

A STUDY OF PHILIPPIANS

New International Version

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Philippians: A Personal Application

The reading of Philippians devotionally, praying, and meditating for personal application is a practice which should become a habit. Reading a book of the Bible for the purpose of receiving some personal application should be recommended to the many Bible readers who read just to say that they have read their Bible through in a year. Just reading does not necessarily provide personal application but reading, praying and meditating with intent to find personal application will allow the Holy Spirit to reveal Himself and to meet ones needs.

The entire Book of Philippians, when read over and over again, is quite revealing in its content and its application. Much of what Paul writes in this epistle concerns his imprisonment and his feelings concerning his possibility of release or death. Paul truly did not know what to expect at the hands of his judges. Chapter 1 verse 7, Paul expressed that whether he was in chains or defending the gospel, the Philippians had a share of God's grace which was in him. Further in verses 12-18 he shared that being in chains had advanced the preaching of the gospel. He rejoiced in that Christ was preached from the jail and throughout the town by himself and others.

The personal application of Paul being in chains and being able to love others and share his grace with them is an important concept. No matter what condition or what circumstances in which one finds oneself, Paul would tell them to rejoice. And he would say it again, rejoice. One's chains are often times more mental than physical, and the bondage could really be handled spiritually if one would only allow the Holy Spirit to minister to him through personal Bible study for application purposes.

Another group of verses which provided personal edification is found in chapter 1 verses 9-11. Paul started this passage out with the words, this is my prayer. What a prayer it was that he prayed for the Philippian saints in Christ Jesus. He prayed that their love would grow deeper and deeper in their knowledge and the depth of insight. The knowledge Paul was asking for them of God seems to be that they would learn how to find what was best in God's sight and that they would, with this knowledge, keep themselves pure and blameless until Christ returned. The depth which Paul expressed may be found in his desire for them to be filled with the fruit of righteousness. If they did not know how to achieve the fruit of righteousness, Paul was quick to explain to them that it comes through Jesus Christ so that God will receive the glory and praise He deserves.

The personal application of these verses speaks to the need for prayer. One should pray for himself and for others. What better prayer to have than to pray that one's love should grow more and more as he searches for God's many riches in Christ Jesus. Depth of insight should be the prayer of every Christian. Christians should attempt to discern for themselves and others what is best. For Paul, to be pure and blameless is a noble endeavor. One's prayer should be that through Jesus Christ his love will abound more and more.

Paul in chapter 2 verses 1 and 2 provided great insights for living. When read devotionally, praying and meditating for personal application, the words seem to separate and stand alone to give a pattern of living which will assist in a closer walk with God and man.

Paul used several "if" statements to make several points. The "then" statement which Paul used expresses the relationship between the if and then statements. These, when studied carefully for personal edification, reveal a considerable amount of knowledge and depth of insight. In the first "if" Paul was saying, one can get encouragement out of being united with Christ. In the second "if" Paul showed that one can expect comfort from Christ's love. In the third "if" is the expression that one can have fellowship with the Spirit. The last "if" tells of godly tenderness and compassion. The "then" statement is a reflection of Paul's remembrance that he led these people to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. For that reason he asked them to make his joy complete. By being complete Paul meant for them to have the same kind of love that Paul had for them. He wanted them to be like minded, and to be one in spirit and purpose. Paul loved them deeply in and through Christ's love for him.

One can have in and through Christ encouragement, comfort, fellowship with the Spirit, and tenderness and compassion. One can also rejoice that he knows the love which can be shared with others making him one with them in spirit and purpose.

Much can be said for a study like this. It is important to note that one can receive insight and knowledge of God in Christ Jesus by reading, praying, and meditating. Men seek revelations from God in many places. The place to start for personal revelation is God's Word.

Outline of Philippians

I. In Christ Jesus (1:1-30) Chapter One

- A. In My Prayers (1:1-5).
- B. In My Heart (1:6-11).
- C. In My Bonds (1:12-17).
- D. In My Hope (1:18-24).
- E. I Know (1:25-30).

II. Fulfill My Joy (2:1-30) Chapter Two

- A. Consolation in Christ (2:1-4).
- B. Confess Christ (2:5-11).
- C. Confident Salvation (2:12-16).
- D. Companion in Labor (2:17-30).

III. Changes in Christ (3:1-21) Chapter Three

- A. Our Confidence (3:1-6).
- B. Our Conviction (3:7-10).
- C. Our Calling (3:11-16).
- D. Our Conversation (3:17-21)

IV. Stand Fast (4:1-23) Chapter Four

- A. Rejoice (4:1-4).
- B. Request (4:5-14).
- C. Replenish (4:15-20).
- D. Receive (4:21-23)

Bible Study Guide to Philippians For Personal or Group Study

Chapter One – Session One

Title: **In Christ Jesus**

Focus: **Prayer and thanksgiving in Christ Jesus will bring gratitude and a joyful heart.**

In My Prayers

Philippians 1:1-5 (NIV)

1 Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, To all the saints in Christ Jesus at Philippi, together with the overseers and deacons: 2 Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 3 I thank my God every time I remember you. 4 In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy 5 because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now,

Introduction to the letter: Paul at the time of the writing of this epistle is believed by most scholars to be in Rome about A. D. 63 or 64. This may be the last epistle written to a church and is clearly written from his heart.

