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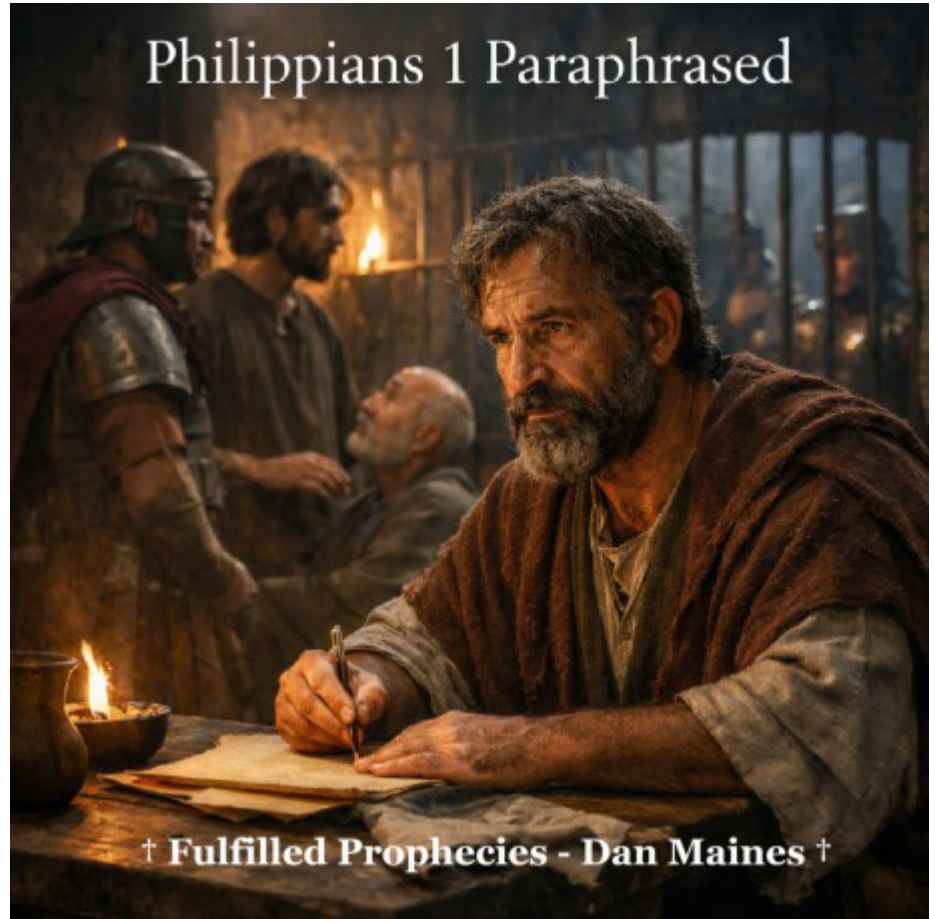
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Philippians 1 Paraphrased



By Dan Maines

Philippians 1 Paraphrased

Introduction

† Philippians chapter 1 shows Paul's deep love for the believers in Philippi and his confidence that God was finishing the work He started in them.

† This letter was written while Paul was imprisoned, yet the entire chapter is filled with encouragement, joy, and confidence in Christ's victory.

† Early Christians understood this letter as proof that the gospel

was already spreading throughout the Roman world before the judgment on Jerusalem in AD 70 (Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History 2.3).

Philippians 1:1

Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, write to all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, along with the overseers and servants who care for the church.

† Paul identifies himself not as a ruler but as a servant of Christ, showing that leadership in the church is grounded in humility (Matthew 20:26).

† The mention of overseers and servants shows that church leadership structure already existed in the first century (Acts 20:28).

† Clement of Alexandria wrote that the apostles appointed leaders in the churches to maintain order and faithful teaching (Clement of Alexandria, Stromata 6).

Philippians 1:2

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

† Grace and peace summarize the blessings brought through the gospel, reconciliation with God and the peace that follows justification (Romans 5:1).

† Paul's greeting connects the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ as the shared source of salvation and blessing (John 17:3).

