety. 29 So then, welcome him in the Lord with great joy, and honor people like him, 30 because he almost died for the work of Christ. He risked his life to make up for the help you yourselves could not give me.

#### Footnotes

Philippians 2:6 Or in the form of

Philippians 2:7 Or the form

Philippians 2:15 Deut. 32:5

Chapter 2 of the book of Philippians continues Paul's letter to the Christian community in Philippi. Here is a full description of the chapter:

Verse 1-4: Paul urges the Philippians to be of the same mind, to love one another, and to be unified in their purpose. He emphasizes humility and the importance of considering others before oneself.

Verse 5-11: Paul provides a powerful Christological statement, which is considered one of the most important passages in the New Testament. He describes how Jesus, who was in the form of God, humbled himself and became a servant, even to the point of death on a cross. Paul stresses that God exalted Jesus and gave him the name above every name, so that every knee should bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

Verse 12-18: Paul encourages the Philippians to work out their salvation with fear and trembling, knowing that God is working in them to will and to act according to his good purpose. He urges them to do everything without grumbling or arguing, so that they may shine like stars in a crooked and depraved generation.

Verse 19-30: Paul expresses his plans to send Timothy and Epaphroditus to the Philippians to encourage them and bring news of Paul's situation. He commends Epaphroditus for risking his life to serve Paul and urges the Philippians to welcome him back with joy.

Overall, Chapter 2 of Philippians continues the themes of unity, humility, and service that were introduced in the first chapter. It provides a powerful statement on the nature of Christ and his example of selfless humility. It also encourages the Philippians to work out their faith with a focus on serving others and shining like stars in a dark world.

Here are some important verses from Philippians chapter 2 in the Christian Bible, along with brief explanations and their location in the chapter:

1. Verse 3: "Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves." This verse reminds us to put the needs and interests of others before our own, and to act with humility rather than selfishness.
2. Verse 5: "In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus." This verse challenges us to adopt the same attitude that Jesus had, which was one of humility, obedience, and selflessness.
3. Verse 8: "And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!" This verse highlights the incredible sacrifice that Jesus made by humbling himself and ultimately dying on the cross for our sins.

4. Verse 14: "Do everything without grumbling or arguing." This verse encourages us to avoid complaining or bickering with others, and instead to approach everything with a positive and cooperative attitude.
5. Verse 15: "so that you may become blameless and pure, 'children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.' Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky." This verse reminds us that we are called to be a light in a dark world, and to live in a way that reflects the love and grace of God.

Philippians Chapter 2 contains several important theological thoughts and has had significant theological influence in Christian theology:

#### Theological Thought in Philippians Chapter 2:

**The Humility of Christ:** One of the central theological thoughts in this chapter is the humility of Jesus Christ. It describes how Jesus, who was in the form of God, humbled Himself by taking on human form and becoming obedient to the point of death on the cross. This underscores the theological concept of the Incarnation, where the eternal Son of God became fully human while still being fully divine.

**Servant Leadership:** The chapter encourages believers to have the same attitude as Christ, who willingly served others and sacrificed Himself for their sake. This promotes the theological idea of servant leadership within the Christian community, where believers are called to humble themselves and serve one another.

**The Exaltation of Christ:** After describing Christ's humility, the chapter also speaks of His exaltation, where God highly exalted Him and gave Him the name that is above every name. This highlights the theological belief in the exaltation of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

**Universal Worship:** The chapter concludes by stating that every knee should bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. This emphasizes the universal worship and acknowledgment of Jesus as Lord, a key theological idea in Christianity.

#### Theological Influence:

The theological thoughts in Philippians Chapter 2 have had a profound influence on Christian theology and practice:

**Doctrine of the Incarnation:** The chapter's emphasis on Christ's humility and His willingness to take on human form is foundational to the Christian doctrine of the Incarnation. It has influenced how Christians understand the nature of Christ as both fully divine and fully human.



**Servant Leadership:** The concept of servant leadership, drawn from this chapter, has had a significant impact on Christian ethics and leadership principles. It has encouraged leaders in the church to model their leadership after the humble service of Jesus.

**Exaltation of Christ:** The theological idea of Christ's exaltation is closely tied to the Christian belief in the resurrection and exaltation of Jesus after His death and crucifixion. It underscores the central role of Jesus as the exalted Lord and Savior.