I. Servant and Saints v1

A. From the Servants of Jesus Christ

1. Paul and Timotheus call themselves Jesus Christ's servants.
2. The word servant means slave.
3. Jesus Christ was their master.

B. Servants to Others

1. Being a servant of the Lord means service to others.
2. We are to witness to others concerning our master.
3. Jesus said if one would be great they should serve others.

C. To the Saints

1. A saint is one who is holy, set apart.
2. One who is born again.
3. They are different because of who they serve.

II. Grace and Peace v2

A. Paul asked for grace to be given to them.

1. He was asking for sufficient grace. 2 Cor 12.9
2. He wanted them to be what God's grace would cause them to be. 1 Cor 15.10
3. His desire was that grace should abound.

- B. Paul asked for peace to be given to them.
 - 1. He wanted them to let God's peace rule their heart. Col 3.15
 - 2. He wanted them to let God's peace to keep their heart. Phil 4.7
 - 3. He was aware that Jesus had left them His peace. John 16.33

III. Giving Thanks v3

- A. To God
 - 1. The source of everything.
 - 2. Christians should learn to thank God for everything.
 - 3. The more one gives thanks the more one realizes the more they need to give thanks.
- B. In remembrance
 - 1. Paul thanked God for the saints at Philippi.
 - 2. He thought about them and prayed for them.
 - 3. The remembrances were favor able.
- C. Of thanksgiving
 - 1. Paul gave thanks always for all things. Eph 5.20
 - 2. We should likewise give thanks always for all things.

IV. Paul's Prayer v4

- A. In joy
 - 1. Paul knew he could pray to the Lord.
 - 2. He knew he could pray for the saints.
 - 3. He had been give Christ example of prayer.
- B. Asking
 - 1. He was praying on their behalf.
 - 2. He prayed for them joyfully.
 - 3. We should pray for one another.
- C. Expecting
 - 1. He made request for them.
 - 2. We are expected to make request for others.

V. Fellowship v5

- A. In the gospel.
 - 1. The gospel was part of their fellowship together.
 - 2. The gospel around which they fellowship is describe in 1 Cor 15.1-4.
 - 3. Our fellowship because of the gospel should bring us joy.

B. In like-mindedness.

1. They wanted to fellowship one with another.
2. They wanted to share the gospel of that fellowship with others.

C. From the first day.

1. Believers start fellowship the moment they are born again.
2. They can continue to fellowship in joy with other believers until Jesus comes.
3. The relationships which they can establish with believers will foster fellowship in Christ.

Questions for Reflection

1. What does being a servant mean to you?
2. As a saint, do you feel holy or set apart?
3. Grace and peace in some commentaries is a salutation.
In its use here, is it more than a greeting?
4. Paul said he gave thanks always for all things, how can one do that?
5. Can one pray, make request to God, for another person?
If so, for what may one pray for them?
6. Describe non-Christian fellowship. Is it different from Christian fellowship? How?

Application for Personal Use.

Pray to know God's grace and peace through Jesus Christ more fully.

Ask God for joy as you remember the fellowship which you have with other believers.

Chapter One – Session Two

Title: **In Christ Jesus**

Focus: **One can know and/or experience in their heart the joy of being filled with Christ's righteousness.**

In My Heart

Philippians 1:6-11 (NIV)

6 being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. 7 It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart; for whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God's grace with me. 8 God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus. 9 And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, 10 so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ,

11 filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ--to the glory and praise of God.

I. Being Confident. v6

A. Confidence

1. Paul's confidence in Christ was unshakable.
2. He trusted in the Lord with all his heart. Prov 3.5
3. John said, we can be confident. 1 John 5.14

B. Confidence to finish

1. Paul was confident that Christ could finish what He started.
2. We should be confident that Christ will perform or complete a good work in us.
3. Christ the author and finisher of our faith.

C. Confidence in Christ

1. Christ is doing the good work.
2. We can have confidence that we will be change to be like Him. Eph 2.10
3. Confidence includes becoming a new creature. 2 Cor 5.17

II. Gospel confirmed v7

A. In my heart

1. Confirmation of the gospel can be felt in one's heart.
2. Paul kept the Philippians in his heart.
3. In his heart he knew it was right to think of them doing the work of Christ.

B. The gospel

1. In his bonds Paul confirmed the gospel.
2. In chains or not, Paul would further the gospel.
3. Paul was ready with his defense of the gospel. He knew what he believed and could confirm it.

C. My grace

1. Paul wanted to share his grace with them.
2. He used the word partakers to denote that they were in fact sharing his grace.
3. He shared his grace with all of them. There is even sufficient grace for you and me.

III. For the record v8,9

A. God is my witness

1. Paul said God is his witness to how he felt about the Philippian believers.
2. He expressed his love for them as an expression of Christ love.
3. This type of love would go a long way in churches today.

