

# Sermon Discussion Questions

## “A LETTER FROM SERVANTS TO SAINTS”

### Discuss

We move this week from our joyful celebration of Christ’s resurrection to beginning a study of what is arguably the most joy-filled book of the Bible. In four chapters, Paul refers to joy sixteen times.

If you haven’t had a chance to read the description of the sermon series yet, you might want to read through it now so that you have a sense of the themes of the book.<sup>1</sup> Another great introduction to this epistle can be found at [thebibleproject.com/explore/philippians](http://thebibleproject.com/explore/philippians).

- 1) The word Paul uses to identify himself and Timothy literally means slaves. (v.1)
  - Do you think of yourself as a slave of Christ? Why or why not?
  - We rightly fight against all forms of slavery to human masters. (As C. S. Lewis once wrote, “Mankind is so fallen than no man can be trusted with human power over his fellows.”) But what kind of master do we have in Christ Jesus? (See Matt. 11:28-30)
  - What prevents us from serving our Master with a willing and glad spirit?
- 2) If we were to start addressing each other as saints (“How are you doing, Saint Bob? I’m good, Saint Jessica!), people would peg us as, well, pretty different or maybe just downright weird. Paul was not addressing, however, just a handful of down-on-their-knees, praying-all-the-time Christians in Philippi. He was writing to everyone in the Philippian church. (If you have time, read Acts 16:11-40 to get a better picture of the beginnings of the Philippian church, and in particular, to see the different people who were, by God’s grace, brought into it.)
  - Do you think of yourself as a saint? Why or why not? (See John 17:19)
  - How do people become saints?
- 3) Before the advent of social media, people often sent postcards to their family and friends when they vacationed: “We’re having a fabulous time in \_\_\_\_\_! Wish you were here with us!” Paul similarly desired his loved ones to share in what he was experiencing, but, of course, he was posting from prison, not penning a few lines from a sun-kissed beach.
  - How does knowing that this letter comes from someone who was in prison affect how you read it?
  - What kind of grace and peace was Paul experiencing in prison?
  - What gives us grace and peace?



LOOKOUT  
MOUNTAIN  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH

DATE: April 28, 2019

SPEAKER: Chad/Brian

SERIES: Philippians

PASSAGE: Phil. 1:1-2

### Pray

DEAR LORD,

We know that you meet all of our needs according to your glorious riches in Christ Jesus. Help us, therefore, to rejoice in you always!

May our love abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that we might be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to your glory and praise.

Help us to be anxious for nothing but to instead bring our needs to you with thanksgiving, knowing that you alone can give us peace that will guard our hearts and our minds in Christ Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

— based on Phil. 4:19, 4:4, 1:9, and 4:6-7

**PRAY FOR HOME MISSIONS**  
Ridge Haven Conference Center

**PRAY FOR WORLD MISSIONS**  
Annette and Tim Gulick serving with One Challenge

<sup>1</sup>The description is on the church website, [lmpc.org](http://lmpc.org).