



Overview of Philippians

- Who: Written by the Apostle Paul
- When: Around A.D. 60
- Where: Written from **Prison**, most likely house arrest in Rome.
- To whom: He writes to the church in Philippi—a prosperous Roman colony.
- Why: To thank them for their support, to correct doctrinal errors, and to encourage the church in Philippi.
- What: The main theme is **Service** in Christ.

-- Big Idea: Christian identity and Christian service are inseparable.

- **v. 1 – Paul identifies himself and Timothy as **Servants** of Christ Jesus.**
 - Paul introduces himself as the most basic level of how he wanted to be known—a servant.
 - How do we respond when asked to describe ourselves?

1.) A sincere Christian is a **Servant** of Christ.

- **Salvation in Christ is a calling to full-time Christian service (Romans 12:2, Ephesians 2:10).**
 - It is a contradiction to call oneself a Christian but not fulfill the role of Christ's servant.
 - Unless we submit to service, we will never discover the joy to which God has called us in Christ (Luke 6:38).

-- **Service to Christ is one of the most important pathways to *Joy*.**

- The joy of Christ is wrapped up in loving other people as Jesus loved us (John 15:11-13, Mark 10:43-45).
- The antidote to discouragement is selfless service in the name of Christ.

2.) A sincere Christian is a *Slave* of Christ.

-- **Everyone everywhere is a slave to something.**

- We are slaves to the one we obey (Romans 6:16).
- If we choose not to be slaves of Christ then we serve as slaves of the sinful nature.
- It is the greatest *Privilege* to be a slave of Christ (Romans 6:17-18, Psalm 84:10).

-- **v. 1 – The word translated “servant” (doulos) here can just as accurately be translated as “*Slave*.”**

- J.I. Packer – Christian service therefore means, first and foremost, living out a slave relationship to one's Savior” (1 Corinthians 6:19-20).
- J.I. Packer – “The essence of Christian service is loyalty to the king expressing itself in care for his servants” (1 Thes. 2:6-8).

-- **Service in the church is God's undeniable *Command* to His slaves in Christ (Psalm 2:11, Philippians 2:5,7, 1 Peter 4:10)**

- Gifts not used in service to God are gifts abused (Luke 14:11).
- We have been gifted to bring glory to God (1 Cor. 10:31).
- Ask not, “Should I be serving in the church?” but “*Where* should I be serving in the church?”

3.) Our ultimate *Significance* will be measured by our service.

- Of all the titles Paul could have claimed, he chose to call himself a servant, just as Jesus himself did (Matthew 20:26-28).
- Jesus is our model and our motivation for God's command to serve.

