

PART ONE

Philippians 1:1-7 // August 7

JOY IN ALL SEASONS

A SERMON SERIES IN PHILIPPIANS

Prepare Your Heart & Mind

Begin this time in prayer, confessing any sins you can recall, thanking the Lord for the gift of His Word, and asking for His Spirit to guide you in your time.



Reflect/Connect

- Use these questions for a time of individual reflection or to connect with others in meaningful conversation.

Grow in the Word

- These questions are designed as a guide for individual study and to foster spiritual conversation with a group of people.

REFLECT/CONNECT

- In what ways did the Rhythms series change your practice of the spiritual disciplines or impact your weekly habits?
- Reflect on a moment or experience that naturally produced gratitude and joy. What comes to mind, and what was it about that experience that brought forth gratitude and joy?

GROW IN THE WORD

Paul began his letter to the Philippians by introducing himself along with Timothy, and by praying a blessing on all the believers in Philippi.

- What does the use of the word "bond-servant" reveal about Paul's view of his identity in relation to Jesus? Compare different Bible translations of verse 1 and also see Isaiah 43:10; 2 Peter 1:1; and Revelations 15:3.
- What do you typically consider to be central to your own identity?

In verses 3-7, Paul expressed heartfelt appreciation for the Philippian believers and described various reasons for his gratitude.

- How would you describe Paul's tone in this passage and the emotions he expresses for the Philippians?
- What was the source of Paul's joy, and how does it encourage/challenge you to know that Paul was imprisoned when he wrote this letter? See also Philippians 1:19, 27; 4:10-14.
- In light of the previous question, how would you describe the relationship between Paul and the Philippians

GROW IN THE WORD

- What does Paul mean when he says God will complete the "good work" he began in verse 6? See verse 10; Ephesians 2:8-10; Romans 8:31-39.

Paul was able to give joyful thanks in the midst of trouble because of the partnership and fellowship he had with the Philippians as they followed Jesus together.

- How can we move our hearts to be more like Paul's, so that no matter the circumstance we are able to rejoice and give thanks?
- What next step can you take to develop the type of relationship within your church community that Paul has with the Philippians?

SERIES RESOURCES

OVERVIEW: PHILIPPIANS

An animated video by the Bible Project provides a thorough overview of the book of Philippians. The video offers a great summary of the book while emphasizing that every Christian's story can be an expression of Jesus' ultimate story.

- <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/philippians/>

INTRODUCTION TO PHILIPPIANS

A fundamental introduction to the book of Philippians from the ESV Study Bible. Get a quick synopsis of the book's background to help you gain a better understanding of the book of Philippians as a whole.

- <https://www.esv.org/resources/esv-global-study-bible/introduction-to-philippians/>

PHILIPPIANS: A COMMENTARY BY THE GOSPEL COALITION

A free, downloadable commentary of the entire book of Philippians. This commentary offers background material and a section-by-section commentary of the entire book.

- <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/commentary/philippians/>

BE JOYFUL: EVEN WHEN THINGS GO WRONG, YOU CAN HAVE JOY BY WARREN WIERSBE

A timeless resource by one of this generation's most trusted teachers, Be Joyful gives readers invaluable insights into the history, meaning, and context of Philippians. This new version includes study questions at the end of each chapter to aid readers in reflection and application.

- https://www.amazon.com/Be-Joyful-Philippians-Things-Commentary-ebook/dp/B005MT7WSC/ref=tmm_kin_swatch_0?_encoding=UTF8&qid=1659553546&sr=1-19

LIFE LESSONS FROM PHILIPPIANS: GUIDE TO JOY BY MAX LUCADO

A guide through the book of Philippians by pastor and author Max Lucado that offers its readers thoughtful questions, encouraging stories, and reflections to dig deeper into God's Word. Lucado unpacks Paul's letter to the young church emphasizing Paul's focus on living a life full of joy, peace, and contentment even in the midst of trouble.

- https://www.amazon.com/Life-Lessons-Philippians-Max-Lucado-ebook/dp/B077Y2F619/ref=tmm_kin_swatch_0?_encoding=UTF8&qid=1659553546&sr=1-18