

Outline of the Book of Philippians

The book of Philippians, written by the Apostle Paul, is a letter of encouragement and exhortation to the believers in Philippi. It emphasizes joy, unity, humility, and perseverance in the Christian life despite trials and opposition. Below is an exhaustive outline of Philippians, highlighting the dangers facing believers.

I. Introduction (1:1-11)

- A. Salutation (1:1-2)
 - 1. Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus (1:1)
 - 2. Greeting to the saints in Philippi (1:2)
- B. Thanksgiving and Prayer (1:3-11)
 - 1. Paul's gratitude for the Philippians' partnership (1:3-6)
 - 2. Paul's affection and longing for the Philippians (1:7-8)
- 3. Prayer for love, knowledge, and discernment (1:9-11)

II. Paul's Circumstances and Exhortations (1:12-2:30)

- A. Paul's Imprisonment and the Advance of the Gospel (1:12-26)
 - 1. The gospel advances despite Paul's imprisonment (1:12-14)
 - 2. Different motivations for preaching Christ (1:15-18)
 - 3. Paul's confidence in deliverance and living for Christ (1:19-26)
- B. Exhortation to Live Worthy of the Gospel (1:27-30)
 - 1. Standing firm in one spirit (1:27)
 - 2. Striving together for the faith of the gospel (1:27)
 - 3. Not being frightened by opponents (1:28-30)
- C. Call to Unity and Humility (2:1-11)
 - 1. Encouragement to be of the same mind (2:1-2)
 - 2. Humility and considering others (2:3-4)
 - 3. The example of Christ's humility and exaltation (2:5-11)
- D. Working Out Salvation (2:12-18)
 - 1. Obedience and working out salvation (2:12-13)
 - 2. Shining as lights in the world (2:14-16)
 - 3. Paul's joy and sacrifice (2:17-18)
- E. Commendation of Timothy and Epaphroditus (2:19-30)
 - 1. Timothy's genuine concern for the Philippians (2:19-24)
 - 2. Epaphroditus's service and recovery (2:25-30)

III. Warnings and Encouragements (3:1-4:1)

- A. Warning Against False Teachers (3:1-3)
 - 1. Rejoice in the Lord (3:1)
 - 2. Beware of the "dogs" and false circumcision (3:2-3)
- B. Paul's Testimony of Transformation (3:4-14)

1. Paul's former confidence in the flesh (3:4-6)
 2. Counting all as loss for Christ (3:7-8)
 3. Righteousness through faith in Christ (3:9)
 4. Knowing Christ and the power of His resurrection (3:10-11)
 5. Pressing on toward the goal (3:12-14)
- C. Encouragement to Follow Paul's Example (3:15-21)
1. Maturity and living by the same rule (3:15-16)
 2. Imitate Paul and watch out for enemies of the cross (3:17-19)
 3. Citizenship in heaven and awaiting the Savior (3:20-21)
- D. Stand Firm in the Lord (4:1)
1. Exhortation to stand firm (4:1)

IV. Final Exhortations and Thanks (4:2-23)

- A. Exhortations to Unity, Joy, and Prayer (4:2-9)
1. Appeal for unity between Euodia and Syntyche (4:2-3)
 2. Rejoice in the Lord always (4:4)
 3. Let your gentleness be evident to all (4:5)
 4. Do not be anxious, but pray with thanksgiving (4:6-7)
 5. Think on things that are true, noble, right, pure, lovely, and admirable (4:8)
 6. Practice what you have learned and received from Paul (4:9)
- B. Paul's Gratitude for the Philippians' Support (4:10-20)
1. Paul's contentment in all circumstances (4:10-13)
 2. The Philippians' partnership in giving (4:14-16)
 3. Paul's receipt of their gifts as a fragrant offering (4:17-20)
- C. Final Greetings and Benediction (4:21-23)
1. Greetings from Paul and all the saints (4:21-22)
 2. Benediction of grace (4:23)

Dangers Facing the Believer Highlighted in Philippians

1. Disunity and Division (1:27; 2:1-4; 4:2-3):

Danger: Allowing disunity and division to undermine the church's witness and effectiveness.

Application: Strive for unity, being of one mind, and resolving conflicts with humility and love.

2. Fear of Opposition (1:28-30):

Danger: Being intimidated or discouraged by opponents and persecution.

Application: Stand firm and be courageous, recognizing that suffering for Christ is a privilege.

3. Selfish Ambition and Conceit (2:3-4):

Danger: Acting out of selfish ambition or conceit, leading to strife and conflict.

Application: Cultivate humility and consider others more significant than yourself.

4. Grumbling and Disputing (2:14-16):

Danger: Engaging in grumbling and disputing, which can tarnish the witness of believers.

Application: Do everything without grumbling or arguing, shining as lights in the world.

5. False Teachers and Legalism (3:2-3):

Danger: Being led astray by false teachers who promote legalism and confidence in the flesh.

Application: Beware of false teachings and place confidence in Christ alone, not in external religious practices.

6. Confidence in the Flesh (3:4-6):

Danger: Placing confidence in personal achievements, heritage, or religious credentials.

Application: Count all things as loss compared to the surpassing worth of knowing Christ and His righteousness.

7. Spiritual Complacency (3:12-14):

Danger: Becoming complacent and not striving toward spiritual maturity and the heavenly prize.

Application: Press on toward the goal, continually seeking to grow in your relationship with Christ.

8. Worldly Mindset (3:18-19):

Danger: Adopting a worldly mindset and living as enemies of the cross of Christ.

Application: Set your mind on heavenly things, living as citizens of heaven and awaiting the Savior.

9. Anxiety and Lack of Peace (4:6-7):

Danger: Being overwhelmed by anxiety and missing out on God's peace.

Application: Present your requests to God with thanksgiving, trusting Him to guard your heart and mind with His peace.

10. Negative Thinking (4:8-9):

Danger: Allowing negative, untrue, or harmful thoughts to dominate your mind.

Application: Focus on things that are true, noble, right, pure, lovely, and admirable, and practice what you have learned from godly examples.

Five Well-known Passages from Philippians

[Philippians 1:21-23 ESV] For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better.

[Philippians 2:3-8 ESV] Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

[Philippians 2:12-16 ESV] Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling,

for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. Do all things without grumbling or disputing, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain.

[Philippians 3:8-11 ESV] Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

[Philippians 4:4-8 ESV] Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.

Conclusion for Philippians

By understanding these dangers and applying Paul's exhortations, believers can maintain unity, joy, and steadfastness in their faith, living lives that honor God and reflect the transformative power of the gospel.