

“Surprised by Joy”—An Exposition of the Book of Philippians
Session One: An Introduction to Philippians
January 17, 2024

Introduction:

- Title of Class—C.S. Lewis’ book title

R.C. Sproul:

Philippians is one of my favorite epistles of the Apostle Paul, and it is called in church history “the epistle of joy.” Because again and again in this letter, Paul speaks of his own joy, which is infectious, and he then encourages the people at Philippi to participate in the joy that Paul is experiencing—and that while he is writing to them from imprisonment! And he said, “I rejoice; therefore, you rejoice as well.” And Paul, at that time, is anticipating the possibility of his own imminent demise, but he looks forward to the future with joyous anticipation. And this is a theme, of course, that’s not found merely in the Philippian correspondence, but it’s found throughout the writings of the Apostle. And so frequent is this motif of joy that I think it is safe to say that this fruit of the Holy Spirit is something that should be evidenced and manifest to some significant degree in every true Christian’s life. Yes, we are to participate in the mourning and the sorrows of this world and be willing to go through the valley of the shadow of death for the sake of Christ. And yes, there are times when we are cast down but not destroyed and we sorrow. But the basic posture of the Christian should be one of joyous optimism, because we know in whom we have believed, and our trust is in Him, and we know that God certainly will prevail. So, there is a reason for our joy.

I. The Author of the Letter

- a. Identity 1:1
- b. Circumstances
 - Philippians 1:7,13,14,17
- c. Location
 - i. _____ (1:13;4:22)
- d. Date: _____

II. The Recipients of the Letter

- a. Location of Philippi
 - i. Philippi was located in the Roman province of _____

b. History of Philippi

i. Conquered in 356 BC and renamed by _____ of _____

ii. Re-conquered in 40 BC by _____ and _____

c. History of the Philippian Church (Acts 16:6-40)

i. Founded on Paul's _____ Missionary Journey _____

ii. Revisited on Paul's _____ Missionary Journey _____

III. The Occasion of the Letter

a. The Epistle was **not** written to:

i. To _____ any problem

1. To _____ sin

2. To _____ error

3. To _____ Paul's apostolic authority

b. The Epistle was written as a:

i. _____ note

ii. _____ report

iii. _____ to continued _____

IV. The Theme(s) of the Letter

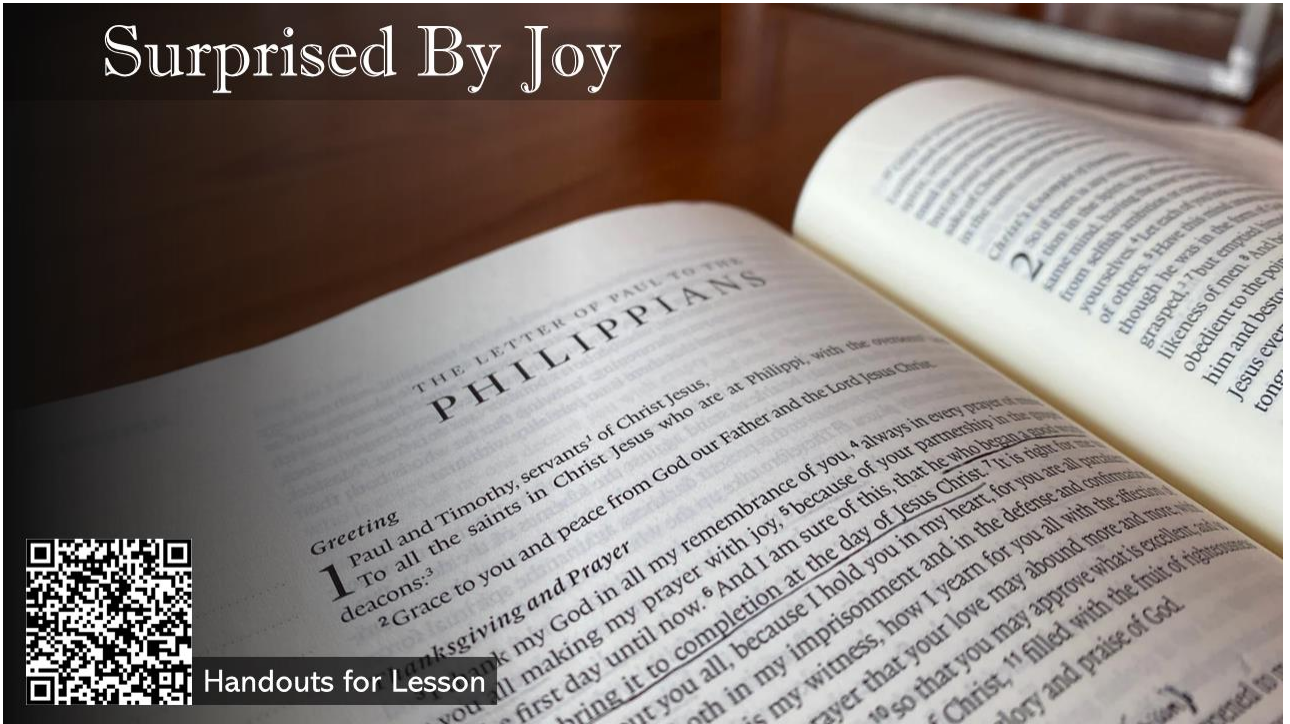
a. The _____ (1:3,7,12,16,27*;2:22;4:3,15) 9 times

b. The _____ that belongs to Christians

i. "joy" (1:4,25; 2:2,17,18,29; 4:1) 7 times

ii. "rejoice" (1:16; 2:17,18,28; 3:1; 4:4*) 7 times

Surprised By Joy



Surprised by Joy—An Exposition of Philippians

- Exposition of Scripture requires that we understand authorial intent
 - Authorial Intent
 - Understand the circumstances of the author
 - Understand the circumstances of the original audience
 - Understand the occasion and purpose of the letter
 - Then we are ready to better understand the contents of the letter

THE MISSIONARY JOURNEYS OF THE APOSTLE PAUL

MAP 13