**Universal Worship of Christ:** The declaration that every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord has been used to emphasize the universal lordship of Christ and the ultimate recognition of His divine authority. This has theological implications for soteriology (the study of salvation) and eschatology (the study of end times).

In summary, Philippians Chapter 2 presents theological thoughts related to the humility, servant leadership, exaltation, and universal worship of Jesus Christ. These themes have had a profound theological influence on Christian beliefs about Christ's nature, leadership principles, and the universal acknowledgment of His lordship.

### Philippians 3

New International Version

No Confidence in the Flesh

3 Further, my brothers and sisters, rejoice in the Lord! It is no trouble for me to write the same things to you again, and it is a safeguard for you. 2 Watch out for those dogs, those evildoers, those mutilators of the flesh. 3 For it is we who are the circumcision, we who serve God by his Spirit, who boast in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh— 4 though I myself have reasons for such confidence.

If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: 5 circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; 6 as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless.

7 But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. 8 What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in[a] Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. 10 I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, 11 and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.

12 Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. 13 Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is

behind and straining toward what is ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

#### Following Paul's Example

15 All of us, then, who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you. 16 Only let us live up to what we have already attained.

17 Join together in following my example, brothers and sisters, and just as you have us as a model, keep your eyes on those who live as we do. 18 For, as I have often told you before and now tell you again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. 19 Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is set on earthly things. 20 But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

#### Footnotes

Philippians 3:9 Or through the faithfulness of

Chapter 3 of the book of Philippians continues Paul's letter to the Christian community in Philippi. Here is a full description of the chapter:

Verse 1-3: Paul begins by urging the Philippians to rejoice in the Lord and to beware of false teachers who promote circumcision and other Jewish customs as necessary for salvation. He emphasizes that true circumcision is a matter of the heart, not the flesh.

Verse 4-11: Paul provides a powerful testimony of his own experience, describing how he used to place his confidence in his Jewish heritage and his religious observance, but now considers all of that as loss for the sake of knowing Christ. He emphasizes that his righteousness comes through faith in Christ, not by works of the law.

Verse 12-16: Paul acknowledges that he has not yet attained perfection, but he presses on toward the goal of knowing Christ and being found in him. He urges the Philippians to follow his example and to forget what is behind and strain toward what is ahead.

Verse 17-21: Paul encourages the Philippians to imitate him and other faithful examples, rather than those who live as enemies of the cross of Christ. He reminds them that their citizenship is in heaven, and they eagerly await a Savior from there, who will transform their lowly bodies to be like his glorious body.

Overall, Chapter 3 of Philippians emphasizes the importance of salvation through faith in Christ, rather than works of the law or religious observance. Paul uses his own testimony to demonstrate the transformative power of knowing Christ, and he encourages the Philippians to press on toward the goal of knowing Christ and being found in him. He also reminds them of their ultimate citizenship in heaven and the hope of transformation that awaits them.

Here are some important verses from Philippians chapter 3 in the Christian Bible, along with brief explanations and their location in the chapter:

1. Verse 7-8: "But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ." This verse expresses Paul's willingness to give up everything for the sake of knowing Christ, and his belief that the value of knowing Christ far outweighs any other earthly possessions or accomplishments.
2. Verse 9: "and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith." This verse highlights the importance of putting our faith in Christ rather than relying on our own efforts to be righteous or earn salvation.
3. Verse 13-14: "Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus." This verse encourages us to let go of our past mistakes or accomplishments and focus on the goal of following Christ and living a life that honors him.
4. Verse 20-21: "But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body." This verse reminds us that our true home is in heaven, and that we can look forward to the day when Christ will return and transform us to be like him.

Philippians Chapter 3 contains several important theological thoughts and has had significant theological influence in Christian theology:

#### Theological Thought in Philippians Chapter 3:

**Righteousness by Faith:** In this chapter, the apostle Paul emphasizes the futility of relying on one's own righteousness or religious achievements for salvation. He speaks of his own background as a Pharisee and describes it as "rubbish" compared to knowing Christ. The theological thought here centers on the idea that righteousness comes through faith in Christ rather than through works of the law. This is a central concept in Pauline theology.

**The Resurrection of the Dead:** Paul also discusses the hope of the resurrection in this chapter. He expresses his desire to attain to the resurrection from the dead and the goal of pressing forward toward the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. This theological thought underscores the Christian belief in the bodily resurrection of believers at the end of time.

