

**THE MISSION OF THE LASALLIAN IN SCRIPTURE**  
**DISCOVERING THE HEART OF AN APOSTLE**  
**or THE SECRET OF SERVING THE LORD WITH JOY**  
 Epistle to the Philippians  
 Br Jean Pierre Lauby

Phil  1, 1-11	Serve  with  love	<p>How do Paul and Timothy define their ministry and their mission?</p> <p>We are:  <b>"Servants of Christ Jesus" (v.1)</b></p>	<p>What are the feelings of the Apostle regarding the Philippians?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* <b>Gratitude and thanksgiving (v.3)</b></li> <li>* <b>Joy (v.4)</b></li> <li>* <b>Love and tenderness (v.8)</b></li> </ul>	<p>What request does Paul make in his prayer for the Philippians?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* <b>More charity</b></li> <li>* <b>More knowledge of God</b></li> <li>* <b>More discernment</b></li> <li>* <b>More purity in their actions</b></li> <li>* <b>More maturity for the glory and praise of God (v.9-11)</b></li> </ul>	<p>(Some verses worth remembering)</p> <p>v.3: "I thank my God whenever I think of you".</p> <p>v.6: "the One who began this good work in you will see that it is finished"</p> <p>v.8: "loving you as Christ Jesus loves you"</p>	JOY  v. 4
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1, 12-30	Serve  in spite  of  demands	<p>Paul realised from experience that <b>serving Jesus Christ is not an easy road to follow:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* he experiences: law courts, chains, prison (v.13)</li> <li>* jealousy and rivalry among his collaborators (v.15)</li> <li>* opposition of all kinds (v.17)</li> <li>* the desire to be finally with Christ (v.23)</li> </ul>	<p>(Some verses worth remembering)</p> <p>v.18: "Christ is proclaimed; and that makes me happy"</p> <p>v.21: "Life to me, of course, is Christ"</p> <p>v.26: "You will have another reason to give praise to Christ Jesus on my account when I am with you again"</p>	<p><b>Three recommendations for Christians:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* <b>Lead a life worthy of the Gospel</b></li> <li>* <b>Show firm resistance</b></li> <li>* <b>Fight together (v.27 &amp; 30)</b></li> </ul>	<p>Serving is</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* <b>an honour</b></li> <li>* <b>a grace (v.29)</b></li> <li>* <b>a fight (v.30)</b></li> </ul>	JOY  v. 18 v. 25
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2, 1-11	Serve  with  humility	<p>What gives JOY to Paul? (v.1-4)</p> <p>The love and unity with which the Philippians live in community. (the opposite: rivalry and division)</p>	<p>How to avoid revolts which divide? (v.3b-5)</p> <p>by living with <b>humility</b>: this makes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* a person consider others superior to himself</li> <li>* give precedence to others</li> <li>* have the mind of Jesus Christ</li> </ul>	<p><b>The example of Jesus' humility (v.6-8)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* he abandoned his titles and privileges</li> <li>* he became a "servant"</li> <li>* he gave his life by dying on the cross</li> </ul>	<p><b>The Father's response (v.9-11)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* he raised him high</li> <li>* he gave him a name above all others</li> <li>* he made him Lord</li> </ul>	JOY  v. 2
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<p>2, 12-30</p>	<p>Serve with others</p>	<p><b>How to fulfil one's ministry?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* with obedience (v.12) (which presupposes humility)</li> <li>* with eagerness and generosity (v.12)</li> <li>* without complaining or arguing (v.14)</li> <li>* shining like bright stars (v.15)</li> </ul>	<p><b>The service of Christ is accomplished together, with others:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* solidarity in suffering and in joy (v.17-18)</li> <li>* Paul sends Timothy in his name (v.19-23)</li> <li>* Paul welcomes Epaphrodite, the representative of the Philippians (v.25-30)</li> <li>* the Christians of Philippi supported Paul in his apostolate (v.25)</li> <li>* there is mutual concern</li> </ul>	<p><b>(Some verses worth remembering)</b></p> <p>v.13: "It is God...who puts both the will and the action into you" (will and action)</p> <p>v.15: "Do all that has to be done...and then you will be innocent and genuine"</p> <p>v.29: "Give him a most hearty welcome, in the Lord; people like him are to be honoured"</p>	<p>JOY</p> <p>v. 17 v. 18 v. 28 v. 29</p>
<p>3, 1-11</p>	<p>Serve for Christ</p>	<p><b>Bad ways of serving:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* seeking one's own glory, one's own success, like Paul before his conversion, parading one's titles and accomplishments (v.4-6)</li> </ul>	<p><b>A good way of serving:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Doing everything in order to possess Christ, to know and glorify him, by accepting to LOSE EVERYTHING ELSE (v.7-11)</li> </ul>	<p><b>(Some verses worth remembering)</b></p> <p>v.3: "we have our own glory from Christ Jesus"</p> <p>v.7: "because of Christ I have come to consider all these advantages that I had as disadvantages"</p> <p>v.8: "For him I have accepted the loss of everything"</p> <p>v.10-11: "to know Christ and the power of his resurrection"</p>	<p>JOY</p> <p>v. 1</p>
<p>3, 12-21</p>	<p>Serve with discipline</p>	<p><b>Christian life is like a race in a stadium:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* trying to capture the prize (v.12,14)</li> <li>* racing for the finish (v.13)</li> <li>* strain ahead for what is to come v.13</li> <li>* go forward on the road (v.15-16)</li> </ul>	<p><b>The race is run as a team-effort:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* go forward, run together (v.16)</li> <li>* with discipline and respect for others (v.15)</li> <li>* following the example set by the trainers (v.17)</li> <li>* and not bad example (v.18-19)</li> </ul>	<p><b>(Some verses worth remembering)</b></p> <p>v.12: "the prize for which Christ Jesus captured me"</p> <p>v.17: "following my rule of life"</p> <p>v.20: "our homeland is in heaven, and from heaven comes the saviour we are waiting for, the Lord Jesus Christ"</p>	<p>JOY</p> <p>(v. 20) (v. 21)</p>
<p>4, 1-23</p>	<p>Serve with JOY</p>	<p><b>Conditions for preserving JOY:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* remaining faithful in the Lord (v.1)</li> <li>* living in harmony with everyone (v.2,3)</li> <li>* the Lord is very near. There is no need to worry (v.5-6)</li> <li>* to tell God all the desires and to remain in the peace (v.6-7)</li> <li>* seeking what is good in order to put it into practice (v.8,9)</li> <li>* God will fulfil all the needs out of the riches of his glory (v.19)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Paul practises what he preaches, especially with regard to MONEY:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* total detachment</li> <li>* gratitude</li> <li>* joy that satisfies all needs (v.18)</li> </ul>	<p><b>(Some verses worth remembering)</b></p> <p>v.4: "I want you to be happy...in the Lord"</p> <p>v.6: "There is no need to worry"</p> <p>v.8: "Fill your minds with everything that is..."</p> <p>v.11: "I have learnt to manage on whatever I have"</p> <p>v.12: "I know how to be poor and how to be rich too"</p> <p>v.13: "There is nothing I cannot master with the help of the One who gives me strength"</p>	<p>JOY</p> <p>v. 1 v. 4 v. 4 (v. 6) v. 10</p>