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**Philippians Summary**

**Who wrote the book?**

* Paul ministered at Philippi during his second missionary journey, spending about \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ months in the city.
  + He was drawn to Philippi by the Holy Spirit through a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ he had in the city of Troas, just across the northeastern corner of the Aegean Sea from the port city of Neapolis and its close neighbor Philippi. (Acts 16:8–12)
  + Paul \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the church and helped develop the core of the church in the city.
    - Among them were Lydia, a businesswoman who \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ her home to Paul and his coworkers. (Acts 16:13–15)
    - Also, a Philippian jailer, who was converted under Paul’s ministry after an \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ miraculously broke open the prison. (16:22–34)

**When was it written?**

* Paul wrote four Prison Epistles, Paul likely wrote Philippians last, near the end of his imprisonment in Rome around AD **\_\_\_** or **\_\_\_**.
  + Paul wrote three the other Prison Epistles—\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_—by the hand of Tychicus, as their destinations were near one another.
  + The letter to the Philippians was delivered by Epaphroditus, who had come to Paul in Rome with financial help from the church at Philippi. (Philippians 2:25; 4:18).
    - During his time in Rome, Epaphroditus got seriously \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, which postponed his return home and the delivery of the letter. (Philippians 2:26–27)

**Why is Philippians so important to us today?**

* Paul was not responding to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in Philippi as he was in Galatians and Colossians.
  + He wrote to the Philippians to express his \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and affection for the Philippian believers.
  + More than any other church the Philippians were \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ when he needed monetary and material support for his ministry. (2 Corinthians 8:11; Philippians 4:15–18)
  + Paul’s affection for these people is clear throughout the letter as he \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ them to live out their faith in joy and unity. (1:3–5, 25–26; 4:1)

**Here’s what we learn from Philippians:**

* The focus of a great majority of the letter is the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_- \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the Believer which is finding joy and contentment in Jesus Christ alone.
  + The picture of Jesus as the humble servant serves as the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of Paul’s teaching in this letter. (2:5–11)
* Paul’s desire is to lead the Philippians to this \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
  + He taught that a community of believers with single-mindedness on Christ creates \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with one another.
  + That harmony only comes through mutual \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ modeled after Jesus.
  + Paul wrote that he poured out his life as a special \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for the sake of Christ.
  + That attitude lead Paul to find great joy and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in his service to the kingdom of God.
* The single-minded focus on Jesus, helps us focus on the keys to contentment and joy for our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ walk with God.
* We must Surrender our minds to God at the beginning of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* We must give God our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* We must let the Holy Spirit \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ our minds through knowing God’s Word.
* We must daily ask God to give us a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ mind, a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_mind, a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ mind, a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ mind.
* During the day, we must “mind our minds.”
* If we discover that we have sinned, then we must immediately confess it to the God. (1 John 1:9)
* Whenever possible, go back and fix your mistake or at least apologize.
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the gates of your mind. (Philippians 4:8)
* When a harsh or impure thought enters your mind, deal with it \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* We must remember that our joy is not just for \_\_\_\_\_\_. We cannot be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ with the joy only found in Christ.
  + We glorify Christ by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the contentment we have found in Him.

**So What Now?**

* Allow the joy and contentment you find in Christ to keep you from sin, useless quarrels, and division in our church.
* Paul taught the Philippians, that true joy comes only through humble faith in the saving work of Jesus.
  + We need to join ourselves in harmony with Christ, His followers, and serve others in the name of Christ.
  + This was the life practiced by the Philippian believers, and it is a life available to us today.
* Let’s join each other in finding contentment in Christ by living a life of “Living Sacrifice!” through single-minded focus on Jesus!

**More room for notes:** ☺ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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