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## The Joyful Christian Philippians 1:1-30 Guest Speaker: Herman Munster

Vol. 7 Num. 29

### Using This Study

#### ❶ EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

#### ❷ EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

#### ❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.

There is probably no better example of one who had a proper attitude towards his circumstances than the Apostle Paul. In II Corinthians 11:23-28, Paul speaks of being whipped, beaten, stoned, shipwrecked, threatened, hungry, thirsty, sleepless and persecuted...in addition to having the daily concern for **all** the churches. Yet in spite of his circumstances, Paul maintained a joyful attitude.

In his book, "Eating Problems For Breakfast" author Tim Hansel quotes a man named Warren Deaton who had the right attitude about personal circumstances. As Hansel writes, "**He was the sort of man who would go after Moby Dick with a row boat, a harpoon, and a jar of tartar sauce.**"

So how should we respond to life's surprises? It all depends on our attitude. Our attitude about our circumstances...our attitude about others...our attitude about ourselves and our attitude about what God allows in our lives. Are you a joyful Christian? Well, grab your harpoon and let's see!

**Life is full of surprises!** Every day we are confronted with situations that may or may not be our own making. Some are good...some are bad. Some are easy...some are hard. Some are painful...some are joyful. How we respond is a matter of personal choice. The choice is not so much how we endure the situation but rather how we embrace it.

As followers of Christ, we are to glorify God and minister to others in spite of the predicaments we find ourselves in. Simply put, it boils down to one's attitude towards life and a deep conviction that God is with us along the way.



## Read Philippians 1:1-30 (NIV)

**1** Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, To all the saints in Christ Jesus at Philippi, together with the overseers and deacons:

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

**3** I thank my God every time I remember you.

**4** In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy **5** because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, **6** being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

**7** It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart; for whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me. **8** God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

**9** And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, **10** so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, **11** filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ — to the glory and praise of God.

**12** Now I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel. **13** As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. **14** Because of my chains, most of the brothers in the Lord have been encouraged to speak the word of God more courageously and fearlessly.

**15** It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill. **16** The latter do so in love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. **17** The

former preach Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing that they can stir up trouble for me while I am in chains. **18** But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice.

Yes, and I will continue to rejoice, **19** for I know that through your prayers and the help given by the Spirit of Jesus Christ, what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance. **20** I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. **21** For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. **22** If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! **23** I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; **24** but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body. **25** Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, **26** so that through my being with you again your joy in Christ Jesus will overflow on account of me.

**27** Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in one spirit, contending as one man for the faith of the gospel **28** without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you. This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved — and that by God. **29** For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for him, **30** since you are going through the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have.

## ❶ EXAMINE His Word (Observation) (For personal preparation)

**What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details and terms emphasized in the foregoing passage.**

1. In **verse 1** how does Paul refer to himself and Timothy? How does he refer to those to whom he is writing?
2. In **verses 3 and 4**, list some key words you find in Paul's prayer to the Philippians?
3. In **verse 6**, what confidence does Paul have in the Philippians?
4. In **verses 7 and 8**, how does Paul express his love for the Philippians?
5. In **verses 12-14**, what is Paul's attitude about his situation?
6. In **verses 15-17**, what does Paul say about those who preach the Gospel?
7. What in **verse 18**, what does Paul rejoice in?
8. In **verses 22-26**, what two options does Paul struggle with?
9. How does Paul describe the Philippians ministry for Christ in **verses 27-30**?

## ② **EXPLORE His Word (Interpretation) (For Community Group discussion)**

### **What does God MEAN?**

10. From what you have observed, how would describe Paul's perspective about life?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
11. How had Paul's imprisonment influenced those to whom he ministered?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
12. What is the basis of Paul's joy in life?

## ③ **EMBRACE His Word (Application) (For Community Group discussion)**

### **Why does this MATTER to me?**

13. In what ways has Paul's attitude towards his situation influenced your life?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
14. How do you respond when God allows difficult times in your life?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
15. Write down three things that help you experience and demonstrate the joy of Jesus during difficult circumstances.

**Summarize your thoughts on the passage**

**Write about what God wants you to KNOW, to FEEL, and to DO...**

**Sermon Notes**