

Study 3

# JOY IN THE FAITH



Charles Henry Niehaus, Astor memorial doors, Trinity Church, New York, 1893, depicting Paul and Silas with the Philippian jailer.

## Background

Paul probably had good reasons for having mixed feelings about Philippi. It has been my experience that my impression of a place is almost entirely based on the people that I engage with in that place. When I think of Stuttgart (Germany), or Kyiv (Ukraine), or Montreal (Canada), Budapest (Hungary), I have very fond memories — because I have spent time with friends in those places who showed me tremendous hospitality. When I reflect on my time in Tangier (Morocco) or Ho Chi Min City (Vietnam) where I was conducting biblical teaching with the underground church, I have mixed emotions because of the constant danger I experienced. But when Paul arrived in Philippi he experienced flogging, mistreatment, and imprisonment at the order of the city's officials. Yet, despite this, he had great affection for the Philippians and held fond memories of them.

49. Dr. Andrew Corbett  
25 March 2022 at 7:56:12 pm  
Phil. 1:18 What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice.  
¶ Yes, and I will rejoice,

50. Dr. Andrew Corbett  
25 March 2022 at 7:58:00 pm  
Paul amazingly rejoiced that the gospel was being preached - even if it was being preached by those with questionable motives.

51. Dr. Andrew Corbett  
31 March 2022 at 10:01:44 pm  
Acts 28:16 And when we came into Rome, Paul was allowed to stay by himself, with the soldier who guarded him.

52. Dr. Andrew Corbett  
25 March 2022 at 8:13:00 pm  
Phil. 1:19 for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance,

53. Dr. Andrew Corbett  
25 March 2022 at 8:13:11 pm  
Paul thought that (i) the prayers of the Philippians, and (ii) the Spirit of Jesus Christ would ensure his deliverance from prison.

54. Dr. Andrew Corbett  
31 March 2022 at 8:12:41 pm  
Phil. 1:19 for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance,

55. Dr. Andrew Corbett  
31 March 2022 at 8:16:33 pm  
Job 13:16 This will be my salvation, that the godless shall not come before him.

56. Dr. Andrew Corbett  
31 March 2022 at 8:14:20 pm  
Psa. 34:3 Oh, magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together!  
Psa. 34:4 ¶ I sought the LORD, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears.  
Psa. 34:5 Those who look to him are radiant, and their faces shall never be ashamed.  
Psa. 34:6 This poor man cried, and the LORD heard him and saved him out of all his troubles.

57. Dr. Andrew Corbett  
25 March 2022 at 8:24:46 pm  
Phil. 1:20 as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death.

58. Dr. Andrew Corbett  
25 March 2022 at 8:24:54 pm  
Paul was also prepared to die for Christ and was submitted to the will of God for his life and

Paul's positive demeanour is all the more remarkable when we are reminded that he was writing this epistle while in chains under the supervision of the Praetorium guard (Phil. 1:13). While imprisoned, it seems that Paul may have endured taunts from those who called themselves *preachers of the gospel* who looked down on Paul because of his imprisonment.

1. Despite the questionable motives from these possible taunting preachers, how did Paul respond? (Phil. 1:18)

49

50

Despite Paul's imprisonment taking a discouraging turn (he moved from his house-arrest described in Acts 28, to being taken to the Praetorium Prison by the time he wrote to the Philippians), it seems that he expected to soon be released.

51

2. According to Philippians 1:19, why did he expect this happen?

52

53

Gordon Fee suggests that Paul's sentiments in Philippians 1:19 are echoes of Job 13:16 and Psalm 34:3-6. "Thus, even though this is now Paul's own sentence, and must be understood within its present context, it is best understood as intentionally echoing the analogous circumstances of Job (p.131).

54

55

56

3. But based on Philippians 1:20, what was Paul also prepared to endure and what does this tell us about prayer and God's will? Discuss.

57

58

59

Commenting on Philippians 1:20, Dr. Kent states that when Paul says, "...that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honoured..." may refer to Paul's impending appearance before Caesar to whom he had appealed some years earlier (p.22). If this was the case, it is worth noting that Paul's focus wasn't on Caesar, or even his trial, but on h \_\_\_\_\_ g Christ.

60

61

62

sincerely wanted to glorify God whether by continuing to live, or in his death.

