

# Philippians.

A translation.





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The cover exhibits a bust of the Roman emperor Nero. The original is located at the Hall of the Emperors, Palazzo Nuovo, Capitoline Museums, in Rome, Italy, invoice number MC427. This bust is made of marble. The bust has been colorized using Adobe Photoshop.

Lucius Domitius Ahenobarbus (born December 15, AD 37, died June 9, AD 68), and after his adoption named Nero Claudius Caesar Augustus Germanicus, was the fifth Roman emperor (AD 54-68). His mother, Agrippina, was a descendant of Augustus. After the death of his father, Domitius, Agrippina married the current Roman emperor, Claudius. Claudius then adopted Nero. When Claudius died, Nero became emperor. Claudius may have been poisoned by Agrippina.

Nero's reign was marked by extravagance, excessive spending, and corruption. During his later years, he paid more and more attention to games and the arts. He failed to pay adequate attention to actual governance. After a revolt, he was declared a public enemy and sentenced to death. Nero fled. He committed suicide to avoid capture.

The household of Caesar sends greetings to the Philippians through Paul (4:22) . Based upon the dating of the governorship of Porcius Festus (Acts 24:27, around AD 59), Paul's imprisonment in Rome (Acts 28:30) must occur during the reign of Nero. Nero built a palace complex in Rome, where members of his huge royal family lived.

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## Philippians.

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### Paul writes to the Philippians (1:1-25).

*Paul greets the Philippians (1:1-2).*

<sup>1</sup> This is Paul and Timothy. We are servants of the messiah, Jesus.

To all the holy people who are in the messiah, Jesus. To those who live in Philippi, along with the overseers and assistants.

<sup>2</sup> May God, our father, and the lord, Jesus the messiah, grant you favor and peace.

*Paul gives thanks (1:3-11).*

<sup>3</sup> I thank God. I always mention you <sup>4</sup> whenever I pray for you. I make these requests with joy <sup>5</sup> because of our partnership in the good news from the very first day up to the present. <sup>6</sup> I am sure about this: He started a good work in you. He will finish it until the day of the messiah, Jesus.

<sup>7</sup> It is appropriate for me to feel this way about all of you. You are in my heart. By his favor, you all have become partners with me in my imprisonment, and in my defense and confirmation of the good news.

<sup>8</sup> God is my witness. I sincerely long to join you with the compassion of the messiah, Jesus.

<sup>9</sup> This is what I pray: May your knowledge and sound judgment increase more and more. <sup>10</sup> Determine what is best. Be sincere and faultless until the Day of the messiah. <sup>11</sup> Be full of the fruit of righteousness through Jesus the messiah. Glorify and praise God.

*Paul is in prison (1:12-25).*

<sup>12</sup> I want you to know, brothers: What has happened to me has benefited the good news: <sup>13</sup> My imprisonment because of the messiah is well

known among the imperial bodyguards and everyone else. <sup>14</sup> Many of the brothers in the lord gained confidence because of my chains. They have become even more bold. They are fearlessly speaking about the word.

<sup>15</sup> Some do so out of envy and contention. Others do so because they sincerely want to proclaim the messiah. <sup>16</sup> Some do so because of love. They know that God appointed me to defend the good news. <sup>17</sup> Others proclaim the messiah to be argumentative. They are insincere. They think that they will cause trouble during my imprisonment.

<sup>18</sup> So what? It makes no difference. Whether it is fake or true, the messiah is proclaimed. I am happy about that. So, I rejoice: <sup>19</sup> I know that this might result in my release, with your prayers and with the help of the spirit of Jesus the messiah. <sup>20</sup> I expect and hope that I will have nothing to be ashamed about. I have complete boldness. Always, including now, may the messiah be glorified by my body, whether I live or die.

<sup>21</sup> If I live, then I proclaim the messiah. I will benefit if I die. <sup>22</sup> If I live physically, then this is the fruit of my labor. I do not know which I prefer. <sup>23</sup> If I have to choose between the two, then I prefer to die. Then I can be with the messiah. This is much better. <sup>24</sup> However, because of you, I have to stay alive. <sup>25</sup> This has persuaded me: I will live. I will persist for your success and the joy of your faith.

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## Paul advises the Philippians (1:26-4:9).

*Live right (1:26-2:18).*

Behave consistent with the good news (1:26-30).

<sup>26</sup> You can boast strongly about the messiah, Jesus. I will visit you again.

