



## Outline of the Book of Philippians by [John T Polk II](#)

All Scriptures and comments are based on the **New King James Version**, unless otherwise noted.

**Philippians = Joy Of Christ**

**[God Is Positive]  
Blueprint For Redemption**

### **I. Joy For The Now Philippians 1:1-26**

- A. Paul's Greeting **1:1-2**
- B. Paul's Gratitude **1:3-26**
  - 1. For their past conversion **1:3-11**
  - 2. For his present confinement **1:12-18**
  - 3. For his potential continuance **1:19-26**

### **II. Joy For The Noble 1:27-2:30**

- A. Christian Conduct **1:27-2:18**
  - 1. The "high road" of the Gospel **1:27-2:4**
    - a. Striving together in the Gospel faith **1:27**
    - b. Steeled against enemies **1:28**
    - c. Sharing in suffering for Christ's sake **1:29-30**
  - 2. The "high" goal of Christ **2:5-11**
    - a. Gave up God's "form" (Gk. *morphē* - "striking the eye") **2:5-7a** (certainly not meaning physically, **Cf Luke 24:39; John 4:24**)
    - b. Took man's "form" (Gk. *ὁμοίωμα* - "resemblance") **2:7b** (meaning physically body, **Cf Romans 1:23; 5:14; 6:5; 8:3**)
    - c. Had man's "appearance" (Gk. *schma* - "habits") **2:7c-8** (meaning actions, thoughts, discourse, **Cf I Corinthians 7:31**)
    - d. Exalted above all mankind **2:9-11** **Acts 2:29-36**
  - 3. The "high" work of God means: **2:12-18**
    - a. Consistent obedience **2:12-13**
    - b. Resistant observance **2:14-16**
    - c. Persistent oblation **2:17-18**
- B. Christian Commitment **2:19-30**
  - 1. Timothy **2:19-24**
    - a. Shared Paul's care for all churches **2:19-23 Cf 2 Corinthians 11:28**
    - b. Not the same as personally being there **2:24**
  - 2. Epaphroditus **2:25-30**
    - a. Absorbed Christian **2:25-26a**
    - b. Anguished that his sickness discouraged church **2:26b-27**
    - c. Accomplished Philippians' care for Paul **2:28-30**

### III. Joy For The Noteworthy: 3:1-4:7

- A. Judaizers **3:1-11**
  - 1. Whose deeds are now fleshly not spiritual **3:1-4a**
  - 2. Who do not exceed Paul's past Jewish works **3:4b-6**
  - 3. Who ignore Paul's conversion from his past **3:7-11**
  
- B. Christian Attainers **3:12-4:1**
  - 1. That's one simple step for progress **3:12-16**
  - 2. That's one simple pattern for enemies **3:17-19**
    - a. Many **3:18**
    - b. Goal = destruction **3:19**
    - c. God = consumption **3:19**
    - d. Glory = debasement **3:19**
  - 3. That's one simple fact for defense **3:20-21**
    - a. **Christ keeps our citizenship in and will come from Heaven 3:20**  
Cf **I Corinthians 15:50**
    - b. **Christ will transform our bodies for Heaven 3:21**
    - c. **Christians will remain unmoved for reward 4:1**
  
- C. "Competing" Christian Women **4:2-7**
  - 1. Euodia and Syntyche good women at odds needed help **4:2-3**
  - 2. Christian rejoicing should continue **4:4-5**
  - 3. Prayer should bring God's peace and protection **4:6-7**

### IV. Joy For The Nourishment 4:8-23

- A. Concentrate On The Best Control **4:8-9**
  - 1. Thoughts **4:8**
  - 2. Examples **4:9**
  
- B. Consider The Best Opportunities **4:10-20**
  - 1. Good intentions precede opportunities **4:10**
  - 2. Good attitude prevents feeling of neglect **4:11-13**
  - 3. Good investments in Gospel **4:14-20**
    - a. No church but Philippi shared with Paul at first **4:14-16**
    - b. Paul charged this to their "account" **4:17**
    - c. Their sacrifice would be rewarded by God **4:18-20**
  
- C. Continue The Best Greetings **4:21-23**
  - 1. To every saint in Christ Jesus **4:21**
  - 2. From every saint, especially Caesar's household **4:22**
  - 3. God's grace was with them "all" **4:23**

### **Philippian Philosophizing:**

- On Paul's second journey, at Troas, he had a vision calling him to Macedonia (**Acts 16:6-10**), and a 2-day boat ride brought him to Neapolis (**Acts 16:11**), 10 miles from Philippi, through a mountain pass. Later, the return trip would take 5 days (**Acts 20:6**). Located in Thrace by the name of *Crenides* ("little fountain"), it was captured in 50 B.C. by, and named for, the Greek, Philip of Macedon, father of Alexander the Great. Romans conquered it in 168 B.C., and in 42 B.C. the army of Octavius and Anthony defeated the army of Brutus and Cassius. Octavius, as Augustus Caesar, strengthened the city as a Roman colony (**Acts 16:12**). Since the place of prayer was a riverside, and not a synagogue (**Acts 16:13**), there probably were not many Jews living there. Lydia and her household became the first European converts to the Gospel (**Acts 16:14-15**). Paul cast out a slave girl's spirit of divination which led to his and Silas' imprisonment. Freed by an earthquake, they baptized the jailor and his household (**Acts 16:16-34**). Paul demanded public release by the magistrates since they had publicly beaten him, a Roman citizen, a thing Rome forbade (**Acts 16:22-23, 35-40**).
- The church at Philippi is the only one in the New Testament which had elders and deacons mentioned (**Philippians 1:1**).
- Paul probably wrote this letter from Roman incarceration **Philippians 1:7**