† Irenaeus taught that Christ brings peace between God and humanity through His redemptive work (Irenaeus, Against Heresies 3.18).

Philippians 1:3

I thank my God every time I remember you.

† Paul's gratitude shows the deep fellowship that existed between the apostle and the believers in Philippi (Acts 16:12).

† Christian remembrance often involved prayer and thanksgiving for fellow believers (Colossians 1:3).

† Early church writings often encouraged believers to remember one another continually in prayer (Barnabas, Epistle of Barnabas 19).

Philippians 1:4

Every time I pray for all of you, I pray with joy.

† Paul's joy came from seeing the gospel producing real fruit in the lives of believers (John 15:8).

† Joy in prayer reflects confidence that God's work among His people is real and continuing (1 Thessalonians 2:19).

† Tertullian wrote that the unity of believers brought joy even during persecution (Tertullian, Apology 39).

Philippians 1:5

I thank God because you have shared in spreading the gospel from the first day until now.

† The Philippian believers supported the gospel both spiritually and materially (Philippians 4:15).

† The church in Philippi was the first congregation established in Europe during Paul's missionary journeys (Acts 16:9-10).

† Eusebius records that the gospel spread rapidly across the Roman Empire through such partnerships (Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History 3.1).

Philippians 1:6

I'm confident of this, that the One who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus.

† God initiates salvation and also brings it to completion (Hebrews 12:2).

† The day of Christ refers to the coming judgment and vindication that Jesus promised would occur within that generation (Matthew 16:27-28).

† Early Christians believed Christ's kingdom work was actively unfolding in their lifetime (Justin Martyr, Dialogue with Trypho 32).

Philippians 1:7

It's right for me to feel this way about all of you because you are close to my heart, since you all share with me in grace, both in my imprisonment and in defending and confirming the gospel.

† The believers stood with Paul during his imprisonment, showing true fellowship in suffering (2 Timothy 1:16).

† The gospel was defended publicly before rulers and authorities throughout the empire (Acts 25:8).

† Ignatius praised churches that remained faithful to the apostles during persecution (Ignatius, Letter to the Philippians).

Philippians 1:8

God is my witness how deeply I long for all of you with the compassion of Christ Jesus.

† Paul's affection reflects the love of Christ working through His servants (John 13:34).

† True Christian fellowship produces deep spiritual bonds among believers (1 John 4:7).

† Clement of Rome emphasized that believers should love one another deeply as members of one body (1 Clement 49).

Philippians 1:9

This is my prayer, that your love will keep growing more and more in knowledge and understanding.

† Christian love is not blind emotion, it grows together with wisdom and truth (Colossians 1:9).

† Knowledge here refers to spiritual discernment shaped by God's word (Psalm 119:66).

† Early teachers warned that love must be guided by truth to

guard against false doctrine (Irenaeus, Against Heresies 4.33).

Philippians 1:10

So that you may recognize what truly matters and be pure and blameless until the day of Christ.

† Discernment helps believers choose what honors God rather than what merely appears good (Hebrews 5:14).

† The day of Christ again refers to the approaching covenant judgment against the old system (Luke 21:22).

† Early Christians expected Christ's vindication of His people during the destruction of Jerusalem (Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History 3.5).

Philippians 1:11

Filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, bringing glory and praise to God.

† Righteousness is produced through union with Christ, not through the works of the old covenant law (Galatians 2:16).

† The fruit of righteousness reflects transformed lives shaped by the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23).

† Clement of Alexandria wrote that righteousness is the visible evidence of faith working in believers (Stromata 2).

Philippians 1:12

I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually helped the gospel move forward.

† Paul's imprisonment became an opportunity for the gospel to reach new audiences (Acts 28:30-31).

† God often uses suffering to expand His kingdom (2 Timothy 2:9).

† Tertullian famously wrote that persecution often strengthened and expanded the church (Apology 50).

Philippians 1:13

As a result, my imprisonment for Christ has become known throughout the entire imperial guard and to everyone else.

