



# The Model of Christian Contentment

Philippians 4:10-23

# Philippians Theme: Joyful Christian Living

## Philippians Outline

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|--------------------------|---------------|
| I. Partakers with Christ | Philippians 1 |
| II. People of Christ     | Philippians 2 |
| III. Pursuit of Christ   | Philippians 3 |
| IV. Power of Christ      | Philippians 4 |

Philippians Theme Verse: Philippians 4:4 - <sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!

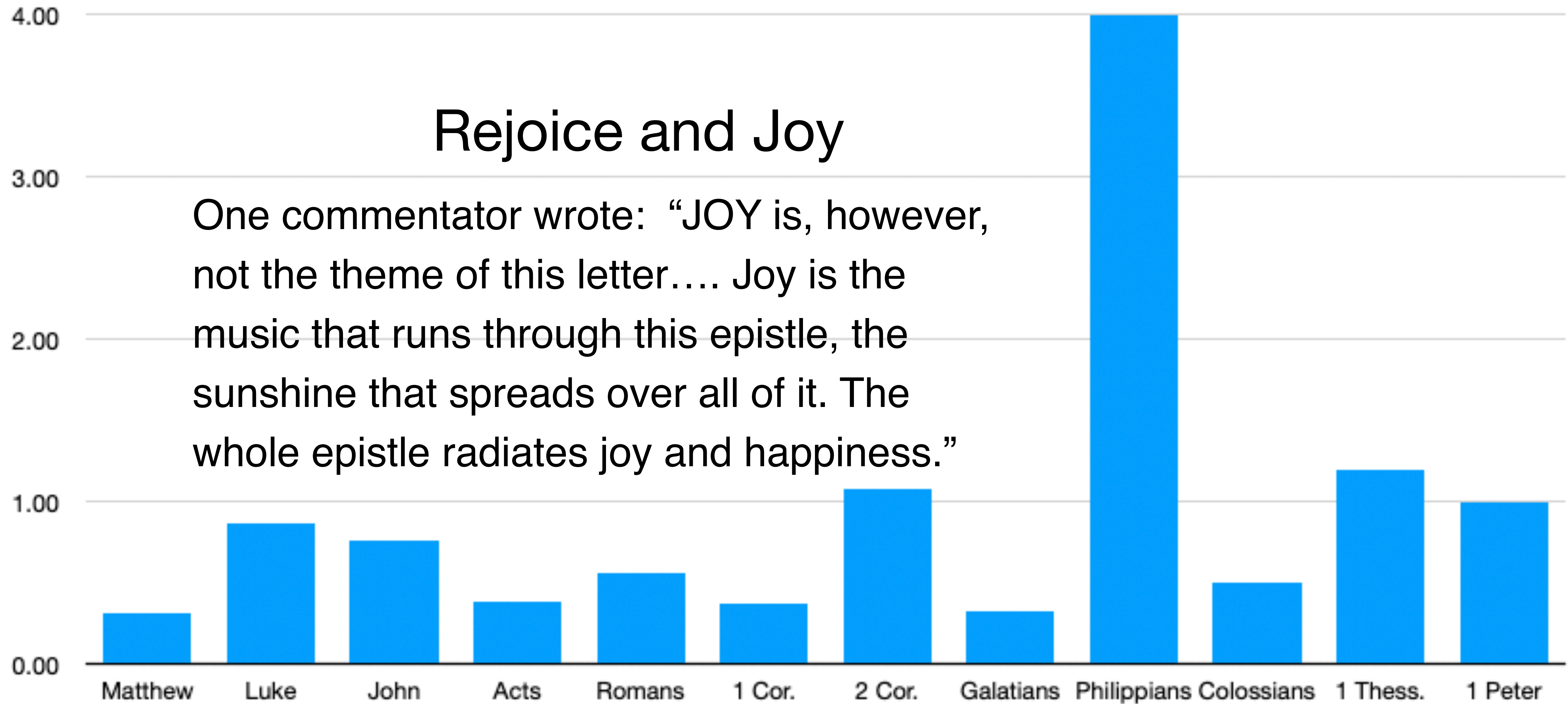
Passage Theme Verse: Philippians 4:19 - <sup>19</sup>And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

Passage Theme Statement: Christians are to learn to be joyfully content in all life circumstances both negative and positive knowing that Jesus Christ will provide His strength in all situations. We can also be assured that God will supply all our needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.



