

unfoldingWord® Simplified Text

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Philippians

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Philippians

1 *I,* Paul, *am writing this letter* to all of God's people who are
joined to the Messiah Jesus in *the city of* Philippi. Timothy
is with me. We are servants of the Messiah Jesus. *We especially
write this letter* for the leaders of the believers and for those
who assist *them*. 2 May God our Father and our Lord Jesus the
Messiah *continue to* be kind to you and *make you* peaceful.

3 Every time I think about you, I thank my God whom I
worship *because of you*. 4 I always pray joyfully each time I
pray for all of you. 5 *The reason I pray joyfully is* because you
have partnered with me in telling people the good news from
the time you first believed *it* and you continue to partner with
me now. 6 God started his good work within you *when you first
believed in him*, and I am confident that he will continue that
work until Jesus the Messiah returns. 7 I love you all greatly,
so it is right for me to think about you in this way. God has
kindly blessed us to share together *in this work*, both *as I endure*
being a prisoner and also as I explain to people why the good
news *about Jesus* is true. 8 I desire very much to be with you
all, and I love you all in the same way as Jesus the Messiah
loves you. God knows that this is true.

9 I pray that God will enable you to love *God and others*
in a way that continues to increase. As you increasingly love
others, I pray that God will also help you to know *him* better
and to understand *how to love others* in all situations. 10 The
reason I pray this is so that you will test and choose what is
most pleasing *to God* so that then you will be completely free
of doing anything wrong when the Messiah returns. 11 *Instead
of doing wrong things,* you will be busy doing the truly good
things that Jesus the Messiah enables us to do. These things
will cause people to honor and praise God.

12 My fellow believers, I want you to know that the things
that have happened to me have not hindered people from
hearing the good news. Instead, even more people have been
able to hear the good news because I am in prison. 13 In fact,
all the military guards here and many other people now know
that I am in prison because I proclaim the good news about
the Messiah. 14 Also, because the believers *here* have seen what
the Lord has done through me in prison, most of them now
proclaim the good news about Jesus more courageously and
fearlessly *than they did before*.

15–17 Some people are proclaiming the good news about the
Messiah because they want to *obey God* and because they love
me and others. They understand that God has appointed me to
explain to people why the good news *about Jesus* is true. But
some are not honest about why they are proclaiming the good
news about the Messiah. They do it only because they want
to promote themselves. They are envious of me and want to
cause trouble for me. They think that I will suffer even more
in prison as they become famous for proclaiming the good
news. 18 But what they want to do to me is not important! The
important thing is that people are proclaiming *the good news
about* the Messiah, either for good reasons or for bad reasons.
So I am rejoicing that people are spreading the message about
the Messiah! And I will continue to rejoice in that!

19 *I will rejoice* because I know how this situation will turn
out: that God will deliver me *from prison*. He will do this
because you are praying for me and because the Spirit of Jesus
the Messiah is helping me. 20 *I know that this will happen, because*
I very confidently expect that I will continue to faithfully honor
the Messiah. *I expect and desire that* I will boldly honor the
Messiah by my actions now and always, whether by the way
I live or by the way I die.

21 As for me, I live to honor the Messiah, and if I die, it will
be even better for me. 22 But if I continue to live here in my
body, I will be able to productively serve the Messiah. So I do
not know which I prefer, *to live or to die*. 23 It is difficult for
me to choose which I prefer, *living or dying*. I long to leave *this
world* and go to be with the Messiah, because to be with the
Messiah is very much better *than being here*, 24 but I need to
remain alive here on earth in order to continue to help you.
25 Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain alive
with you all in order to help you to be even more joyful as
you continue to trust in Jesus. 26 *I will do this* so that you will
praise Jesus the Messiah even more because of me, because I
will come and visit you again.

27 The important thing is that you act in a way that honors
the good news about the Messiah. *Do this* so that people will
tell me that you are working hard together in a unified way as
you resist those who oppose the message about the Messiah
and as you help people to live according to the good news.
You must act in this way whether or not I visit you again. 28 Do
not let the people who are against you make you afraid by
anything *that they do or say*. When they see that you are not
afraid of them, they will know that God will destroy them,
but he will save you. All of this is from God. 29 God does this
for you because he has given you the gift of suffering for the
Messiah, along with the gift of believing in him. 30 You saw
how I had to resist the people who opposed me *when I was
there in Philippi*. Now you have to resist the people who are
opposing you in the same way. As people tell you even now,
I am still struggling to resist such people.

2 Since the Messiah encourages us, since he comforts us with
his love, since the Spirit has produced fellowship *among
you*, since *God gives you* affection and compassion *toward one
another*, 2 make me completely happy by doing the following
things: Agree with one another, love one another, be closely
united with one another, be united in your thinking. 3 Never
try to selfishly make yourselves more important than others,
and do not think of yourselves as better than others. Instead, be
humble, and treat others as more important than yourselves.
4 Each one of you should not only be concerned about your
needs. Instead, you should also be concerned about other
people and their needs.

