

101. Dr. Andrew Corbett

28 April 2022 at 9:16:39 PM

Phil. 1:12 ¶ I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, Phil. 1:13 so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ.

102. Dr. Andrew Corbett

28 April 2022 at 9:20:42 PM

Phil. 2:5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, Phil. 2:6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, Phil. 2:7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. Phil. 2:8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Rejoice! Paul's Epistle to the Philippians

Study 5, *Rejoice With Me*

Study 5

REJOICE WITH ME



The ruins of the ancient Philippian amphitheatre

Background

In the remainder of Philippians 2 we get a glimpse of Paul's *temporal* emotional condition and despite this, his eternal perspective. In the opening chapter we read that Paul was in chains and under guard by the elite Praetorium (Caesar's personal protectors). Yet Paul's outlook remained so positive that even in this situation he had been able to share the gospel with these battle-hardened men 101 (Phil. 1:12-13). Paul's fondness for the Philippians is obvious in the way he gently corrects them over a potential dispute among two trusted leaders within the church (which he does not even identify) and his appeal to them was based on a reminder of Christ's humility and His own sufferings 102 (Phil. 2:5-8). Now we are going to see that Paul's ability to *rejoice* was due to his overlooking his temporal situation and focusing instead on the eternal results of what Christ was doing through him. While he could rejoice, he could also experience the emotions of his life about to end, and certain sorrows that he doesn't reveal.

103. Dr. Andrew Corbett
28 April 2022 at 9:36:59 PM
Phil. 2:12 ¶ 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

104. Dr. Andrew Corbett
28 April 2022 at 9:37:32 PM
(i) fear
(ii) trembling

105. Dr. Andrew Corbett
28 April 2022 at 9:39:22 PM
Phil. 2:13 for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

106. Dr. Andrew Corbett
28 April 2022 at 9:39:38 PM
God was working in them to do His will and to serve Him for His good pleasure.

107. Dr. Andrew Corbett
28 April 2022 at 9:44:29 PM
Phil. 2:14 ¶ Do all things without grumbling or disputing,

108. Dr. Andrew Corbett
28 April 2022 at 9:46:51 PM
Phil. 2:14 ¶ Do all things without grumbling or disputing,

109. Dr. Andrew Corbett
28 April 2022 at 9:47:00 PM
Generally *we* today complain and grumble about fairly petty things compared with what the Philippians were about to face.

110. Dr. Andrew Corbett
28 April 2022 at 9:51:13 PM
Phil. 2:15 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

111. Dr. Andrew Corbett
28 April 2022 at 9:51:21 PM
They would shine like lights in a dark and crooked world.

Work Out The Implications of Your Salvation

Paul has so far described his bleak situation, he then referred to Christ's mistreatment leading to His death, and then ultimately to Christ's exaltation by God. What now awaits Paul, and every believer who remains faithful to Christ, despite persecutions, is eternal glory! Yet, there was a certain apprehension that came from following a Saviour at a time when to do so could mean death.

103 1. What two emotive words does Paul use in **Philippians 2:12** to describe how the Philippians might have felt in following Christ at the time they were living?

104 _____

105 2. Even in the midst of this, what assurance did Paul provide these believers in **Philippians 2:13**?

106 _____

107 Paul has modelled to the Philippians how a believer faces up to persecution and looming martyrdom. So, he tells them, once they have "worked out" the possible implications of following Christ, don't grumble or complain when the cost of following Christ becomes high (**Phil. 2:14**).

108 3. In considering the context of what Paul told the Philippians in **chapter 2 verse 14**, how does it reflect on the things that *we* grumble and complain about today? Discuss.

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110 4. Read **Philippians 2:15**. What did Paul say the effect on outsiders would be if the believers genuinely lived like this?

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112. Dr. Andrew Corbett

28 April 2022 at 9:57:20 PM
Phil. 2:16 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.

113. Dr. Andrew Corbett

29 April 2022 at 6:53:24 AM
Phil. 2:17 Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all.

114. Dr. Andrew Corbett

29 April 2022 at 6:53:39 AM
Paul was glad that he could lay down his life for Christ and saw it as an occasion for rejoicing.

115. Dr. Andrew Corbett

29 April 2022 at 9:12:27 AM
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.

116. Dr. Andrew Corbett

29 April 2022 at 11:00:03 AM
Phil. 2:18 Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.

117. Dr. Andrew Corbett

29 April 2022 at 11:01:14 AM
It shows us that many of the early Christians did not fear death if it meant the cost of following Christ.