B. Longing after them

1. Paul really loved them.
2. Paul was sure God understood what he felt for them.

C. This I pray

1. Paul prayed that their love would abound.
2. He wanted it not only to be big but he wanted it to be bigger and bigger.
3. He wanted that love to be in knowledge and in all judgment.

IV. Be without offence v10

A. Approval

1. Approval can be made of many things.
2. Give approval to that which is excellent.

B. Sincere

1. Believers of all people should be sincere.
2. They need to live so they can show Christ.

C. Without offence

1. Live a life that shows Christ has changed you.
2. How long should one behave? Until Christ comes again.
3. The day of Christ is coming.

V. Be filled v11

A. Fruits of righteousness

1. Paul expected the Philippians to be filled with the fruits of righteousness.
2. We should desire to be filled with fruits of righteousness.
3. Fruits of righteousness are demonstrated by what Christians produce by their righteousness.

B. The filling

1. One is filled by Christ Jesus.
2. The righteousness is in Christ Jesus.
3. We should live like Christ. 1 Pet 2.21

C. The results

1. Fruit will be produced.
2. Result will be glory to God.
3. Result will be praise to God.

Questions for Reflection

1. What was Paul convinced in heart that Christ could complete? Is Christ working in you?
2. Are you a partaker of God's grace? If not, why not?
3. If you had one request, would it be to increase in knowledge and in all judgment?
4. Can one be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ? What must one do to attempt such an undertaking?
5. Can you see in other Christians fruits of righteousness?

Application for Personal Use.

The believer should give evidence of fruits of righteousness.

Born again saints should give glory and praise to God for the changes in their lives.

Chapter One – Session Three

Title: **In Christ Jesus**

Focus: **Even if one is in bondage or affliction, in Christ Jesus they can be set free.**

In My Bonds

Philippians 1:12-17 (NIV)

12 Now I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel. 13 As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ.

14 Because of my chains, most of the brothers in the Lord have been encouraged to speak the word of God more courageously and fearlessly. 15 It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill. 16 The latter do so in love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel.

17 The former preach Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing that they can stir up trouble for me while I am in chains.

I. Understand v12

A. Have knowledge

1. Paul wanted the Philippians to know about his circumstances.
2. He desired that they should understand the results of what happened to him.
3. As brethren, he felt they had a need to know.

B. Things happen

1. What happened to him was gain for the gospel.
2. As long as Paul could be used for Christ sake, he was ready to suffer, if necessary.

C. Gospel advanced

1. Paul wanted the Philippians to know that all things work good for them that love the Lord.
2. The word rather used by Paul denotes that something else could have occurred.
3. The furtherance of the gospel for Paul was why he lived.

II. In all the right places v13

A. In the palace

1. Paul was not in a palace, he was in jail.
2. Paul was imprisoned for the gospel. Acts 16.16
3. Paul made an appeal to Caesar to be free to preach the gospel and it cost him his freedom.

B. In bonds

1. He was in bonds for Christ, not crime.
2. He was guilty of trying to save people.
3. Paul's bondage was opportunity to show Christ in him in the palace.

C. In other places

1. Paul's imprisonment allowed others to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ.
2. His jailor heard and was saved.
3. Those who guarded him heard the gospel.

III. The fallen out v14

A. The brethren

1. Brethren in the Lord were helped by Paul's imprisonment.
2. Brethren aware of what happened to him.
3. Paul used by God as an example to his brethren.

B. The bonds

1. He gave others confidence while he was in jail.
2. His circumstances persuaded them to action.

C. Being bold

1. Boldness to speak by others not in bonds.
2. His bonds gave them cause to speak.
3. In the face of bondage they were without fear.

IV. Preach Christ v15

A. Christ is preached

1. There are many reasons Christ is preached.
2. Some had the wrong reason.
3. Envy and strife against Paul was a reason.

B. Envy and strife

1. Creating difficulties and problems for someone is not preaching Christ.
2. Envy and strife are of the devil.
3. For Paul any preaching, at his expense was gain for Christ.

C. Good will

1. A fruit of righteousness type of preaching.
2. The right reason to preach Christ is very important.
3. For Paul whether one preached for his good or bad he did not care, as long as Christ was preached.

V. The defense v16,17

A. Contention

1. Paul explains the occurrence.
2. He explains the motive of the preaching.
3. Some preach to add to Paul's affliction.

B. Affliction

1. Paul in bonds has to put up with preachers who preach just so he will suffer more.
2. The preaching of such people is not sincere.
3. Clearly not in Christian love. Wrong motives.

C. Love

1. Paul believed when Christ was preached out of love, he was set for the defense.
2. Paul wanted the opportunities to defend the gospel.
3. He was ready to preach the gospel in Rome. Rom 1.14-16

Questions for Reflection

1. How did knowing of the circumstances surrounding Paul further the gospel? Does the sharing of your circumstances further the gospel?
2. Paul preached in prison and the gospel was heard in the palace and other places. What does this say about where one shares the gospel?
3. Believers should be bold in Christ Jesus. How can we be bold as Christians?
4. As Christians when we here preaching which is out of envy and strife, what should we do?
5. Are present events causing Christians to have a need for the defense of the gospel?

