

Midweek Study

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in pursuit of **HAPPINESS** Through Philipians



Temporary Happiness or Lasting Joy? Overview of Philipians

Joy is the music that runs through this epistle, the sunshine that spreads all over it. The whole epistle radiates joy and happiness.

– R. C. H. Lenski

Paul's letter to the Philipians is like an open window into the Apostle's very heart. In it we have the artless outpouring of his unrestrained love for and his unalloyed joy in his devoted and loyal Philipian friends. It is the most intimate and spontaneous of his writings. - D. Edmond Hiebert

Fast Facts on Philipians

Written by? Apostle Paul

Written to whom? Christians in Philippi

Written when? c. A.D. 61

Written where? Rome (Paul's first Roman imprisonment)

Written why? To thank the Philipians for the gift they had sent Paul and to strengthen

1. HAPPINESS IS A TEMPORARY FEELING

It is subjective, based on the "hap's" or what is happening.

If circumstances are good, you are happy. Good close family, good job, no sickness, plenty of money – I'm happy. Strained family relationships, bad job or no job, poor health, and no money – I'm miserable.

2. JOY IS INTERNAL AND LASTING

3. HAPPINESS AND JOY DEFINED

"HAPPINESS" – A fleeting feeling of exhilaration

"BIBLICAL JOY" – The settled conviction that God sovereignly controls the events of life for the believer's good and God's glory.



Paul and Silas in Philipian Prison (Acts 16)

4 AREAS THAT STEAL OUR HAPPINESS

CHAPTER 1 – CIRCUMSTANCES *Philipians 1:12*

Our Attitude To Conquer this Robber: **THE SINGLE MIND**

- A. The fellowship of the Gospel—1:1-11
- B. The furtherance of the Gospel—1:12-26
- C. The faith of the Gospel—1:27-30

CHAPTER 2 – PEOPLE *Philippians 2:3-5*

Our Attitude To Conquer this Robber: **THE SUBMISSIVE MIND**

- A. The example of Christ—2:1-11
- B. The example of Paul—2:12-18
- C. The example of Timothy—2:19-24
- D. The example of Epaphroditus—2:25-30

CHAPTER 3 – THINGS *Philippians 3:7-8; 3:18-19*

OUR ATTITUDE TO CONQUER THIS ROBBER: **THE SPIRITUAL MIND**

- A. Paul's past—3:1-11 (the accountant—"I count")
- B. Paul's present—3:12-16 (the athlete—"I press")
- C. Paul's future—3:17-21 (the alien—"I look")

CHAPTER 4 – WORRY

Weapon #1 – Prayer *Philippians 4:6-7*

Weapon #2 – Think Positive *Philippians 4:8-9*

OUR ATTITUDE TO CONQUER THIS ROBBER: **THE SECURE MIND**

- A. God's peace—4:1-9
- B. God's power—4:10-13
- C. God's provision—4:14-23



Destination and Recipients: Church at Philippi

- Founded by Paul on his 2nd missionary journey (Acts 16)
- First converts were Lydia and a Roman Jailer
- Includes: "All the saints . . . bishops and deacons" (1:1)

FASCINATING FACTS:

1. Philippians is Paul's warmest and most affectionate epistle.
2. In Philippians, the words "joy" and "rejoice" occur sixteen times in four chapters!!
3. Philippians contains one of the most magnificent New Testament passages on the deity and ministry of Christ (2:5-11).
4. The church at Philippi was Paul's most faithful and loyal source of financial support (4:10).
5. The church work at Philippi began with Paul going to jail (Acts 16:25); and this epistle was written by Paul while in jail (Philippians 1:14).
6. Philippians is Paul's only epistle in which he makes reference to church officers in his opening greetings (1:1)
7. Philippians 4:6-8 offers one of the most practical explanations and applications for prayer found anywhere in Scripture.
8. In Philippians 3:4-14, Paul shares a very significant autobiographical sketch of himself.