5 Think the same way as the Messiah Jesus thought:

6 Although he was in every way the same as God, he
did not insist on keeping all the privileges
of being equal with God.
7 Rather, he gave up divine privileges
and became a servant to others

and became a human being. When he had
become a human being,
8 he humbled himself further. Specifically, *he humbled himself* by obeying God so far as to be willing to die. He was even willing to die by being crucified on a cross.
9 Because *the Messiah humbly obeyed God,* God also honored him very much;
he honored him more than any other person or being,
10 so that before Jesus,
every being will bow down and honor him,
beings who are in heaven and beings on earth
and beings under the earth;
11 and every mouth will say,
that Jesus the Messiah is Lord,
so that God the Father is honored.

12 As a result of these things, my dearly loved fellow believers, as you have always obeyed God when I was with you, now that I am apart from you, you also must obey him even more. Every one of you, work with God in his saving work within you, and do this humbly reverencing God. 13 For God is doing something within you so that you will want to do—and then actually do—the good things that please him.

14 Do everything without grumbling or quarreling. 15 Behave like that in order that you may be completely faultless, children of God, who keep yourselves from evil as you live among the wicked people of this world. Then, as you live among them, you will stand out brightly against the darkness of sin. 16 Tell others the message about how to have eternal life. *Do all these things* so that at the time when the Messiah returns, I will be able to rejoice that I did not work hard among you uselessly.

17 And I am joyful and I will rejoice with you all, despite suffering daily or going through times when those who oppose the gospel try to kill me. I will gladly suffer along with you, adding to your service which you offer because you believe in him. 18 In the same way also, each of you should rejoice regarding these things; you should rejoice together with me!

19 I am hoping that the Lord Jesus will soon allow me to be able to send Timothy to visit you. I want this visit to happen because I hope he can encourage me when he returns with news of you. 20 I have no one else like Timothy who genuinely cares for you. 21 All the others whom I might send to you are concerned only about their own matters. They are not concerned enough about what Jesus the Messiah considers important. 22 But you know that Timothy has proved that he serves the Lord and others faithfully. You know that he has served the Lord closely together with me in proclaiming the good news to people. 23 I am hoping to send Timothy to you as soon as I know what will happen to me. 24 And I am confident that the Lord will allow me to be released soon, so that I myself will also come to you.

25 I have concluded that I should send Epaphroditus back to you. He is a fellow believer and my fellow worker, and he endures difficulties together with me just like soldiers endure difficulties together. He is your messenger and servant, whom you sent to help me when I was needy. 26 Epaphroditus eagerly desires to be there with you at Philippi, and he is concerned for you *that you would be worried about him* since you learned of his illness. 27 Indeed, he was so sick that he almost died. But God pitied him, and he also pitied me*, and as a result, he healed him*. God pitied me so that I would not grieve even more. 28 So I am sending him back to you as quickly as possible. I will do this in order that you may rejoice when you see him again, and so that I might grieve less. 29 Receive Epaphroditus joyfully as a fellow believer, and honor other believers who are like him. 30 Do this because, as Epaphroditus was working for the Messiah, he almost died. He knew that he might die as a result of helping me, and he nearly did die. He helped me in order to supply the things that I needed, something you could not do because you are far away from me.

3 Finally, my fellow believers, rejoice in who God is, and rejoice about what he has done and is doing. Though I will now write to you about the same things that I mentioned to you before, this is not tiresome for me, and it will protect you from being led astray by those who teach things that are not true.

2 Guard yourselves against the ones who are like dirty dogs. Guard yourselves against the ones who teach what is false. Guard yourselves against the ones who cut their bodies. 3 But as for us—we ourselves are what it truly means to be circumcised. The Spirit of God enables us to truly worship God, and we glory in the Messiah Jesus rather than trusting in religious acts such as circumcision. 4 However, if anyone thinks they could trust in religious acts, I could; and I even more than others. *I will tell you why.*

5 I was circumcised eight days after I was born. I am from the people of Israel and am a descendant of the tribe of Benjamin. I am a Hebrew who has retained the Hebrew language and way of living. As regards obeying the laws of Moses, I was a Pharisee, and therefore I strictly obeyed all the laws of Moses and teachings of the scribes. 6 With regard to being passionate about what I believed, I was so extremely passionate about what I believed that I caused those who followed Jesus to suffer. With regard to doing what God required in the law of Moses and doing what the scribes required concerning it, I was without fault.

