

# “REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS”

## The Letter to the Philippians

**Who wrote The Letter to the Philippians?**

The Letter to the Philippians was written by the Apostle Paul.

**How did The Letter to the Philippians get its name and/or what does that name mean?**

The Letter to the Philippians was named for the Church established in Philippi.

**When did these events take place?**

The Letter to the Philippians was probably written sometime after 55 A.D. during one of Paul's imprisonments.

**For more about The Letter to the Philippians:**

See page 1285 in the [Fireside Catholic Youth Bible](#).

You've probably heard them all: No pain, no gain! - If it doesn't hurt, it must not be good for you! - It's always darkest just before dawn! - You get what you pay for! These popular pieces of wisdom are all reminders that success in anything we do doesn't just happen – it comes at a price. They imply that the pursuit can be painful but that the reward, even if it is hard to see in the process, is more than worth it. The hidden lesson is that if you keep your eyes on the prize, no obstacle you face along the way will be too big to conquer.

Have you ever noticed that the happiest people around, or at least the most content, are the ones who have figured this out? They are the ones that, no matter what life dishes out, take it all in stride. Sure, they have fears, and sometimes encounter disappointments and failures but they never get too upset for too long about anything. In fact, if you watch them closely, they seem to actually shine during hard times. When most people would break down or give up, these people move forward with a renewed strength and determination. It's as if they can see something ahead of them that most other people can't. And, it's fascinating to notice that instead of only panic and fear, they ultimately exude confidence and even joy as they move on.

Paul knew there was only one explanation for this phenomenon and he explains it clearly in his letter to the Philippians. This kind of confidence and determination can only come from an unquestionable faith in Jesus Christ and the resulting knowledge that this faith would one day win him and all of us a place in heaven. Knowing this, it's no surprise that Paul writes in 1:23 that he is torn between the two options of "living in the flesh" or "depart this life and be with Christ" for eternity.

Paul had every reason to be down about his faith when writing this letter. He was in prison and almost certain that he was about to face death. But instead of wallowing in the "darkness before the dawn," Paul celebrates his situation, keeping his ultimate goal in focus. Because of this outlook, The Letter to the Philippians is one of the most cherished books in the New Testament. It is not filled with a lot of stories about pressing problems or advice on how to settle differences among believers. Instead, it is a book about the joy of the faith that we share with Paul. When you read it, you will discover that The Letter to the Philippians is uplifting and positive, just like the message of salvation Paul shares in it.

**Interesting Fact:** Paul specifically addresses the leaders of the church (the bishops and deacons) in this letter. This is an indication and an acknowledgment that a hierarchy was being developing in the early Church.

**Bonus Point:** The city of Philippi is located in the northeastern section of what modern day country?