**Imitating Christ:** Paul encourages the Philippians to imitate him as he imitates Christ. This emphasizes the theological idea of following the example of Christ and His teachings in the Christian life.

**Pressing Toward the Goal:** The chapter highlights the importance of pressing on toward the goal of knowing Christ more deeply and attaining the prize of the upward call. This

theological thought underscores the idea of spiritual growth and perseverance in the Christian journey.

Theological Influence:

The theological thoughts in Philippians Chapter 3 have had a significant influence on Christian theology and practice:

**Justification by Faith:** The emphasis on righteousness by faith in Christ rather than by works of the law has been a foundational concept in Christian theology, particularly in the Protestant Reformation. It played a central role in Martin Luther's understanding of justification by faith alone.

**The Resurrection:** The chapter's discussion of the resurrection has had a profound influence on Christian beliefs about the resurrection of the dead at the end times. It is a key element of Christian eschatology and the hope of eternal life.

**Imitating Christ:** The call to imitate Christ and follow His example has been a fundamental ethical and theological concept in Christianity. It has influenced Christian ethics and the development of Christian virtues.

**Spiritual Growth and Perseverance:** The idea of pressing toward the goal and striving for spiritual growth has had an impact on Christian spirituality and the concept of sanctification—the process of becoming more Christlike.

In summary, Philippians Chapter 3 presents theological thoughts related to righteousness by faith, the resurrection, imitating Christ, and the pursuit of spiritual growth. These themes have had a significant theological influence on Christian beliefs about salvation, eschatology, ethics, and the Christian journey of faith.

Philippians 4

New International Version

Closing Appeal for Steadfastness and Unity

4 Therefore, my brothers and sisters, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, dear friends!

2 I plead with Euodia and I plead with Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. 3 Yes, and I ask you, my true companion, help these women since they have contended at my side in the cause of the gospel, along with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

Final Exhortations

4 Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! 5 Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. 6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And

the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

8 Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. 9 Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

#### Thanks for Their Gifts

10 I rejoiced greatly in the Lord that at last you renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you were concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. 11 I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. 12 I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. 13 I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

14 Yet it was good of you to share in my troubles. 15 Moreover, as you Philippians know, in the early days of your acquaintance with the gospel, when I set out from Macedonia, not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only; 16 for even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid more than once when I was in need. 17 Not that I desire your gifts; what I desire is that more be credited to your account. 18 I have received full payment and have more than enough. I am amply supplied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God. 19 And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.

20 To our God and Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

#### Final Greetings

21 Greet all God's people in Christ Jesus. The brothers and sisters who are with me send greetings. 22 All God's people here send you greetings, especially those who belong to Caesar's household.

23 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.[a]

#### Footnotes

Philippians 4:23 Some manuscripts do not have Amen.

Chapter 4 of the book of Philippians concludes Paul's letter to the Christian community in Philippi. Here is a full description of the chapter:

Verse 1-3: Paul begins by urging two women in the community, Euodia and Syntyche, to reconcile their differences and work together in unity. He also calls on his true companion (whose name is not given) to help these women, as they have worked alongside Paul in spreading the gospel.

Verse 4-7: Paul encourages the Philippians to rejoice in the Lord always, to be gentle, and to not be anxious about anything, but to bring their requests to God with thanksgiving. He promises that God's peace, which surpasses all understanding, will guard their hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Verse 8-9: Paul encourages the Philippians to focus on whatever is true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent, or praiseworthy. He urges them to put into practice whatever they have learned from him, seen in him, or heard from him, and promises that the God of peace will be with them.

Verse 10-13: Paul expresses his gratitude for the support that the Philippians have provided him over the years, both materially and spiritually. He emphasizes that he has learned to be content in all circumstances, whether in plenty or in need, through the strength that Christ provides.

Verse 14-20: Paul acknowledges the Philippians' continued support, even as he has been imprisoned and faced hardships. He assures them that their generosity will be credited to their account in heaven, and he expresses confidence that God will supply all of their needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.

Verse 21-23: Paul concludes his letter by sending greetings to all the saints in Philippi, especially those who belong to Caesar's household. He also blesses them with the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Overall, chapter 4 of Philippians focuses on the theme of joy and contentment. Paul urges the Philippians to rejoice in the Lord always, to be gentle, and not to worry, but to pray and give thanks to God. He encourages them to focus on what is true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent, or praiseworthy, and to put into practice what they have learned from him. Paul also expresses his gratitude for their continued support and sends his greetings and blessings to the Philippians.