112

The key, Paul seems to have said, for any believer about to suffer for their faith in Christ, was to hold fast to the Scriptures - *the Word of Christ* (Phil. 2:16). We may not be facing the same threat of martyrdom that believers in the first century did, but we too are to ensure that we are also holding fast to God's Word by reading it everyday and allowing it to speak to our souls.

Paul's Realistic Emotions

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5. What was Paul's attitude about the possibility of being martyred? (Phil 2:17)

114

Paul faced the threat of being martyred with a resignation that it was probable. Even with his confidence that Christ would be honoured by his death, I suspect that Paul would have also been subject to some of the normal emotions of any person facing such a prospect. But in the opening chapter he said that he was *torn* about whether he should live so that he could be of further service to the Philippians or to submit to death so that he could be with the Lord (Phil. 1:23-24).

115

6. How did Paul want the Philippians to view his impending martyrdom? (Phil. 2:18)? (What does this tell us about how the early Christians viewed the threat from their persecutors of being put to death?)

117

During the Roman persecution that was to break out in AD 64 across the empire, it was also certain that many of those whom Paul wrote to did indeed die as martyrs.

Fatherly Provision For His Children

Paul was different from many of the so-called apostles of his day. Rather than viewing churches as the means by which the "apostle" could be financially supported, Paul had a different attitude.

118. Dr. Andrew Corbett

29 April 2022 at 11:09:35 AM
2Cor. 12:14 ¶ Here for the third time I am ready to come to you. And I will not be a burden, for I seek not what is yours but you. For children are not obligated to save up for their parents, but parents for their children.

119. Dr. Andrew Corbett

29 April 2022 at 11:10:08 AM
Phil. 2:19 ¶ I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, so that I too may be cheered by news of you.
Phil. 2:20 For I have no one like him, who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare.
Phil. 2:21 For they all seek their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ.
Phil. 2:22 But you know Timothy's proven worth, how as a son with a father he has served with me in the gospel.
Phil. 2:23 I hope therefore to send him just as soon as I see how it will go with me,
Phil. 2:24 and I trust in the Lord that shortly I myself will come also.
Phil. 2:25 ¶ I have thought it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus my brother and fellow worker and fellow soldier, and your messenger and minister to my need,

120. Dr. Andrew Corbett

29 April 2022 at 11:11:02 AM
Paul told the Corinthians that it was not the children's place to care for their parents, but their parents responsibility to care for their children.
In writing to the Philippians, Paul shows the same fatherly care for them by ensuring that Timothy and Epaphroditus were being sent to them as his apostolic ambassadors. This shows us that his fatherly care for both the Corinthians and the Philippians was the same.

121. Dr. Andrew Corbett

29 April 2022 at 11:15:49 AM
Phil. 2:27 Indeed he was ill, near to death. But God had mercy on him, and not only on him but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow.

122. Dr. Andrew Corbett

29 April 2022 at 11:23:08 AM
Phil. 2:28 I am the more eager to send him, therefore, that you may rejoice at seeing him again, and that I may be less anxious.
Phil. 2:29 So receive him in the Lord with all joy, and honor such men,
Phil. 2:30 for he nearly died for the work of Christ, risking his life to complete what was lacking in your service to me.

118 7. How does **Second Corinthians 12:14** reveal this attitude, and how does this compare to Paul's words in **Philippians 2:19-25**?

119

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121 In referring to Epaphroditus's recent poor health (**Phil. 2:27**) we get another glimpse of the *sadness* (not fear) that Paul was experiencing in the face of his looming departure from this life. If his young lieutenant, Epaphroditus, had died, it would have added *another* sorrow to what he was already experiencing. This should tell us that it is not necessarily 'fear' or 'a lack of faith' that a believer experiences when they are navigating a terminal illness or their end of life expiry.

8. What was Paul confident of about how the Philippians would receive his young lieutenants? (**Phil. 2:28-30**)

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123

Application Discussion

- Why do you think some believers find it difficult to be emotionally honest with their brothers and sisters in Christ?
- Are there any persecution costs for believers today because they follow Christ?
- How can a church congregation be apostolically fathering of the younger members of their congregation (or other congregations) which would leave a legacy for the next generation beyond their own lifetime?

123. Dr. Andrew Corbett

29 April 2022 at 11:23:28 AM

Paul was confident that the Philippians would receive Timothy and Epaphroditus with rejoicing. [It must have been a very rejoicing church!]