

*The Epistle of Joy*  
Philippians 1:1-2

1. <sup>8</sup> Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things.  
Philippians 4:8
2. **In the world** there is fleeting happiness but **in Christ** there is joy.
3. <sup>16</sup> Rejoice always; <sup>17</sup> pray without ceasing; <sup>18</sup> in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. I Thessalonians 5:16-18
4. <sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. Galatians 5:22-23
5. <sup>8</sup> ...and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, <sup>9</sup> obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls. I Peter 1:8-9
6. John MacArthur – *A Christian's joy is a gift from God to those who believe the Gospel, being produced in them by the Holy Spirit as they receive and obey His Word, being mixed with trials with a hope set on future glory.*
7. Gordon Fee – *Joy is how believers who knew Christ and whose futures are guaranteed by Christ respond in the context of present difficulties, not because they like to suffer but because their joy is "in the Lord."*
8. <sup>17</sup> But even if I am being poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I rejoice and share my joy with you all. <sup>18</sup> You too, *I urge you*, rejoice in the same way and share your joy with me. Philippians 2:17-18
9. <sup>1</sup> Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup> fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. <sup>3</sup> For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. Hebrews 12:1-3

**Philippians 1:1-2 in 3 words.**

<sup>1</sup> Paul and Timothy, bond-servants of Christ Jesus, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, including the overseers and deacons: <sup>2</sup> Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

- 1) Servants
- 2) Saints
- 3) Citizens

➤ Servants **of Christ**

➤ Saints **in Christ**

<sup>17</sup> Therefore if anyone is in Christ, *he is* a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. 2 Corinthians 5:17

<sup>26</sup> For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. Galatians 3:26

<sup>7</sup> In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace... Ephesians 1:7

<sup>6</sup> ...and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus... Ephesians 2:6

➤ Citizens **of heaven**

<sup>11</sup> So putting out to sea from Troas, we ran a straight course to Samothrace, and on the day following to Neapolis; <sup>12</sup> and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia, a *Roman* colony; and we were staying in this city for some days. Acts 16:11-12

<sup>19</sup> But when her masters saw that their hope of profit was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the market place before the authorities, <sup>20</sup> and when they had brought them to the chief magistrates, they said, "These men are throwing our city into confusion, being Jews, <sup>21</sup> and are proclaiming customs which it is not lawful for us to accept or to observe, being Romans." Acts 16:19-21

<sup>20</sup> For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ... Philippians 3:20