

## “I Have You In My Heart!”

### I. **INTRO:**

- A. **Poem:** One ship drives **east** & another drives **west**, With the selfsame winds that blow.  
Tis the set of the sails, And not the gales, Which tells us the way to go. [Ella Wheeler Wilcox]
1. Paul understood that joy doesn't depend upon **circumstances**, **people**, **possessions**, or **worries**. (ch.1,2,3,4)
  2. It is an **attitude** that's determined by **confidence in God**.
    - a) It's this **confidence in God** that guided him like an **inner compass**, which always kept him on **joy's** course...regardless of the storms that blew.
  3. **Q:** Do you have that same **inner confidence** guiding you?
    - a) Let Paul teach us how to put our **confidence in God** & set our sails for **joy!**
- B. **Book Overview:** With Christ as our model of **humility** & **service**, you can enjoy a *oneness of purpose, attitude, goal, & labor* as a church.
1. **Philippi** is 1st church Paul founded in Macedonia. He's writing almost 10 years after 1st trip to Philippi. **The church is now established**(elders & deacons).
  2. It's a **tender letter** to a group of friends close to Paul(not a theological treatise).
  3. **Purpose of letter:** To acknowledge a \$ gift from this church (sent *Epaphroditus*)
    - a) A very generous church! Celebrates generosity. [1 of our Core Values: *Stewardship*]
  4. **Key verse:** “For me to **live** is Christ, to **die** is gain!”
  5. **Key word:** **Joy!** (16x's joy/rejoice)
    - a) He writes to express **joy** & encourage **joy** in his dear friends.
    - b) **Kaufmann Kohler** states in the *Jewish Encyclopedia* that no language has as many words for joy and rejoicing as does **Hebrew**. In the OT 13 Hebrew roots, found in 27 different words, are used primarily for some aspect of joy or joyful participation in **religious worship**.
      - (1) The psalmist says, **Thou dost show me the path of life; in thy presence there is fullness of joy, in thy right hand are pleasures forevermore** (16:11)
    - c) A letter of **Joy** must have been written by someone sunbathing on the Mediterranean right? **No, from a Roman Prison**.
    - d) **Joy** is to be found in something more than *good feelings & comfortable settings*.
      - (1) **That something is someone!** (21) [Oh, *Jesus Christ* is found 18x's in ch1 alone]

## II. **I HAVE YOU IN MY HEART!**

A. **THANKING!** (1-8)

B. (1) So when the Philippians *broke open the seal*, the 1st word they read was their beloved apostle's name... "Paul!"

1. He was to those 1st century Philippians,...

What **Luther** was to the *German Christians* in the 16th century.

What **Lincoln** was to the *African Americans* in the 19th century.

What **Churchill** was to the *British* in the 20th century...

A respected *leader, teacher, & friend*.

C. (3) **Thanks**giving - **Idea!** *A practical suggestion to help you cultivate the art of thanksgiving in your family.*

1. Have each member of the family contribute **once a month** by writing down things they feel especially **thankful** for. **Then** on Thanksgiving, make it a tradition to have everyone read what they've written **& give thanks** together as a family. (Chuck Swindoll)

D. (6) Good example of Jesus being our *Alpha & Omega!*

1. How sad when Christians depend wholly on themselves!

E. **PRAYING!** (9-11)

F. This is one of Paul's prison prayers.

1. Prison may cut off a **man** from **men**, but not from **God!** :)

2. Paul's prison privations **did not damp his faith, nor dull his hope, nor dim his love.** (Awake My Heart; Baxter)

G. (9) **That your love** - No one has simplified it better than *Anna B. Warner...Jesus loves me this I know, for the bible tells me so!*

H. (9b) Many have **knowledge**, but lack **discernment**.

1. To guide their love, Paul prays for **2 things**: Full & complete knowledge on 1 side **&** a keen awareness of right & wrong on the other.

I. (10) It's possible to be **wrong** but **sincere**; It's also possible to be **right** but **insincere!**

1. The 1st is **deceived**; the 2nd is **playing games!**

2. Being **wrong** but **sincere** seems only to be acceptable in Religion???

a) What would you think of the **sincere pharmacist** who gave you a deadly drug instead of your prescription?

