

Philippians: An Outline*

- I. Opening of Letter** **Chap. 1:1-26**
- Chap. 1:1-2 Address
 - Chap. 1:3-11 Thanksgiving
 - Chap. 1:12-26 Paul's Present Circumstances and Imprisonment
- II. Exhortations to Unity and Steadfastness** **Chaps. 1:27-2:18**
- Chap. 1:27-30 The Initial Appeal
 - Chap. 2:1-4 A Summons to Unity and Humility
 - Chap. 2:5-11 The Example of Jesus Christ
 - Chap. 2:12-18 An Appeal for Obedience, Based on Christ's Example
- III. Paul's Plans to Send Two Coworkers to the Philippians** **Chap. 2:19-30**
- IV. Further Instructions and Exhortations** **Chaps. 3:1-4:1**
- Chap. 3:1-4a A Warning against Enemies
 - Chap. 3:4b-14 The Example of Paul's Life
 - Chap. 3:15-4:1 A Renewed Appeal, Based on Paul's Life
- V. Closing Exhortations** **Chap. 4:2-23**
- Chap. 4:2-3 A Specific Appeal to Euodia and Syntyche
 - Chap. 4:4-9 Some General Exhortations
 - Chap. 4:10-20 Gratitude for the Philippians' Gifts
 - Chap. 4:21-23 Closing Greetings and Benediction

*Based loosely on the outline by Jouette Bassler in *The New Interpreter's Study Bible* (Abingdon Press, 2003).

For Reflection... on Philippians

1. Read through Philippians, looking for all the places Paul mentions the words “joy” or “rejoice.” How many do you find altogether?

Joy: _____

Rejoice: _____



2. Paul is writing from a Roman prison, not knowing when or whether soldiers might appear at his cell door to lead him to the executioner. Imagine his life from day to day. What must he be feeling, and what does this tell you about his faith in Christ?