Application for Personal Use.

Religious liberties are being taken away at every judicial opportunity.

Search your heart to determine what you must do to keep the gospel out of bondage.

Make an effort this week to reduce any envy or strife that you may be aware of in your church.

Chapter One – Session Four

Title: **In Christ Jesus**

Focus: **The hope of man, dead or alive, is not to depart or to stay but to glorify God in Christ Jesus.**

In My Hope

Philippians 1:18-24 (NIV)

18 But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice. Yes, and I will continue to rejoice,

19 for I know that through your prayers and the help given by the Spirit of Jesus Christ, what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance.

20 I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death.

21 For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. 22 If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know!

23 I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; 24 but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body.

I. What then v18

A. In pretense

1. The motive was wrong.
2. It was disguised. It was not what it seemed.
3. The motive makes a difference to God

B. In truth

1. The right way is in truth.
2. Jesus is preached for right reasons.
3. People heard Christ preach in pretense and in truth.

C. Rejoice

1. Paul rejoiced that Christ was preached.
2. Even if in pretense, Paul was happy.
3. All Paul cared about was that Jesus was preached.

II. For I know v19

A. The results

1. Paul's salvation was to be delivered.
2. His deliverance would occur because of prayer.
3. Prayer can deliver the trusting saint.

B. The supply

1. The Spirit had the deliverance it would take to release Paul.
2. The Spirit will supply all our need. Phil 4.19
3. David said, I shall not want. Ps 23.1

C. The Spirit

1. The Spirit wants to fill you. Eph 5.18
2. The Spirit wants to guide you. John 16.13,14
3. The Spirit wants to help in our infirmities. Rom 8.26

III. My hope v20

A. Expectation

1. Paul expected to see what his faith believed.
2. His belief was in earnest.
3. We can have expectation when we believe.

B. Unashamed

1. Paul did not want to let his master down.
2. He was not ashamed of what he had already accomplished for Christ.
3. He was concerned that as he faced death he would remain strong in the Spirit, though the flesh might be weak.

C. Magnifying Christ

1. Paul's desire was to represent Christ boldly.
2. He wanted to demonstrate Christ living in him.
3. In death he wanted to die with Christ receiving the victor over his bonds.

IV. Living for Jesus v21,22

A. To live

1. We are alive physically.
2. We are alive spiritually.
3. Being alive in Christ is alive forever.

B. To die

1. All of us will die physically.
2. Electing to remain unsaved, one will die spiritually.
3. Christ does not want you to die spiritually. His desire is that you live forever.

C. That is the question

1. We all live in the flesh.
2. Is the fruit of your labors in the flesh?
3. Choose, living for Jesus, or dying in sin.

V. Caught in the middle v23,24

A. In a tough spot

1. Paul wanted to live that he might further the gospel.
2. He wanted to leave to be out of his chains with Christ.
3. For Paul both was best. What was better was his dilemma.

B. Life or death

1. Paul wanted to depart this life to be with Christ.
2. Paul was home sick for heaven.
3. Paul was ready to depart.

C. I need to stay

1. The Spirit will reveal what one should do.
2. The Spirit revealed to Paul the better way was to stay for the preaching of the gospel.
3. The Spirit revealed the need to Paul, the Spirit will reveal the need to you.

Questions for Reflection

1. Can preaching Christ be for the wrong reason?
2. Do prayers really bring salvation (deliverance) from trials and difficult times?
3. Paul did not want to be ashamed of his actions. As Christians have we done something which may cause us to be ashamed?
4. Are you living for Jesus? What is the evidence of that life? What are the fruits of your labors in the flesh?
5. For some people life makes them wonder if it is worth living. What would the Spirit reveal to them if they compared living for Jesus or dying for gain?

Application for Personal Use.

Living or dying, whatever we do should all be for the glory of God in Christ Jesus.

The furtherance of the gospel was one of Paul's concerns. The other concern was fellow believers. Let us make these two concerns our concerns as well.

Chapter One – Session Five

Title: **In Christ Jesus**

Focus: **One can know and experience life by standing fast in their faith even in persecution.**

I Know

Philippians 1:25-30 (NIV)

25 Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, 26 so that through my being with you again your joy in Christ Jesus will overflow on account of me.

27 Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in one spirit, contending as one man for the faith of the gospel

28 without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you. This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved--and that by God.

29 For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for him, 30 since you are going through the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have.

I. Have confidence v25,26

A. Others will abide with you

1. You are not alone in your faith.
2. Continue with other Christians.
3. Abide in Christ.

B. You will have joy in your faith

1. You go further with help from Christian friends.
2. Your joy will grow.
3. The right faith produces joy.

C. Abundantly rejoice

1. In Christ one can abundantly rejoice.
2. Others rejoice with you.
3. Abundant life is found only in and through Jesus Christ. He is the reason for rejoicing.

