

Philippians Series

Lesson #005

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Dean Bible Ministries

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Philippians

Prayer: Gratitude To God

Philippians 1:2–4



Outline

- 1A Introduction: Paul's concern for the Philippians, Phil. 1:1–8**
- 1B Greeting, Phil. 1:1–2**
- 2B Paul's concern and prayer for the Philippians, Phil. 1:3–8**

- 2A Paul's joy for the expansion of the gospel, Phil. 1:12–26**

- 3A A worthy walk is characterized by standing firm in one spirit, Phil. 1:27–2:30**

Phil. 1:1,

“Paul and Timothy, slaves of Jesus Christ,

**To all the set apart ones in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi,
with the overseers and deacons:” ~RD**

The word δοῦλοι [*douloī*], often translated “servants,” literally on its sociological background means “slaves,” a word that carries the normally negative ideas of abasement, subservience, and total submissiveness. Slavery was a commonplace feature of the Roman world of the first century and a fact of life seldom questioned or challenged ... There was no autonomy for the slave. His own will was totally subject to the will of another, so that he was a person with “no right of personal choice” (R. Rengstorf, Kittel 2:261). The service he provided was not voluntary but forced. He was totally in bondage to the claims of his master. He had no rights and no freedoms.

~Hawthorne, *Philippians*

Rom. 6:16, “Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one’s slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?”

Rom. 6:17, “But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered.

Rom. 6:18, “And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.”

Mark 10:43, “Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant [*diakonos*].

Mark 10:44, “And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave [*doulos*] of all.

Mark 10:45, “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served [*diakoneo*], but to serve [*diakoneo*], and to give His life a ransom for many.”

1 Cor. 3:23, “And you are Christ’s, and Christ is God’s.”

1 Cor. 7:23, “You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of men.”

**ἀγοράζω *agorazō* 2
plur aor pass
indic to buy in the
market**

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**ETERNAL
REALITIES**

**TEMPORAL
REALITIES**

“POSITIONAL TRUTH”

ACTS 16:31

**IN CHRIST
“saints”, set
apart ones**

**Baptism by the
Holy Spirit**

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“Paul and Timothy, slaves of Jesus Christ,

**To all the set apart ones in Christ Jesus who are in
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Elder (*presbuteros*) = office, reference to spiritual maturity (Titus 1:5–6; Acts 20:17);

Bishop/Overseer (*episkopos*) = The authority/oversight function of the office (Titus 1:7 is synonymously parallel to “elder” in Titus 1:5; 1 Tim. 3:1–2);

Pastor (*poimenos*) = The role and responsibility, to feed the sheep through teaching (Acts 20:28, 1 Pet. 5:1 use the verb to describe the work of the Elder/Overseer/Bishop.)

1 Tim. 3:1, “This is a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop [**ἐπίσκοπος *episkopos* masc singular**], he desires a good work.”

1 Tim. 3:8, “Likewise deacons [**διάκονος *diakonos* masc plural**] must be reverent, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy for money,”

Phil. 1:2, “Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.”

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***used in every salutation except for the pastoral epistles (1, 2 Timothy, Titus)**

1 Tim. 1:2, “To Timothy, a true son in the faith: Grace, mercy, and peace from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord.”

Titus 1:4, “To Titus, a true son in our common faith: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Savior.”

Phil. 1:2, “Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.”

**χάρις *charis* fem sing nom grace,
unmerited kindness, undeserved
favor or blessing**

**χαίρειν [*chairein*] was the standard
greeting in a letter in the Graeco-
Roman world at the time. Paul
transforms it to focus on the
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**εἰρήνη *eirēnē* fem sing
nom (f) peace, calm,
health, wholeness, well-
being, salvation,
tranquility—all meanings
of the Hebrew greeting
shalom—the result of
grace applied**

Gen. 43:23a, “But he said, ‘Peace be with you, do not be afraid.’ ...”

Ezra 4:17, “The king sent an answer: To Rehum the commander, to Shimshai the scribe, to the rest of their companions who dwell in Samaria, and to the remainder beyond the River: Peace, and so forth.”

Dan. 4:1, “Nebuchadnezzar the king, To all peoples, nations, and languages that dwell in all the earth: Peace be multiplied to you.” ~NKJV

Ezra 7:12, “Artaxerxes, king of kings, to Ezra the priest, a scribe of the Law of the God of heaven: Perfect peace, and so forth.” ~NKJV

Phil. 1:2, “Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.”