† The Praetorian Guard in Rome heard the gospel through Paul's imprisonment (Acts 28:16).

† Even Roman officials were exposed to the message of Christ during this time (Philippians 4:22).

† Eusebius recorded that members of Caesar's household later became believers (Ecclesiastical History 2.17).

Philippians 1:14

Most of the brothers and sisters have gained confidence in the Lord because of my imprisonment and now speak the word of God more boldly and without fear.

† Courage in suffering inspires others to remain faithful (Hebrews 10:34).

† Persecution often strengthens rather than weakens the church (Acts 8:4).

† Early Christian writings repeatedly praise believers who remained bold during trials (Ignatius, Letter to the Romans).

Philippians 1:15

Some preach Christ out of jealousy and rivalry, but others preach Him with sincere motives.

† Not all preaching came from pure motives, even in the apostolic age (3 John 9).

† Rivalries sometimes developed among early Christian leaders (1 Corinthians 1:12).

† Irenaeus warned against teachers motivated by pride rather than truth (Against Heresies 1.26).

Philippians 1:16

The latter preach Christ out of love, knowing that I'm appointed

to defend the gospel.

† Those with sincere hearts supported Paul's mission and recognized his calling (Acts 9:15).

† Love is the proper motive for proclaiming Christ (1 Corinthians 13:1).

† Clement emphasized that faithful teachers must serve Christ with humility and love (1 Clement 44).

Philippians 1:17

The others proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition rather than sincerity, thinking they'll make my imprisonment more difficult.

† Some attempted to elevate themselves by competing with Paul (2 Corinthians 11:13).

† Selfish ambition was already a threat within early Christian communities (James 3:16).

† Early writers warned that pride was one of the greatest dangers facing church leaders (Tertullian, On Prescription Against Heretics).

Philippians 1:18

What does it matter? Only that Christ is proclaimed, whether from false motives or true ones, and in this I rejoice and will continue to rejoice.

† Paul focuses on the spread of the gospel rather than personal reputation (Philippians 2:3).

† Even imperfect messengers can still communicate the true message of Christ (Isaiah 55:11).

† Eusebius wrote that the gospel continued to advance even when opponents tried to undermine the apostles (Ecclesiastical History 2).

Philippians 1:19

I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your

prayers and the help provided by the Spirit of Jesus Christ.

† The prayers of believers play a powerful role in God's work (James 5:16).

† The Spirit strengthens believers during trials and imprisonment (Acts 4:31).

† Early Christians believed communal prayer sustained the church during persecution (Tertullian, Apology 39).

Philippians 1:20

My eager expectation and hope is that I won't be ashamed in anything, but that Christ will be honored in my body whether I live or die.

† Paul's goal was always the honor of Christ rather than personal safety (Acts 20:24).

† Faithfulness to Christ remained the highest priority for early believers (Revelation 2:10).

† Ignatius later echoed this attitude when he welcomed martyrdom as a testimony to Christ (Ignatius, Letter to the Romans).

Philippians 1:21

For to me, living means serving Christ, and dying means gain.

† Life on earth is an opportunity to serve Christ and advance His kingdom (Colossians 3:23).

† Death brings believers into the presence of the Lord (2 Corinthians 5:8).

† Early Christians often spoke of death as entering the presence of Christ (Clement of Alexandria, Stromata 4).

Philippians 1:22

But if I continue living in the body, that means fruitful work for me, and I don't know which I should choose.

† Paul recognized that continued life meant further ministry (Romans 1:13).

† Fruitful work refers to the growth of the church and the spread of the gospel (John 15:16).

† Eusebius noted that the apostles continued laboring despite persecution because the mission required it (Ecclesiastical History 3).

Philippians 1:23

I'm torn between the two, because I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better.

† Paul's statement reflects the hope believers have of being with Christ after death (2 Corinthians 5:8).

† Being with Christ is described as a greater state than remaining in earthly suffering (Revelation 14:13).

† Early Christian writers often expressed this same longing to be with Christ (Ignatius, Letter to the Romans).