II. Have the right testimony v27

A. Focus on one thing

1. Do only that which is stated in the word.
2. Live worthy.
3. Live honoring the gospel.

- B. Find out about you
 - 1. People will see your life.
 - 2. People will hear what you do.
 - 3. Your life will be a witness.

- C. Firm stand is necessary
 - 1. Stand fast.
 - 2. Stand in one spirit.
 - 3. Stand in one mind.

III. Be unafraid v28

- A. Nothing should bother you
 - 1. Don't be frightened.
 - 2. The opposition cannot hurt you.
 - 3. You have a protector.

- B. Know they will be destroyed
 - 1. God will deal with those who oppose you.
 - 2. They know their condition.
 - 3. They witness your salvation.

- C. You will be saved
 - 1. Your faith is evidence of God's saving grace.
 - 2. Your help comes from God.
 - 3. Be faithful.

IV. You have been granted v29,30

- A. To believe
 - 1. You have been given opportunity to be saved.
 - 2. You have been given a witness.
 - 3. You are a sign to the lost.

- B. To suffer
 - 1. You will have opposition.
 - 2. You will need to be unafraid.
 - 3. You will not be destroyed.

- C. To struggle
 - 1. Your struggle will demonstrate your faith in your God.
 - 2. You may suffer as did Paul.
 - 3. The struggle is on Christ's behalf.

Questions for Reflection

1. If you were writing to a church for the last time, what would you write?
2. What are some characteristics of a great church?

Application for Personal Use.

In your testimony, remain unwavering.

As a church it is important to stand together.

One may become unpopular as a Christian, that is alright.

Honor the gospel by witnessing for the Lord.

Maintain one spirit with other Christians.

In any test, remember Christ is with you, and you cannot fail.

Chapter Two – Session One

Title: **Fulfill My Joy**

Focus: **United with Christ**

Consolation in Christ

Philippians 2:1-4 (NIV)

1 If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion,

2 then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose.

3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.

4 Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

I. Be Encouraged v1

A. Comfort

1. By His love
2. Undeserved John 14.1 John 14.27
3. Unworthy 2 Thess 2.16 3.16

B. Fellowship

1. With the Spirit
2. John 14.18
3. Is not discord, differences, disturbing behaviors

C. Tenderness

1. Compassion - ministering Rom 15.1
2. Helping Others Luke 7.13 Gal 6.2
3. Meeting peoples needs 1 Pet 3.8

II. Be Fulfilled v2

A. Be Like Minded

1. 1 Cor 1.10
2. 2 Cor 13.11
3. Eph 4.3

B. Have the same love

1. Love one another as Jesus loves us
2. Do unto others

C. Be One

1. Spirit
2. Purpose
3. In unity

III. Do not have v3a

A. Selfish ambitions

1. 2 Tim 2.14
2. 2 Tim 2.24
3. Prov 3.30

B. Vain Conceit

1. James 3.14
2. Prov 25.8

IV. Do Have v3b-4

A. Be Humble

1. In considering others 2 Cor 8.9
2. Consider them better
3. Know yourself and except yourself Rom 12.3

B. Be Aware

1. Of your interest
2. Of the interest of others 1 Cor 10.33
3. Rom 15.3

Questions for Reflection

1. How hard is it to be like-minded with those who are disagreeable?
2. How can one become humble?

Application for Personal Use.

Pray for God's Spirit to make you become more like Christ.

Chapter Two – Session Two

Title: **Fulfill My Joy**

Focus: **Christ and the cross**

Confess Christ

Philippians 2:5-11 (NIV)

5 Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:

6 Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped,

7 but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

8 And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death-- even death on a cross!

9 Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name,

10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

I. Attitude v5

A. Obedient

1. To the prophecy - Fulfilled it. Complete
2. To the plan - Followed it. Came
3. To the purpose - Finished it. Cross

B. Compassionate

1. For the hopeless
2. For the hurting
3. For the hungry

C. Humility

1. At Birth
2. At Boyhood
3. At Baptism

II. Appearance v6-7

A. Equality

1. Creator
2. Comforter
3. Creature - Became a man

B. Everything

1. Made everything
2. Cared for everyone
3. Became nothing

C. Eternal

1. No beginning
2. No ending
3. No problem – Always on going

III. Adapted v8

A. Humbled Himself

1. Became like a man
2. Obeyed his parents
3. Washed disciples feet

B. Became Obedient

1. Submitted to the will of the Father
2. Settled our sin debt
3. Set us free

C. Obedient to death

1. Even a death on a cross
2. Loved us enough to die for us
3. Knows our feelings concerning dying

IV. Adoration v9-11

A. God exalted Him

1. To high and lifted up
2. Seated at the right hand of the Father
3. Bestowed on Him the name Messiah - The Christ

B. Every knee will bow

1. In heaven - Celestial
2. On earth - Terrestrial
3. Under the earth - Satanical

C. Confessions will be made

1. Vocally, Repentant children of God .
2. Vocally, Unrepentant sinner
3. To glorify God the Father

Questions for Reflection

1. Are you a giver or a taker?
2. Do you willingly do what others avoid?
3. Knowing Jesus died for everyone, does that compel you to want to serve them?
4. Because Jesus became a man to save you, what will you become to save others?