<sup>27</sup> Behave consistent with the good news of the messiah. Whether I come to visit you, or whether I leave, stand together with one spirit. Strive with one soul in the faith of the good news. <sup>28</sup> Do not be intimidated by your enemies at all. This is the evidence of their destruction: Your salvation.

It comes from God. <sup>29</sup> He gave it to you for the messiah. It is not just so that you will believe in him. It is also so that you might suffer for him.



<sup>30</sup> You are have the same struggles which you know happened to me. You know I still am having it now.

Be humble (2:1-11).

<sup>2</sup> Suppose that anyone gets encouragement in the messiah, any comfort from love, any participation with the spirit, any mercy or compassion.

<sup>2</sup> Complete my joy: Think the same thing. Have the same love. Think alike. Have one mind. <sup>3</sup> Avoid contention or pride. Instead consider each other with humility. Consider others to be superior. <sup>4</sup> Do not consider yourselves. Instead, consider others. <sup>5</sup> Think like the messiah, Jesus.

<sup>6</sup> He was in the form of God.

However, he believed it was theft to claim equality with God.

<sup>7</sup> He emptied himself.

He accepted the role of a servant.

He became like a man.

He had the style of a man.

<sup>8</sup> He made himself humble.

He became obedient until he died.

The death was on a cross.

<sup>9</sup> God lifted him to a high place.

He gave him a name better than all other names.

<sup>10</sup> Every knee will bow at the name of Jesus.

That includes those in heaven, on earth, and under the earth.

<sup>11</sup> Every tongue will confess

Jesus the messiah is the lord.

This will glorify God the father.

Be obedient (2:12-18).

<sup>12</sup> My beloved, you are always obedient, not just when I am present, but all the more when I am absent. Work out your salvation with fear and trembling. <sup>13</sup> God is at work in you. He wants and will accomplish his desire.

<sup>14</sup> Do everything without grumbling or complaining. <sup>15</sup> Then you can be blameless and innocent. You are the faultless children of God in the middle of a crooked and perverted generation. Compared to them, you look like a light in the universe.

<sup>16</sup> Pay attention to the word of life. Then I can boast on the Day of the messiah: I did not run for nothing. I did not labor for no reason. <sup>17</sup> Instead, if I am offered up as a sacrifice or gift for you faith, then I can be happy. I can rejoice with all of you. <sup>18</sup> You also be happy. You rejoice with me.

*Paul sends his assistants (2:19-30).*

<sup>19</sup> I hope by the lord Jesus that I can send Timothy to you right away. I will feel better if I know that everything is okay with you. <sup>20</sup> I do not have anyone else like him. He genuinely cares about your affairs. <sup>21</sup> Everyone else takes care of himself, not what matters to Jesus the messiah. <sup>22</sup> You know that he has proven himself. He has served me in the good news like a son serves his father.

<sup>23</sup> I intend to send him as soon as I am done with my own business. <sup>24</sup> I am confident in the lord that I myself will visit soon.

<sup>25</sup> I believe it is necessary to send Epaphroditus to you. He is my brother, coworker, and fellow soldier. He is your representative. He takes care of my needs.

<sup>26</sup> He misses all of you. He was worried because you heard that he was sick. <sup>27</sup> He was so sick that he almost died. However, God had mercy on him. It was not just him—that included me. I would have been terribly upset.

<sup>28</sup> I sent him right away. When you see him, you can be happy again. That will make me less sorrowful. <sup>29</sup> Welcome him in the lord with complete joy. Hold people like him in honor. <sup>30</sup> He nearly died while doing the work of the messiah. He was not worried about his own life. He was trying to make up for what you could not do to serve me.

*Watch out for the circumcision party (3:1-4:1).*

*Paul persecuted the church (3:1-11).*

<sup>3</sup> Furthermore, my brothers, rejoice in the lord. Writing the same things causes me no problem. It is good for you.

<sup>2</sup> Look out for those dogs. Watch out for the evil doers. Watch out for the cutters. <sup>3</sup> *We* are the circumcision. We serve the spirit of God. We boast in the messiah, Jesus. We have not trusted in the flesh.

<sup>4</sup> Now, I have been someone who trusted in the flesh. If anyone thinks that someone has trusted in flesh, well, I did so even more. <sup>5</sup> I was circumcised on the eighth day. I am from the people of Israel, the tribe of Ben-Jamin. I was a prominent Hebrew, associated with the law of the Pharisees. <sup>6</sup> I persecuted the church zealously. I became blameless in the righteousness of the law.