3. **To be right but insincere** is the life of the hypocrite.
  4. Sincere = tested by sunlight. (folk etymology, w/o wax used to cover statue flaws)
- J. (11) **Righteousness**(right) - The world asks, “*Is it popular?*” “*Will it make me feel better?*”  
*Or, Is it politically correct?*”
1. The Christian must ask, “*Is it right?*” “*Is it biblically correct?*”
- K. (11b) **Which are by Jesus Christ** - People can live normally *good lives* on a human level.
1. They can: “pay their bills, give to charity, help their neighbors, honor their commitments, abide by the law, even go to church!”
  2. The difference lies in both **Means & Motives!**
    - a) Christian goodness is not a matter of **Degree**, but of **Kind!**
  3. A Christians *righteousness* will exceed that of the Scribes & Phar’s. (Mt. 5:20).
    - a) Not necessarily in **quantity** but in **quality!**
    - b) **The difference is the Means**. It is...**by Jesus Christ!**
      - (1) **The means** of our goodness is not our own effort to copy His life, but **His living in us!** (swindoll)
      - (2) It is *supernatural*, it is the result of **a spirit filled life!**
    - c) **It’s difference is the Motive**. Our Motivation is *The Glory & Praise of God!*
- L. **Poem[2nd Stanza]**: Like the winds of the sea are the ways of fate(?),  
 As we voyage along through life:  
 Tis **the set** of a soul That decides its goal,  
 And not the calm or the strife. [Ella Wheeler Wilcox]
- M. As you prepare to launch into the **calm & strife** of your day, set the course of your soul according to these **3 guiding principles** from Paul: [Swindoll]
1. 1st, Confidence brings joy when you **focus on the things for which you’re thankful!** (3)
  2. 2nd, Confidence brings joy when you **let God be God!** (6)
  3. 3rd, Confidence brings joy when you **keep love within its proper limits!** (9)
- N. **Declaration of Independence**: We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.
1. If it’s our *unalienable*(can’t take away) *right to pursue Happiness...why have so few found it?* - **Maybe because of the word pursuit?** It suggests it’s **outside** of us, somewhere “**out there**” needing to be discovered or caught.

- a) But it doesn't come from **without** *but* from **within!**
- b) It comes not from **outward circumstances** but from an **inner mind-set**.
- c) Holocaust survivor **Viktor Frankl** wrote, "Everything can be taken from a man but one thing: the last of the human freedoms - **to choose one's attitude** in any given set of *circumstances*, to choose one's own way."
- O. **Memorize Phil.4:8** Think of the **mind** like a **bank** that regularly receives deposits.
- By depositing the kinds of thoughts mentioned in **Phil.4:8**, we **build up & draw on** a rich account that will constantly yield a high dividend called **joy!**
- P. **PREACHING!** (12-18)
- Q. (16) **Not sincerely** - a precious metal mined with a basic alloy!
- These miners were mining the **pure gold** of the **gospel**, **w/the alloy** of their **jealousy**.
- R. (18) Sometimes you **can't** applaud their **motive**, but you only their **motion**...the gospel was moving forward!
- Q: Are you big enough to see God can use a preacher who's decked in gold? Prancing the stage like a Peacock? Sweating his jacket crazy wet? Those preachers who have to put an "a" at the end of every word!**
  - Maybe you see them building an empire for themselves. **Some seem to not have a real conviction, opening their arms too wide embracing all.**
  - I once heard Robert Schuller give a near perfect gospel invitation at the end of his message. (besides 1 comment that *God wants all to prosper*) Dealt plainly with sin!
    - Though I don't like his robes, his voice, his smile, his views on prosperity & positive thinking, is it possible God uses **his gospel** for some to come to salvation?
- S. **Read** what Paul wrote in **Galatians 1:6-9**.
- To the Galatians he says, "**let em be accursed**" to Philipians he says, "so what?" - **One condemnation, the other indifference!** *{Contradictory???*
  - Nope!** To the **Galatians** he was denouncing those who **garble** the gospel of grace into a message of works...**Anathema!!!**
    - To the **philippians**, he's rejoicing that despite the *impure motives of some*, the good news of Jesus Christ is still being proclaimed **accurately**.
    - The **message matters most, not the messenger!**
- T. **Q: Would you have used Balaam to convey a divine message for you? God did!**  
**Q: Would you have used Caiaphas (the puppet priest) as a prophet? God did!**  
**Q: Would you have used Jonah who had a miserable unforgiving spirit, bitter, narrow minded, & prejudice? God did!**  
**Q: Would you have blessed any of David's Psalms after his adultery/murder? God did!**

#### U. Paul had a single passion...The Gospel!

1. He focused on Preaching not on the Preacher!

#### V. I rejoice, & will continue to rejoice - Q: What makes you Joyful?

1. (Spurgeon) *Joy on the face is the result of the shining reflection of God in our hearts!*  
There are more flies caught with **honey** than with **vinegar**, and there will be more souls led to heaven by a man who wears heaven in his face than by one who bears death in his looks.

#### W. End: Joy always under construction!

1. Most of us have experienced what happens to motorists when one of those **huge graders** goes to work on a highway repair job. When the machine is operating on a busy road, traffic is halted and the cars lined up in opposite directions are allowed to proceed alternately. A veteran operator of one of those big machines decided one day to try to relieve the tension that inevitably results from such a traffic backup. Consequently on both the **front** and **rear** of his grader a sign now appears, declaring, *"The Road to Happiness is Almost Always Under Construction."*
  - a) Jn.16:22 **Therefore you now have sorrow; but I will see you again and your heart will rejoice, and your joy no one will take from you!**
2. *"The Road to Happiness is ~~Almost~~ Always Under Construction."*