Application for Personal Use.

Pray that God may give you a menial task that you can perform to God's glory.

Ask someone, "What can I do to make your life easier?"

Chapter Two – Session Three

Title: **Fulfill My Joy**

Focus: **That we might become children of God**

Confident Salvation

Philippians 2:12-16 (NIV)

12 Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed--not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence--continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, 13 for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.

14 Do everything without complaining or arguing,

15 so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe 16 as you hold out the word of life--in order that I may boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor for nothing.

I. Continue to work v12-13

A. Service

1. Obediently
- 2.. Absent or present
3. Continuously

B. Salvation

1. Fearfully
2. Faithfully
3. Finish (work out)

C. Subjection

1. To God
2. Without complaint
3. Without argument

II. Complain not v14

A. Confident

1. Knowing who you are
- 2.. Knowing whose you are
3. Knowing why you are

B. Completely

1. Finish the work in you
2. Faithfully become all you can be

3. Further the cause of Christ

C. Christ-like

1. Be Humble
2. Be Obedient
3. Be Compassionate

III. Conform to Christ likeness v15-16

A. Surrender

1. Give up (be saved)
- 2.. Give in
3. Give out

B. Sell-out

1. Be not conformed
2. Be blameless
3. Be bright as the stars

C. Sacrifice

1. Share the word of life
2. Look for the coming of the lord
3. Labor but not in vain

Questions for Reflection

1. Paul associated suffering and sorrow to joy and rejoicing. To what do you associate suffering and sorrow?
2. What can we do to be more like Jesus?
3. Am I a servant working for my salvation?
4. Why do we have to keep on working out our salvation? Or do we?

Application for Personal Use.

Become a butterfly, you have been a caterpillar long enough, be transformed in the likeness of Christ.

Pray for a place of service where you can be Christ-like.

Chapter Two – Session Four

Title: **Fulfill My Joy**

Focus: **Rejoice with others as you labor for Christ.**

Companion in Labor

Philippians 2:17-30 (NIV)

17 But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you. 18 So you too should be glad and rejoice with me. 19 I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, that I also may be cheered when I receive news about you. 20 I have no one else like him, who takes a genuine interest in your welfare. 21 For everyone looks out for his own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. 22 But you know that Timothy has proved himself, because as a son with his father he has served with me in the work of the gospel. 23 I hope, therefore, to send him as soon as I see how things go with me. 24 And I am confident in the Lord that I myself will come soon.

25 But I think it is necessary to send back to you Epaphroditus, my brother, fellow worker and fellow soldier, who is also your messenger, whom you sent to take care of my needs. 26 For he longs for all of you and is distressed because you heard he was ill. 27 Indeed he was ill, and almost died. But God had mercy on him, and not on him only but also on me, to spare me sorrow upon sorrow. 28 Therefore I am all the more eager to send him, so that when you see him again you may be glad and I may have less anxiety. 29 Welcome him in the Lord with great joy, and honor men like him, 30 because he almost died for the work of Christ, risking his life to make up for the help you could not give me.

I. Being poured out v17-18

- A. For sacrifice and service
 - 1. From sacrifice
 - 2.. From service
 - 3. From faith

- B. For gladness and rejoicing
 - 1. With one another
 - 2. For one another
 - 3. For the cause of Christ

II. Servants to others v19-24

- A. Be genuine v20
 - 1. Be interested in the welfare of others
 - 2.. Give to others untiring
 - 3. Be a compassionate care giver

- B. Timothy v22
 - 1. Prove yourself
 - 2. Serve with others
 - 3. Do the work of the gospel

- C. Be confident v24
 - 1. In the Lord
 - 2. Do the necessary

III. Honor faithful servants v25-30

- A. Epaphroditus
 - 1. Fellow worker
 - 2.. Fellow soldier
 - 3. Fellow messenger
- B. Care giver
 - 1. Received God's mercy on you
 - 2. Received God's mercy on others
- C. For the work of Christ
 - 1. Welcome willing worker
 - 2. Honor the worker
 - 3. Realize their sacrifice, even unto death

Questions for Reflection

1. Have you found your place of service? Are you looking?
2. What are you willing to do for the cause of Christ?
3. Have you made sacrifices to serve your Savior? If not, when?

Application for Personal Use.

Make an effort to serve others.

Pray that God will send you to help someone who needs your care.

Chapter Three – Session One

Title: **Changes in Christ**

Focus: **Placing our confidence in Christ, not in the flesh**

Our Confidence

Philippians 3:1-6 (NIV)

1 Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord! It is no trouble for me to write the same things to you again, and it is a safeguard for you.

