

Philippians

A Personal Letter from Your Rabbi, the “Prisoner”

- I. Paul’s *Introduction* to the **Philippians** (1:1-11)
- II. Paul’s *Imprisonment Perspective* (1:12-26)
- III. Paul’s *Instructions* to the **Philippians** regarding
Personal Conduct (1:27-2:30)

IV. Paul’s *Impassioned Plea* to embrace their **Spiritual life in Messiah** (3:1-21)

A. His *Stern Warning* against **Evil** and **False Teachers** (3:1-4a)

3 Finally, my brethren, **rejoice in the Lord**.

To write the **same things** *again* is no trouble to me,
and it is a **safeguard** for you.

2 **Beware** of the **dogs**, beware of the **evil workers**,
beware of the **false circumcision**; **3** for we are the **true circumcision**,
who **worship** in the **Spirit of God** and **glory** in **Messiah Jesus**
and put **no confidence** in the **flesh**,

4 although *I myself* might have **confidence** even in the **flesh**.

B. His *Splendid Credentials* in **Judaism** (3:4b-6)

If **anyone** else has a mind to **put confidence** in the **flesh**, *I far more*:
5 **circumcised** the **eighth day**, of the **nation of Israel**, of the **tribe of Benjamin**,
a **Hebrew of Hebrews**; as to the **Law**, a **Pharisee**;

6 as to **zeal**, a **persecutor** of the **church**;
as to the **righteousness** which is in the **Law**, found **blameless**.

C. His *Superior Life* in **Messiah** (3:7-14)

1. *Having now*, the “surpassing value” of the **Knowledge** of the **Messiah**
(3:7-8)
2. *Having now*, a **Righteousness** which is according to **Faith** (3:9)
3. *Having now*, a **Messiah-centered life** (3:10-12)
4. *Pressing forward* to the “prize” of his **Upward calling** (3:13-14)

⁷ But whatever things were **gain to me**,
those things I have counted as **loss** for the **sake of Messiah**.

⁸ More than that, I count **all things** to be **loss**
in view of the **surpassing value** of **knowing Messiah Jesus my Lord**,

for whom I have suffered the **loss** of **all things**, and count them
but **rubbish** so that I may **gain Messiah**,

⁹ and may be found **in Him**,
not having a **righteousness** of **my own** derived from **the Law**,
but that which is through **faith in Messiah**,
the **righteousness** which **comes from God** on the basis of **faith**,

¹⁰ that I may **know Him** and the **power** of **His resurrection**
and the **fellowship** of **His sufferings**, being **conformed** to **His death**;

¹¹ in order that I may **attain** to the **resurrection** from the dead.

¹² **Not** that I have **already obtained it** or have **already become perfect**,
but I **press on** so that I may **lay hold** of that
for which also I was **laid hold of** by **Messiah Jesus**.

¹³ Brethren, I **do not** regard myself as having **laid hold of it yet**;
but **one thing I do: forgetting** what **lies behind**
and **reaching forward** to what **lies ahead**,

¹⁴ I **press on** toward the **goal**
for the **prize** of the **upward call** of **God in Messiah Jesus**.

D. His ***Straightforward Appeal*** to **Walk** after **His Example** (3:15-21)

1. **To live** according to the **Standard** that they have **already attained** (3:15-16)
2. **To walk** according to **his (Paul's) Example** (3:17)
3. **To avoid** those who **now walk Contrary to Messiah** (3:18-19)
4. **To embrace** the **Hope** of their **future, glorious Transformation** (3:20-21)

¹⁵ **Let us** therefore, as many as are **perfect**, have **this attitude**;
and if in anything you have a different attitude,
God will reveal that also to you; ¹⁶ however, let us **keep living**
by that **same standard** to which **we have attained**.

¹⁷ **Brethren**, join in **following my example**, and **observe** those
who **walk** according to the **pattern** you have **in us**.

¹⁸ For **many walk**, of whom I often told you,
and now tell you even **weeping**,
that they are enemies of the **cross of Messiah**,

¹⁹ whose **end** is **destruction**, whose **god** is *their appetite*,
and whose **glory** is in their **shame**,
who set their **minds** on **earthly things**.

²⁰ For **our citizenship** is in heaven, from which also we **eagerly wait** for a **Savior**, the **Lord Jesus the Messiah**;

²¹ who will **transform** the **body** of our **humble state** into **conformity** with the **body** of **His glory**, by the exertion of the **power** that **He** has even to **subject all things** to **Himself**.

Personal Application

So what did **Rabbi Paul** *know* about **Jesus** that was of **“Surpassing Value?”**

1. The **Knowledge** of personal **Redemption** and **Forgiveness of sins** in **Messiah**

In **Him (Messiah)** we have **redemption** through **His blood**, the **forgiveness** of our **trespasses**, according to the **riches** of **His grace**...(Ephesians 1:7)

2. The **Knowledge** of a **Righteousness** by **Faith** in **Messiah**

But now **apart** from the **Law** *the righteousness of God* has been manifested, being **witnessed** by the **Law** and the **Prophets**,

even *the righteousness of God* through **faith** in **Jesus the Messiah** for **all** those who **believe**; for there is **no distinction**; (Romans 3:21-22)

3. The **Knowledge** of the **Grace** of **God** in **Messiah**

For the **grace of God** has **appeared**, bringing **salvation** to **all men**,...(Titus 2:11)

For of **His (Messiah's) fullness** we have all received, and **grace upon grace**.

For the **Law** was given **through Moses**; **grace** and **truth** were **realized through Jesus the Messiah**. (John 1:16-17)

4. The **Knowledge** of **other Salvation Blessings** in **Messiah**

But by **His (God's) doing** you are in **Messiah Jesus**, who became to **us wisdom from God**, and **righteousness** and **sanctification**, and **redemption**,..

..but **you** were **washed**, but **you** were **sanctified**, but **you** were **justified** in the **name** of the **Lord Jesus the Messiah** and in the **Spirit of our God**. (I Corinthians 1:30, 6:11)

5. The *Knowledge* of the Deity of the **Messiah**

For in Him (**Messiah**) all the **fullness of Deity** dwells in **bodily form**,..
(Colossians 2:9)

For **God**, who said, “**Light shall shine out of darkness**,”
is the **One** who has **shone in our hearts** to give the **Light**
of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Messiah.

But **we** have this treasure in **earthen vessels**,..
(II Corinthians 4:6-7a)

6. The *Knowledge* of **God’s great Love** for him in **Messiah**

But **God demonstrates His own love toward us**,
in that while we were **yet sinners**,
Messiah died for us. (Romans 5:8, see also 8:38-39)

7. The *Knowledge* that **he (Paul)** was a Son of God, and a Joint-heir
with **Messiah**

,.. but **you** have received a **spirit of adoption** as sons
by which we cry out, “**Abba! Father!**”

The **Spirit Himself** testifies with **our spirit** that **we** are children of God,
and if **children**, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with **Messiah**,..
(Romans 8:15b-17a)

8. The *Knowledge* of a **glorious future Transformation** when the
Messiah returns

For **our citizenship** is in **heaven**, from which also
we eagerly **wait** for a **Savior**, the **Lord Jesus the Messiah**;

who will transform the body of our **humble state**
into **conformity** with the **body** of His glory,
by the exertion of the **power** that **He has** even
to **subject all things** to **Himself**.
(Philippians 3:20-21)

Closing Comments