



Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, New King James Version (NKJV), copyright © by Thomas Nelson, 1984.

Copyright © 2022 by Joshua R. Embry

All rights reserved

Structural Analysis of Philippians via Outline

- I. INTRODUCTION: 1:1-11
 - A. Greeting
 1. We are servants of Christ
 2. Written to the leaders and church (saints and bishops/deacons)
 - B. Prayer
 1. Thankfulness and joyful prayer when Paul remembers the Philippians
 2. Confident Christ will continue this good work in them until He returns
 3. Prayer for their love to abound, to be discerning, and filled with the fruits or righteousness

- II. Joy in Christ Being Preached despite trials 1:12-26
 - A. Paul's Trials are so that the Gospel can be shared 1:12-14
 1. It has allowed him to preach to the palace guard
 2. It had produced boldness in other saints in sharing the Gospel
 - B. No matter the motive, Christ is preached 1:15-18
 1. Some teach out of envy or strife
 - i. Selfish, ambitious, not sincere, seeking to harm Paul
 2. Some teach from goodwill
 - i. They do so in love, knowing Paul is called
 3. In either circumstance, Christ is preached
 - i. Paul rejoices in this fact

Paul speaks to the fact that some were preaching in an effort to hurt him emotionally and spiritually, for the simple fact of diminishing his own self-worth or efforts of love towards these believers. He has a mature attitude, stating that if Christ is magnified, it doesn't matter if he is. This is a mature view that is often missed by some pastors today who build ministries around themselves rather than Christ.
 - C. Christ will be magnified in my body, in life or by death 1:19-26
 1. Paul speaks to any condition he is in, his current chains, or if he becomes free
 2. Even if he dies, he will only be united to Christ (not a bad thing)
 3. He knows he will continue longer to help in their progression in the faith

Paul states that Christ will be lifted up either in Paul's life or death, but he thinks he's going to tarry on a little longer so that the Philippian church may benefit from his training and prayer.

- III. Let your conduct also be worthy of the Gospel of Christ 1:27-30
 - A. Remain united, in one spirit and one mind
 - B. Work and strive together for the furtherance of the Gospel
 - C. Firm, not afraid of your adversaries (they are condemned, you are saved)
 - D. Christian faith is belief and also suffering for His sake (Christ)

Paul charges the believers to live up to the great gift they have received. His charge is not to earn salvation, but instead, with thankful hands, set out to show that thankfulness through kind, genuine, and good works.

- IV. Be imitators of Christ
 - A. In Humility 2:1-4
 1. Have the same love, affection and mercy, and in unity.
 2. Do nothing selfishly.
 3. Be humble, lowly in mind (not puffed up).
 4. Look after the interest of others, not just your own.
 - B. In mind/thought 2:5-11
 1. Making yourself of no reputation

- 2. Taking the form of a bondservant
- 3. Humble
- 4. Obedient to death (for the cross/Christ)
- 5. Knowing that God has exalted Christ (surety of the promised salvation)
- C. Bearers of His light
 - 1. In obedience
 - 2. God working in you
 - 3. Without grumbling or complaining
 - 4. Without disputing
 - 5. Become blameless and harmless
 - 6. Set apart visibly from the world
 - 7. Holding fast to the Word of life

Again, not to be bearers of self- but bearers of the light – Christ.

- V. Timothy and Epaphroditus are being sent 2:19-30
 - A. Timothy is being sent to get word back to Paul as an encouragement to Paul
 - B. Epaphroditus is being sent to be an encouragement to the Philippians who heard he was ill

While both will encourage Paul and the Philippians alike, Paul does share that Epaphroditus was held in care by the church and that he also loved them and did not want their hearts to be burdened with news of his illness, he wanted to show them firsthand that he was alright and not cause them any further alarm.
- VI. Beware of a works-based faith 3:1-11
 - A. Works such as circumcision do not lead to salvation
 - B. Flesh cannot produce salvation
 - C. If the law/flesh could have earned salvation, Paul would have earned it
 - 1. Paul tells them, he has tried and failed, Christ is the only way
 - D. All that matters is Christ, all else is loss
 - 1. Righteousness is only through Christ through faith
 - E. Forget the things of the past, press towards the goal of Christ 3:12-16
 - 1. As you mature in Christ, you will come to understand this more
- VII. Christians are Citizens of Heaven, not the world 3:17-4:1
 - A. Those setting their minds on earthly things are enemies of the cross
 - 1. Their end is destruction
 - B. Believers are citizens of heaven
 - 1. Eagerly away Christ's return
 - 2. Our lowly body will be transformed
 - 3. Stand fast in this assurance (the Lord)

Being a Roman colony, citizenship would be understood to have a duty and honor to it. Paul reminds them of their greatest honor and duty – that of being united in servitude to Christ and His kingdom.
- VIII. Additional Exhortations 4:2-7
 - A. Euodia and Syntyche need to be united in the Lord (of the same mind)

This seems to be a gentle corrective statement as he asks for them to be helped
 - B. Rejoice in the Lord always
 - C. Let gentleness be a characteristic to be known for to all men

This may again speak to the corrective nature as mentioned above, perhaps disunity Had begun to impact the effectiveness of sharing the Gospel as outsiders noticed a rift.

- D. Be patient – not anxious
 - 1. Pray, give supplication, be thankful
 - i. Give your requests (and anxiety) to God.
 - ii. God's peace will be on you and guard your hearts

- IX. Focus instead of Good things 4:8-9
 - A. Whatever things are noble, just, pure, lovely, good report, virtue, praiseworthy
 - 1. Meditate on these things
 - B. Remember what we taught you, and do them
 - 1. God's peace will be on you if you do.

- X. Be Content in all circumstances
 - A. Paul gives personal examples of contentment in good and bad times
 - B. Christ gives the strength to bear through these challenges
 - C. Thank you for your faithful gifts of support
 - 1. Both in the past and now
 - 2. They met physical needs as well as acted as encouragement
 - D. In the same way you met my needs, God will meet your needs

- XI. Conclusion 4:21-23
 - A. Greetings and farewell
 - B. Grace be with you

This seems to be one of Paul's shorter exit dialogues. Since the epistle is not corrective in nature, perhaps he didn't need to sandwich in correction between a positive intro and positive outro.