2 Watch out for those dogs, those men who do evil, those mutilators of the flesh.

3 For it is we who are the circumcision, we who worship by the Spirit of God, who glory in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh--

4 though I myself have reasons for such confidence. If anyone else thinks he has reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: 5 circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee;

6 as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for legalistic righteousness, faultless.

I. Rejoice in the Lord! v1

A. As part of the family

1. Repented
2. Related
3. Redeemed

B. Without trouble

1. Repeating the gospel
2. Reliving conversion
3. Recognizing right living

C. Repetition brings remembrance

1. Forgetfulness brings failure
2. Satisfaction in safeness
3. Staying the course

II. Remain alert v2

A. Dogs

1. Paul refers to orthodox Jews
2. Mixed law with grace
3. Creating false doctrine

B. Evildoers

1. Teachers adding works to grace through faith
2. Doers of works of the flesh
3. Adding to the gift of salvation

C. Mutilators

1. Circumcision translates to “a mutilation.”
2. Any ordinance or statue cannot replace faith
3. Paul’s perspective on circumcision (read Romans 2.25-29)

III. Remember who you are v3-6

A. Worshipers in the Spirit

1. By the Spirit of God
2. Glory in Christ Jesus
3. Confident in the Spirit – not flesh

B. Workers of the flesh

1. Hebrew of Hebrews
2. Pharisee
3. Zealot
4. Persecutor
5. Legalistic

Questions for Reflection

- 1, Are there “dogs” in the church today?
2. Can you explain grace through faith without works?
3. Is there a difference between being spiritual and being filled with the Spirit?

Application for Personal Use.

Recognize the difference between the God’s Law and God’s Love.

Evaluate your spiritual life, is it attitude, appetite or action? Or is it adoration?

Chapter Three – Session Two

Title: **Changes in Christ**

Focus: **The greatness of knowing Christ Jesus as Lord.**

Our Conviction

Philippians 3:7-10 (NIV)

7 But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. 8 What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ

9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ--the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith.

10 I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death,

I. Profit or Loss v7-8

- A. For the sake of Christ
 - 1. My profit lost
 - 2. My loss is rubbish
 - 3. My gain is Christ

- B. Consider everything
 - 1. Worldly possessions
 - 2. Wonderful promises

- C. Knowing Christ
 - 1. Surpassing greatness
 - 2. Putting the trash out
 - 3. Storing up treasures

II. Being found in Christ v9

- A. Righteousness from the law
 - 1. Self righteousness
 - 2. Works of righteousness

- B. Righteousness through faith
 - 1. Not religion
 - 2. Not of ourselves
 - 3. Give up self to get the Savior

- C. Righteousness from God
 - 1. Imputation is defined as “put to one’s account”
 - 2. Romans 4.1-8
 - 3. 2 Corinthians 5.21

III. I want to know v10

- A. Christ
 - 1. As redeemer
 - 2. As Savior
 - 3. As Sufferer

- B. Power of His resurrection
 - 1. New life
 - 2. New beginning
 - 3. New eternity

- C. Fellowship of sharing
 - 1. His suffering
 - 2. His likeness
 - 3. His sacrifice

Questions for Reflection

1. What does it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul?
2. What can be compared to the greatness of knowing Christ Jesus as Lord?
3. When you look at your life before Christ what do you see? Paul saw rubbish.

Application for Personal Use.

Pray to know Christ Jesus as Lord.

Tell others how Christ has changed you.

Attempt to let others see Jesus in you.

Remind others that salvation is about grace through faith.

Chapter Three – Session Three

Title: **Changes in Christ**

Focus: **Straining for the prize**

Our Calling

Philippians 3:11-16 (NIV)

11 and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead. 12 Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.

13 Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead,

14 I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

15 All of us who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you. 16 Only let us live up to what we have already attained.

I. Press on v11-12

A. To Attain

1. Resurrection power
2. Resurrection fellowship
3. Resurrection of the living

B. To make perfect

1. Strive to know Christ
2. Strive to be godly

C. To take hold

1. Of all God has for you
2. Of life eternal

II. Do one thing v13

A. Keep trying

1. To please God
2. To persevere in the faith
3. To live for Jesus

- B. Forget past
 - 1. Christ has forgiven you.
 - 2. Christ has forgotten your trespasses
 - 3. Christ has given you a future

- C. Take hold
 - 1. Strain forward
 - 2. Look beyond self
 - 3. See what is ahead

III. Win the Prize v14

- A. Press forward
 - 1. Keep goal in mind
 - 2. Work at winning
 - 3. Claim victory in Jesus

- B. Achieve your goal
 - 1. Listen to your call
 - 2. Don't stop
 - 3. Stay in Christ Jesus

- C. Receive your heavenly reward
 - 1. Resurrection body
 - 2. Reunion with loved ones
 - 3. Rejoicing with our Redeemer

IV. Seek Godly understanding v15-16

- A. To be mature in Christ
 - 1. Study to show yourself approved
 - 2. Do the work of an evangelist
 - 3. Let others see Jesus in you

- B. Listen to God's correction
 - 1. Be guided by the Holy Spirit
 - 2. Remain in the word

- C. Live up to
 - 1. What you have attained
 - 2. What you want to be in Christ

Questions for Reflection

1. How can one obtain the resurrection from the dead?
2. Why must we forget the past?
3. Would you consider Heaven a prize worth winning?