## Rejoice and Joy

One commentator wrote: “JOY is, however, not the theme of this letter.... Joy is the music that runs through this epistle, the sunshine that spreads over all of it. The whole epistle radiates joy and happiness.”



# I. Contentment in All Situations

Philippians 4:10-13

A. Paul rejoiced in the Lord and expressed gratitude to the Philippian people for their tangible expression of concern for Paul's well being - v. 10

B. One of Paul's life principles is that he had learned contentment in all circumstances of his life- v. 11

2 Corinthians 12:7–10 - <sup>7</sup>Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me—to keep me from exalting myself! <sup>8</sup>Concerning this I implored the Lord three times that it might leave me. <sup>9</sup>And He has said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.” Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. <sup>10</sup>Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ’s sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.

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Acts 16:25 - <sup>25</sup>But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of praise to God, and the prisoners were listening to them;

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1 Timothy 6:6–8 - <sup>6</sup>But godliness actually is a means of great gain when accompanied by contentment. <sup>7</sup>For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either. <sup>8</sup>If we have food and covering, with these we shall be content.

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1. Paul had learned how to live in Poverty and Prosperity - v. 12a
2. Paul had learned how to be being filled and going hungry - v. 12b
3. Paul had learned how to be rich and to be poor - v. 12c

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C. Paul is strong to be doing all things through Christ who is empowering him - v. 13

One commentator wrote: “The secret of peace and the secret of contentment are inseparable from the experience of the sustaining power and grace of God. It was for this reason that Paul could be so content.....The secret which he discovered is what God wants every Christian to know: deliverance from dependence on things and circumstances, but complete dependence upon Christ.”

Puritan Jeremiah Burroughs: “Christian contentment is that sweet, inward, quiet, gracious frame of spirit, which freely submits to and delights in God’s wise and fatherly disposal in every condition”

## II. God's Bountiful Provision

### Philippians 4:14-20

- A. "Nevertheless" Paul commends the Philippians for sharing in his imprisonment and other needs - v. 14
- B. After Paul left Macedonia, the Philippians were the only church which gave to Paul's ministry - v. 15
- C. Paul notes also that while Paul was ministering in nearby Thessalonica, the Philippian church sent a gift more than one time - v. 16
- D. More than the gift itself, Paul sought the spiritual benefit to the giver, in this case, the church at Philippi - v. 17

Matthew 6:19–21 - <sup>19</sup>“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. <sup>20</sup>“But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; <sup>21</sup>for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

1 Timothy 6:17–19 - <sup>17</sup>Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy. <sup>18</sup>Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, <sup>19</sup>storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed.

Proverbs 11:24–25 - <sup>24</sup>There is one who scatters, and yet increases all the more, And there is one who withholds what is justly due, and yet it results only in want. <sup>25</sup>The generous man will be prosperous, And he who waters will himself be watered.

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E. Paul was overwhelmed by the generosity of the Philippian Church which was also well-pleasing to God - v. 18

Romans 12:1 - <sup>1</sup>Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.

Hebrews 13:15–16 - <sup>15</sup>Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name. <sup>16</sup>And do not neglect doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.

### III. Closing Salutation Philippians 4:21-23

- A. Greet every saint in Christ Jesus in the Philippian church - v. 21a
- B. The brothers here with Paul greet the Philippian church - v. 21b
- C. All Roman saints send their greetings including believers in Caesar's household - v. 22
- D. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit - v. 23

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D. More than the gift itself, Paul sought the spiritual benefit to the giver, in this case, the church at Philippi - v. 17

E. Paul was overwhelmed by the generosity of the Philippian Church which was also well-pleasing to God - v. 18

F. Paul then states that his God will do what Paul could not do, that is to supply all their needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus - v. 19-20

## Application

Philippians 4:13 - <sup>13</sup>I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

Philippians 4:19 - <sup>19</sup>And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.