<sup>7</sup> However, whatever benefit that was to me, I now consider it like a bad debt for the sake of the messiah. <sup>8</sup> However, I consider everything to be a bad debt in order to excel in the knowledge of the messiah, Jesus my lord. I have lost everything because of him. I consider everything excrement so that I will gain the messiah. <sup>9</sup> I want to be discovered in him. My righteousness is not in the law. It is through trust in the messiah. It is righteousness from God based on faith.

<sup>10</sup> I know him and the power of his resurrection. I join his suffering. I experience his death. <sup>11</sup> Somehow, I hope to experience the resurrection from the dead.

*Paul changed (3:12-16).*

<sup>12</sup> It is not that I am completely mature yet. I pursue it so that I can catch it. The messiah caught me. <sup>13</sup> Brothers, I myself do not think that I have caught it yet. But just one thing: I forget what is behind me. I reach forward to what is in front of me. <sup>14</sup> I pursue the goal that leads to the prize above: the invitation from God in the messiah, Jesus.

<sup>15</sup> So, think about any mature things. If you think anything different, then God will show you. <sup>16</sup> Whatever you have figured out, stay straight on it.

*Avoid enemies of the cross (3:17-21).*

<sup>17</sup> Become imitators of me, brothers. Observe those who live this way—we are examples.

<sup>18</sup> For many people live another way. I told you about them often. Now I say it with tears: They are enemies of the cross of the messiah. <sup>19</sup> Their end will be destruction. Their god is their belly. They glory in their shame. They think in worldly ways.

<sup>20</sup> Our citizenship is in heaven. We expect salvation from the lord, Jesus the messiah. <sup>21</sup> He will convert our humble bodies into the form of his wonderful body. He uses his ability to subject everything under himself.

<sup>4</sup> My beloved and missed brothers, you are my joy and crown. So, stand in the lord, beloved.

*Help Euodia and Syntyche (4:2-3).*

<sup>2</sup> I urge you, Euodia—and I urge you, Syntyche: Agree in the lord.

<sup>3</sup> Yes, I am also asking you, sincere coworker: Help these women. They helped me share the good news, along with Clement and my other coworkers. Their names are in the book of life.

*Do not worry (4:4-9).*

<sup>4</sup> Always be happy in the lord. I will say it again: Be happy.

<sup>5</sup> Make your gentleness know to all people. The lord is coming soon.

<sup>6</sup> Do not worry about anything. Pray and ask for everything with thanksgiving. Make your wishes known to God. <sup>7</sup> The peace from God is better than every thought. Protect your hearts and thoughts in the messiah, Jesus.

<sup>8</sup> Furthermore, brothers, whatever is true, honest, just, pure, lovely, or positive—if it is virtuous or praiseworthy: Focus on these things. <sup>9</sup> Whatever you learned, received, heard, or seen from me: Do these things. The God who gives peace will take care of you.

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## **Paul discusses personal matters (4:10-23).**

*The Philippians help Paul (4:10-19).*

<sup>10</sup> I greatly rejoice in the lord: You have revived your concern for me. You were concerned before, but had no way to show it. <sup>11</sup> I am not saying that I have any needs. I have learned to be content with my situation.

<sup>12</sup> I know what it is like to have little. I know what it is like to have alot. I have learned in each and every situation, whether full or hungry, whether I have little or alot. <sup>13</sup> I am capable because of the one who strengthens me.

<sup>14</sup> You did well to share in my trouble. <sup>15</sup> You also know, Philippians: When the good news began, we left Macedonia. None of the churches joined me in giving or receiving a gift except for you alone.

<sup>16</sup> You took care of my needs in Thessalonica at least once. <sup>17</sup> I am not seeking a gift. I seek the credit that increases to your account. <sup>18</sup> I have everything I need and more. I received plenty from Epaphroditus from you. It smells sweet. It is an acceptable sacrifice. It is pleasant to God.

<sup>19</sup> My God will fulfill all your needs. This is according to his rich glory in the messiah, Jesus.

*Paul says farewell (4:20-23).*

<sup>20</sup> May God our father have glory forever and ever. Truly.

<sup>21</sup> Greet all the holy people in the messiah, Jesus. The brothers with me greet you. <sup>22</sup> All the holy people greet you, especially the members of the household of Caesar.

<sup>23</sup> May the favor of the lord, Jesus the messiah, comfort your spirit.