Here are some important verses from Philippians chapter 4 in the Christian Bible, along with brief explanations and their location in the chapter:

1. Verse 4: "Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!" This verse encourages us to find joy in the Lord no matter what our circumstances may be.
2. Verse 6-7: "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." This verse reminds us that we can bring all of our worries and concerns to God in prayer, and that he will provide us with a peace that surpasses understanding.
3. Verse 8: "Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things." This verse challenges us to focus on positive and uplifting thoughts, rather than dwelling on negativity or things that will bring us down.
4. Verse 13: "I can do all this through him who gives me strength." This verse reminds us that we can accomplish anything with the strength and power that comes from God.

5. Verse 19: "And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus." This verse assures us that God will provide for all of our needs according to his riches in Christ.

Philippians Chapter 4 contains several important theological thoughts and has had a significant theological influence in Christian theology:

Theological Thought in Philippians Chapter 4:

**Joy and Rejoicing:** Throughout this chapter, the apostle Paul emphasizes the theme of joy and rejoicing. He encourages the Philippian believers to rejoice in the Lord always, even in the midst of difficulties and anxieties. This theological thought underscores the Christian idea that joy can be found in a relationship with God regardless of external circumstances.

**Prayer and Thanksgiving:** Paul instructs the Philippians to bring their requests to God in prayer with thanksgiving, and he assures them that the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard their hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. This highlights the theological importance of prayer and thanksgiving as means of experiencing God's peace and presence.

**Contentment:** Paul mentions that he has learned to be content in all circumstances, whether he has plenty or is in need. This teaches the theological principle of contentment, which is rooted in trusting God's provision and sufficiency.

**God's Provision and Care:** The chapter includes Paul's expression of gratitude for the support he has received from the Philippians. It emphasizes the theological concept that God provides for the needs of His people through the generosity and support of fellow believers.

Theological Influence:

The theological thoughts in Philippians Chapter 4 have had a significant influence on Christian theology and practice:

**Joy in the Lord:** The emphasis on finding joy in the Lord has been a source of encouragement and comfort for Christians throughout history. It has influenced Christian spirituality, teaching believers to find their ultimate source of joy and contentment in their relationship with God.

**Prayer and Thanksgiving:** The theological importance of prayer and thanksgiving as a means of experiencing God's peace has had a profound impact on Christian prayer practices. It has encouraged believers to approach God with gratitude and trust in times of need.

**Contentment:** The concept of contentment, as taught in this chapter, has influenced Christian ethics and attitudes toward material possessions. It has encouraged believers to find contentment in God rather than in worldly possessions.

**God's Provision and Care:** The idea of God providing for His people through the support of fellow believers has shaped Christian understanding of stewardship, generosity, and the importance of caring for one another within the faith community.

In summary, Philippians Chapter 4 presents theological thoughts related to joy in the Lord, prayer and thanksgiving, contentment, and God's provision and care. These themes have had a significant theological influence on Christian beliefs about joy, prayer, contentment, and the mutual support and care within the Christian community.

Notes:

There are some challenging theological and philosophical questions that can arise from the book of Philippians. Here are a few examples:

1. What is the true nature of Christ's humility? In Philippians 2:5-11, Paul describes Christ's humility in emptying himself and becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross. But what does it mean for Christ, who is fully God, to empty himself? How does his divinity relate to his humanity?
2. What is the source of joy and contentment in life? In Philippians 4:11-13, Paul says that he has learned to be content in all circumstances, whether in plenty or in want. He attributes this contentment to Christ, who strengthens him. But how can we find true joy and contentment in life? Is it dependent on our circumstances or something deeper?
3. What does it mean to "work out your salvation"? In Philippians 2:12-13, Paul urges the Philippians to work out their salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in them. But what does it mean to work out our salvation? Is it something we can achieve through our own efforts, or is it entirely dependent on God's grace?

These are just a few examples of challenging questions that can arise from the book of Philippians. Christians and theologians have debated these questions for centuries, and while there may not be definitive answers, studying the text and engaging in thoughtful discussion can deepen our understanding of God's word.