**59. Dr. Andrew Corbett**

25 March 2022 at 8:26:21 pm

This tells us that Paul did not think that just because he and others prayed for something that God would have to grant their prayer request. Paul's prayer that he would glorify God in either life or death should tell us about the relationship between our praying and the will of God.

**60. Dr. Andrew Corbett**

31 March 2022 at 8:11:53 pm

Phil. 1:20 as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death.

**61. Dr. Andrew Corbett**

31 March 2022 at 10:00:43 pm

Acts 28:19 But because the Jews objected, I was compelled to appeal to Caesar—though I had no charge to bring against my nation.

**62. Dr. Andrew Corbett**

31 March 2022 at 7:48:11 pm

honouring

63. Dr. Andrew Corbett

25 March 2022 at 8:47:18 pm  
Phil. 1:21 For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.  
Phil. 1:22 If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell.  
Phil. 1:23 I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better.  
Phil. 1:24 But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account.

64. Dr. Andrew Corbett

25 March 2022 at 9:18:52 pm  
Paul had the assurance that his life would not end at the grave - and that death was not the end. After dying, Paul knew that he would be with the Lord in perfect harmony with Him for eternity.

65. Dr. Andrew Corbett

25 March 2022 at 9:40:04 pm  
Phil. 1:25 Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith,

66. Dr. Andrew Corbett

25 March 2022 at 9:40:32 pm  
Paul felt that while he was alive he could be of service to other believers.

67. Dr. Andrew Corbett

25 March 2022 at 9:46:11 pm  
Any believer, old or young, nearing the end of their life, should still strive to be a blessing to other believers.

68. Dr. Andrew Corbett

25 March 2022 at 9:55:49 pm  
Phil. 1:26 so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.

69. Dr. Andrew Corbett

31 March 2022 at 8:24:39 pm  
Phil. 1:26 so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.

70. Dr. Andrew Corbett

31 March 2022 at 9:21:17 pm  
Phil. 1:27 ¶ Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel,

63 4. Read **Philippians 1:21-24**. Why was Paul so willing to die in the cause of Christ?

64 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

65 5. According to **Philippians 1:25**, what good reason did Paul see that his continued life could achieve? What principle might this also give to someone nearing the end of their life?

66 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

67 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Paul saw that his ministry to the Philippians would further enable them to glorify Christ (**Phil. 1:26**).

68

## A Life Worthy of the Gospel

6. Paul seems to have been optimistic that his trial before Caesar would result in his release (**Phil. 1:26**) which would enable him to travel to Macedonia and minister to the Philippians. What did he further expect this would lead to among the Philippians?

69

\_\_\_\_\_

But Paul's optimism was by no means a guarantee that he would be released. His attitude toward his negative circumstances is worth our consideration.

70 7. Carefully read **Philippians 1:27**. Knowing that Paul was imprisoned and about to stand before the Emperor, what was his primary concern based on this verse?

\_\_\_\_\_

71. Dr. Andrew Corbett

31 March 2022 at 9:35:20 pm  
Phil. 1:28 and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God.

72. Dr. Andrew Corbett

31 March 2022 at 9:34:09 pm  
frightened

73. Dr. Andrew Corbett

31 March 2022 at 9:54:05 pm  
2Th. 1:9 They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might,

74. Dr. Andrew Corbett

1 April 2022 at 11:16:18 am  
Phil. 1:29 For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, Phil. 1:30 engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Was Paul's desire for the Philippians dependent upon his release?

What was Paul's desire for the Philippians church?

Paul encouraged the Philippians to strive *together* to spread the gospel and, according to **Philippians 1:28**, not to be f\_\_\_\_\_d by their opponents.

71 72

### Eternal Destinies Differ

In the face of opposition from possibly *violent* opponents, Paul reminds the Philippians that those who reject the gospel, and forcefully oppose them, face eternal destruction (Phil. 1:28, and note **2Thess. 1:9**).

73

8. Even though Paul assured the Philippian believers that their eternal destinies were secure in Christ, what did this *not* mean for them in their present circumstances? (**Philippians 1:29-30**)

74

### Application Discussion

- Why do you think some believers find it difficult to rejoice with others who seem to be being blessed by God?
- How would you counsel a struggling believer who was facing heartaches and disappointments with God?
- How can we work or strive *together* to reach people who have never received the gospel?