

Sermon, March 25, 2012
“You Are Being Saved” - Philippians 2:1-13
Pastor Thomas P. Bellhy

The 27 Books of the New Testament

- Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John
- Early Church: Book of Acts
- 13 Letters of Paul: Romans, 1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, **Philippians**, Colossians, 1 Thessalonians, 2 Thessalonians, 1 Timothy, 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon
- 8 General Letters: Hebrews, James, 1 Peter, 2 Peter, 1 John, 2 John, 3 John, Jude
- Prophecy: Revelations

Overview of Philippians:¹

- Paul wrote this letter to the church in Philippi between A.D. 60 and 62, while he was imprisoned in Rome. It is one of the prison letters which also include Ephesians, Colossians, and Philemon.
- The city of Philippi was located at the gateway between Europe and Asia and was like a miniature Rome, with a large number of Roman citizens.
- The Philippians were proud of their Roman heritage (see Ac 16:21). They dressed like Romans and often spoke Latin.
- Many Philippians were retired military men who had been given land in the vicinity and who in turn served as a military presence there.
- The overriding concern of the letter is to live out your salvation in joy and rejoicing

General Outline of Philippians:

- I. Greetings, thanksgiving and prayer (1:1-11)
- II. Paul's Personal Circumstances (1:12-26)
- III. Exhortations (1:27-2:18)
 - A. Live a Life Worthy of the Gospel (1:27-30)
 - B. Follow the Servant Attitude of Christ (2:1-18)
- IV. Paul's Associates in the Gospel (2:19-30)
- V. Understanding Your Journey with Christ (3:1-16)
- VI. Understanding Your Heavenly Citizenship (3:17-21)
- VII. Focus your Mind on Good Things (4:1-9)
- VIII. God Will Provide (4:10-22)
- IX. Benediction (4:23)

Major Themes of Philippians:²

- Philippians includes the following themes:
- Joy. Paul modeled joy in the midst of suffering and guided the Philippians in their situation of persecution (1:27-30; His joy derived from his union with Christ (3:8; 4:12-13), his communion with other Christians (1:4-5) and the promise of the resurrection (3:10-11, 20-21).
- Humility. Believers are to imitate Christ, who modeled humility (2:3-4) by emptying himself in order to obey God and serve others, even to the point of death on the cross (2:8). Both Timothy and Epaphroditus exemplified the selfless attitude Paul wanted the community to emulate (2:19-30). In contrast, Euodia and Syntyche were at odds with one another (4:2-3).
- Thanksgiving. Paul commended Epaphroditus for his life-endangering service to the apostle. He also acknowledged and thanked the Philippians for their missionary partnership and gift to himself. Paul had served them sacrificially (2:17), and they had responded in kind. He commended them for their Christian maturity, affirmed that they had received spiritual benefits

Philippians is a letter of encouragement to those who have been saved... to live a life being saved, life on the rope...with a heavenly view of your final salvation.

¹Kaiser Jr., Walter C.; Garrett, Duane (2010-10-19). NIV Archaeological Study Bible: An Illustrated Walk Through Biblical History and Culture (Kindle Locations 109015-109019). Zondervan. Kindle Edition..

²Kaiser Jr., Walter C.; Garrett, Duane (2010-10-19). NIV Archaeological Study Bible: An Illustrated Walk Through Biblical History and Culture (Kindle Locations 109575-109577). Zondervan. Kindle Edition..

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1. Justification, Sanctification, Glorification

- **Philippians 1:3-6** ³ *I thank my God in all my remembrance of you,* ⁴ *always offering prayer with joy in my every prayer for you all,* ⁵ *in view of your participation in the gospel from the first day until now.* ⁶ *For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.*
- Justification: at some point you believed in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior and you were saved.
- Sanctification: from that point on your life has been, is and will be in the process of changing to be more like Christ.
- Glorification: until your final heavenly state where your salvation will be complete in Christ.

2. As you are being saved your life should conform closer and closer to Christ

- **Philippians 1:27** ²⁷ *Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I will hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;*
- When the rope gets hold of you feel its tug and move in the direction of God’s pull on your life.
- Be one with the Spirit in unity with one another.
- The rope not only pulls you toward heaven, but also pulls the church.
- It is a personal and collective struggle; a struggle to stand firm and striving as you work out the life saving message of the gospel in your life and the life of the church.

3. God calls you to “work” to respond to His pull in your life, and through the work of God in you, move from what you were and are to what you are to become!

- **Philippians 2:12-13** ¹² *Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;* ¹³ *for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.*
- In the awesome ocean of life with its storms and waves there is a focus you can have of awe, respect, wonder, fear and trembling in the God of the universe who has given you a lifeline to Him.
- Christ lives in you - Gal 2:20;
- Fruit begins to blossom - Gal 5:22
- Connected to Christ - John 15:1-2
- You are a light to the world – Phil 2:15
- As you cast away your old life for the glorious new living – Phil 3:7-11
- Pressing on toward the goal of Christ-likeness – Phil 3:14
- Knowing where you belong – Phil 3:3:20-21
- Therefore rejoice in your new life in Christ, don’t be anxious, have an unbelievable peace in the storm of life – Phil 4:4-7
- Focus on the tug and its origin - Phil 4:8-9 (T, N, R, P, L, A, E, P)
- And God will supply your every need – Phil 4:19

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