Philippians 1:24

Yet to remain in the body is more necessary for your sake.

† Paul prioritized the spiritual growth of others over his own personal desire (Philippians 2:4).

† Spiritual leaders often endure hardship for the sake of the church (2 Timothy 2:10).

† Clement of Rome praised leaders who sacrificed themselves for the good of the believers (1 Clement 5).

Philippians 1:25

Since I'm convinced of this, I know I'll remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith.

† Paul's expectation was that his ministry would continue strengthening the churches (Acts 28:30).

† Faith grows through teaching, encouragement, and fellowship (Romans 10:17).

† Early church leaders stressed the importance of perseverance in faith (Irenaeus, Against Heresies 3).

Philippians 1:26

So that your proud confidence in Christ Jesus may grow because I'll return to you again.

† The return of faithful leaders often strengthened churches facing trials (Acts 15:36).

† Confidence in Christ grows through shared experience and teaching (Hebrews 10:23).

† Early Christian communities frequently celebrated the return of missionaries who had spread the gospel (Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History).

Philippians 1:27

Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I'll hear that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving together for the faith of the gospel.

† Christian life must reflect the truth of the gospel we profess (Colossians 1:10).

† Unity among believers strengthens the church during trials (Ephesians 4:3).

† Early church writings emphasize unity as essential for preserving the faith (Ignatius, Letter to the Ephesians).

Philippians 1:28

Don't be frightened by those who oppose you, which is a sign of destruction for them but of salvation for you, and this from God.

† Opposition to the gospel was expected from the beginning (John 15:20).

† Persecution often confirmed the truth of the Christian message (Acts 5:41).

† Tertullian observed that persecution revealed who truly

belonged to Christ (Apology 50).

Philippians 1:29

You have been granted the privilege not only to believe in Christ but also to suffer for Him.

† Suffering for Christ was seen as participation in His mission (1 Peter 4:13).

† The apostles rejoiced when they were counted worthy to suffer for His name (Acts 5:41).

† Early martyrs were honored as witnesses to Christ's truth (Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History 4).

Philippians 1:30

You are experiencing the same struggle you saw in me and now hear that I still have.

† The church shared in the same spiritual conflict faced by the apostles (2 Timothy 3:12).

† Christian endurance was essential during the turbulent years before Jerusalem's fall (Luke 21:19).

† Early church historians recorded that many believers endured persecution during this period (Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History 3).

Historical References

† Josephus recorded the political and religious tensions that existed in Judea during the apostolic period (Josephus, Wars of the Jews 6).

† Eusebius preserved early records showing how the gospel spread throughout the Roman Empire before the destruction of Jerusalem (Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History 3).

† Clement of Alexandria wrote extensively about apostolic teaching and the growth of the early church (Clement of Alexandria, Stromata).

† Irenaeus preserved the teachings handed down from the

apostles through the early churches (Irenaeus, Against Heresies).

How it applies to us today

† Philippians 1 reminds us that God finishes the work He begins in His people.

† It shows that hardship doesn't stop the gospel, it often spreads it further.

† It teaches that our lives should always reflect the gospel we believe.

† It reminds us that unity and courage strengthen the church during difficult times.

† It shows that whether we live or die, our purpose is to honor Christ.

Q & A Appendix

Q: What confidence did Paul express about believers?

A: God would complete the work He started in them (Philippians 1:6).

Q: Why was Paul thankful for the Philippian believers?

A: They partnered with him in spreading the gospel (Philippians 1:5).

Q: How did Paul's imprisonment affect the gospel?

A: It actually caused the gospel to spread more widely (Philippians 1:12-13).

Q: What was Paul's view of life and death?

A: Living meant serving Christ and dying meant being with Christ (Philippians 1:21-23).

Q: What did Paul urge the believers to do?

A: Live in a manner worthy of the gospel and stand firm

together (Philippians 1:27).

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

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Source Index

† Philippians 1

† Josephus, Wars of the Jews

† Irenaeus, Against Heresies

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History

† Clement of Alexandria, Stromata

† Tertullian, Apology

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