7 But all the things that I formerly trusted in, these same things I now consider to be worthless because of the Messiah. 8 Instead, even more, I now regard all things as worthless compared to how great it is to know the Messiah, Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have willingly given up all things and I think of them as feces to throw away in order that I might have the Messiah. 9 I have willingly given up the things I formerly trusted in so that I might be fully united with the Messiah by believing in him, and not by obeying the laws that God gave to Moses. *I do this because I know* that the only way to please God is by believing in the Messiah. 10 I want to know the Messiah better and better. I want to continually experience him working powerfully in my life, just like God worked powerfully when he caused the Messiah to become alive after he had died. I also want to be continually willing to suffer in order that I may obey God, just like the Messiah suffered in order that he might obey God. I want to become like him in his death. 11 *I want all of this because* I somehow want God to cause me to live again after I have died.

12 I do not claim that I have already attained this. Nor do I say that God has already finished working in me to make me like Jesus. But I earnestly try to become more and more

like Jesus, because this is why Jesus the Messiah took hold of me. 13 My fellow believers, I certainly do not think that I have already become completely like Jesus. Nor have fully known him. Rather, I have determined to forget about the things that are in the past and to work hard for the things that are in front of me. 14 Instead, I concentrate only on continuing to become more and more like Jesus until I die. As a result, because of my relationship with Jesus the Messiah, God will reward me in heaven. 15 So then, all of us who are mature believers should think this same way. But if you think differently about anything I have just written, God also will show this to you. 16 However, regarding the true things that God has already revealed to us, let us all conduct our lives according to these things.

17 My fellow believers, join together in imitating me, and observe closely those people who live as we do. 18 There are many people who act in a way that shows that they oppose the message about the Messiah dying on the cross. I have told you about these people many times before, and now I am sad, even crying, as I tell you about them again. 19 God will severely punish these people. These people serve their physical desires rather than God, and they are proud of the very things of which they should be ashamed. These people only think about earthly things instead of heavenly things. 20 As for us, we are citizens of heaven, and it is from heaven that we eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus the Messiah to return and rescue us. 21 God will change the weak and humble bodies that we have now to be bodies like the glorious resurrected body of Jesus. He will do this by his power, by which he is able to control all things.

4 My fellow believers, I love you, and I greatly desire to see you. I rejoice because of you; you are the reason God will reward me. In the way that I have just described to you *in this letter*, continue to be steadfastly committed to the Lord, my fellow believers whom I love.

2 I urge you, Euodia, and I urge you, Syntyche, to again have a peaceful relationship with each other, because you are both joined to the Lord. 3 And I also urge you, my faithful partner, to please help these women. *Please help them because* they have helped me spread the good news, as have Clement and the rest of my fellow laborers, whose names God has written in his book of those who will live with him forever.

4 Always rejoice in who God is and what he has done and is doing! I say again, rejoice! 5 Act in such a way that all people see that you are gentle. *Do this because* the Lord will return soon. 6 Do not worry about anything. Instead, in every situation pray to God, and tell him exactly what you need, and ask him to help you. And thank God for all he does for you. 7 As a result God will enable you not to worry about anything, and he will protect how you think and feel, as you are joined to the Messiah Jesus.

8 Finally, my fellow believers, think about whatever is true, whatever is worth honoring, whatever is right, whatever is faultless, whatever is pleasing, whatever is worth admiring, whatever is good, whatever is worth praising: These are the things that you should always be thinking about. 9 Continually do the things that I have taught you and the things you have heard me say and the things you have seen me do. If you do these things, the God who causes us to be at peace will be with you.

10 I rejoice greatly and thank the Lord, because now, after some time, *by sending money to me* you have once again shown that you are concerned about me. Indeed, you were concerned about me all the time, but you had no opportunity to show it. 11 Do not think that I am saying this because I am concerned about lacking something I need. Rather, I have learned how to be happy no matter what situation I am in. 12 I have learned how to be happy when I do not have what I need and how to be happy when I have more than I need. I have learned how to be happy when I am hungry and when I have plenty of food to eat. I have learned how to be happy in all circumstances and at all times. 13 Because the Messiah strengthens me, I am able to respond well to every situation. 14 Nevertheless, you did the right thing to help me in my difficult situation.

15 You yourselves, my friends there at Philippi, know that during the time I first proclaimed the good news to you, when I left there to go out from the province of Macedonia, no assembly of believers except you sent me funds or helped me in any way! 16 Even when I was in the city of Thessalonica, more than once you sent me money to supply what I needed. 17 I do not say this because I desire that you give me money. Instead, I desire that God will abundantly reward you *as a result of your helping me*.

18 You have given me a very generous gift, and, as a result, I have all I require and more. I have an abundant supply of what I need, because you sent Epaphroditus to me with your gift. God considers that your gift is very acceptable, and he is very pleased with it. 19 God, whom I serve, will supply everything you need, because you belong to Jesus the Messiah and because he owns all things. 20 Now, may our God and Father be praised and honored forever! Amen!

21 Greet for me all God's people there. They all belong to Jesus the Messiah. The believers with me greet you also. 22 All of God's people here send their greetings to you. The fellow believers who work in the palace of Caesar, the emperor, especially send their greetings to you.

23 I desire and pray that our Lord Jesus the Messiah will continue to act kindly toward you all. Amen.