**1A Introduction: Paul's concern for the Philippians,
Phil. 1:1–8**

1B Greeting, Phil. 1:1–2

**2B Paul's concern and prayer for the Philippians,
Phil. 1:3–8**

**Paul joyfully gives thanks because of their partnership in the
gospel, Phil. 1:3–7.**

Phil. 1:3, “I thank my God upon every remembrance of you,

Phil. 1:4, “always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy,

Phil. 1:5, “for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now,

Phil. 1:6, “being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;

Phil. 1:7, “just as it is right for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart, inasmuch as both in my chains and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers with me of grace.”

**Phil. 1:3, “I thank my God upon every remembrance of you,
[Main clause]**

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for you all with joy,**

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He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until
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inasmuch as both in my chains and in the defense and
confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers with me of
grace.”**

Phil. 1:3, “I thank my God upon every remembrance of you,” [Main clause]

**Phil. 1:3, “I thank my God at every remembrance of you,”
[Main clause] ~RD**

**ἐπί *epi* Preposition (+dat)
(+gen/**dat**/acc)
at the time of, at; whenever**

Phil. 1:3, “I thank my God at every remembrance of you,”
[Main clause] ~RD

εὐχαριστέω *eucharisteō*
1 sing pres act indic
to give thanks,
customary present

ἐπί *epi* Preposition (+dat)
(+gen/dat**/acc)**
at the time of, at; whenever

What the Bible Teaches About

Thankfulness to God: Gratitude



1. When Paul thinks about them, when something reminds him of them, he thanks God for them.

Cf., Eph. 1:16, “I do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers:”

2. Foundational verses:

1 Thess. 5:18, “in [ἐν *en*] everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

Eph. 5:20, “giving thanks always for [*huper* on behalf of] all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,”

2. What does Paul thank God for?

- a. That the Roman believers have a reputation for their trust in God and Christ that is a testimony throughout the Roman world.**

Rom. 1:8, “First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world.”

2. What does Paul thank God for?

b. Thankful for our food, “our daily bread.”

Rom. 14:6, “He who observes the day, observes it to the Lord; and he who does not observe the day, to the Lord he does not observe it. He who eats, eats to the Lord, for he gives God thanks; ...”

2. What does Paul thank God for?

c. Those who risked their lives for Paul.

Rom. 16:4, “who risked their own necks for my life, to whom not only I give thanks, but also all the churches of the Gentiles.”

2. What does Paul thank God for?

d. For the grace of God given to even the divisive, arrogant, carnal Corinthians

1 Cor. 1:4, “I thank my God always concerning you for the grace of God which was given to you by Christ Jesus,”

2. What does Paul thank God for?

e. Paul thanked God for the gift of languages.

1 Cor. 14:18, “I thank my God I speak with languages more than you all;” ~RD

2. What does Paul thank God for?

f. For the financial support and prayer from the Corinthians.

2 Cor. 1:11, “you also helping together in prayer for us, that thanks may be given by many persons on our behalf for the gift granted to us through many.”

2. What does Paul thank God for?

g. For the faith in Christ, and love for all the saints, because of the hope the Colossians had in Christ.

Col. 1:3, “We give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you,

Col. 1:4, “since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of your love for all the saints;

Col. 1:5, “because of the hope which is laid up for you in heaven, of which you heard before in the word of the truth of the gospel,

Col. 1:10, “that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;”

2. What does Paul thank God for?

h. Prayer for the Holy Spirit to give wisdom and insight into the knowledge of Christ.

Eph. 1:15, “Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints,”

2. What does Paul thank God for?

- i. Thanking God, who is the one, not us, who qualifies us ...**

Col. 1:12, “giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.”

2. What does Paul thank God for?

j. Thanks for the work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope ...

1 Thess. 1:2, “We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers,

1 Thess. 1:3, “remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father,

1 Thess. 1:4, “knowing, beloved brethren, your appointment by God.” ~RD

2. What does Paul thank God for?

k. For the way they received the Word of God and its impact on their lives as they imitate Christ.

1 Thess. 2:13, “For this reason we also thank God without ceasing, because when you received the word of God which you heard from us, you welcomed it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which also effectively works in you who believe.”

1 Thess. 2:14, “For you, brethren, became imitators of the churches of God which are in Judea in Christ Jesus. For you also suffered the same things from your own countrymen, just as they did from the Judeans,”

2. What does Paul thank God for?

- I. For growing faith, love for one another, patience, faith in their tests and persecutions.**

2 Thess. 1:3, “We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, as it is fitting, because your faith grows exceedingly, and the love of every one of you all abounds toward each other,

2 Thess. 1:4, “so that we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that you endure,”

2. What does Paul thank God for?

- I. For growing faith, love for one another, patience, faith in their tests and persecutions.**

2 Thess. 2:13, “But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth,

2 Thess. 2:14, “to which He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Thess. 2:15, “Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle.”