Application for Personal Use.

Reconfirm for yourself your salvation.

Get in the race.

Work at having a heavenward perspective.

Chapter Three – Session Four

Title: **Changes in Christ**

Focus: **Live your life as a citizen of heaven.**

Our Conversation

Philippians 3:17-21 (NIV)

17 Join with others in following my example, brothers, and take note of those who live according to the pattern we gave you.

18 For, as I have often told you before and now say again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. 19 Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things.

20 But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

I. Follow my example v17

A. Join others

1. In Bible study
2. In sharing the gospel
3. In expecting the Lord's return

B. Take note

1. To live purely
2. To love the Lord
3. To love others

II. Enemies of the cross v18-19

A. Judaizers

1. Added the law to salvation
2. Insisted on following the law

B. Their god

1. The Old Testament dietary laws
2. Required keeping the dietary laws
3. Colossians 2.20-23

C. Their glory

1. Required circumcision
2. Insisted on new convert's circumcision
3. Galatians 6.12-15

III. Citizens of heaven v20-21

- A. Born again believers
 - 1. Saved by grace
 - 2. Justified by faith
 - 3. Kept by God's love

- B. Recorded residents
 - 1. Names written in the Book of Life
 - 2. Written forever
 - 3. Guaranteed by God

- C. Transformed bodies
 - 1. Changed in twinkling of an eye
 - 2. Physical changed to Spiritual
 - 3. Being changed to be like Christ

Questions for Reflection

1. In our world today, Can you identify enemies of the cross of Christ?
2. How do you know your name is written in heaven?
3. What will your transformed body look like?

Application for Personal Use.

Give thanks for a loving Savior who gave his life that you might live forever.

Pray for non-believers to be open to the word of salvation.

Pray "Thy kingdom come."

Chapter Four – Session One

Title: **Stand Fast**

Focus: **Dear Friends**

Rejoice

Philippians 4:1-4 (NIV)

1 Therefore, my brothers, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, that is how you should stand firm in the Lord, dear friends! 2 I plead with Euodia and I plead with Syntyche to agree with each other in the Lord. 3 Yes, and I ask you, loyal yokefellow, help these women who have contended at my side in the cause of the gospel, along with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.

4 Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!

I. Stand firm v1-3

A. Brothers

1. Whom I love
2. Whom I long for
3. My joy and crown

B. Contenders

1. Euodia
2. Syntyche
3. Be agreeable in the Lord

C. Loyal yokefellow

1. Clement and the rest of my fellow workers
2. Help Euodia and Syntyche to agree

II. In the Lord v4

A. Rejoice

1. Jesus loves
2. Jesus saves
3. Jesus is coming

B. Rejoice again

1. Jesus loves you
2. Jesus saved you
3. Jesus is coming for you

Questions for Reflection

1. What can be done when two women disagree with each other in church?
2. How often do you rejoice? Or even rejoice again?
3. What does Paul mean when he says, “stand firm”?
4. What causes contenders to be Christians in conflict?

Application for Personal Use.

Pray that your church may be conflict free.

Pray for anyone in your church who may be causing dissention.

Pray that you can do more rejoicing and less rebellion.

Chapter Four – Session Two

Title: **Stand Fast**

Focus: **Be content in any and every situation.**

Request

Philippians 4:5-14 (NIV)

5 Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. 6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. 8 Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--think about such things. 9 Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me--put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

10 I rejoice greatly in the Lord that at last you have renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you have been concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. 11 I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. 12 I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. 13 I can do everything through him who gives me strength. 14 Yet it was good of you to share in my troubles.

I. Pray v5-7

A. Prayer and Petition

1. Reduces anxiety
2. Requires adoration
3. Renews appreciation

B. Peace of God.

1. Guards your heart
2. Guards your mind
3. Give us confidence Isaiah 26.3

II. Practice v8-9

A. Excellence and praiseworthiness

1. True
2. Noble
3. Right
4. Pure
5. Lovely
6. Admirable.

- B. Put into practice
 - 1. What you have learned James 1.22
 - 2. What you have received
 - 3. What you have heard

III. Persevere v10-14

- A. Learned to be content
 - 1. Whatever the circumstances
 - 2. Know what it is to be in need
 - 3. Know what it is to have plenty

- B. Learned the secret
 - 1. I can do everything
 - 2. through him
 - 3, who gives me strength.

- C. Learn to share
 - 1. The good of others
 - 2. The bad of others
 - 3. Their troubles

Questions for Reflection

- 1. Have you had bad times? Times of need? Times of want? How did you survive?

- 2. What is the answer to having enough of everything?

- 3. Do you have a secret for your success in life?

Application for Personal Use.

Pray that the Lord will “renew your concern” for the needs of others.

Consider providing time, energy, or money to assist others. Perhaps, giving to ministries which provide food, clothing, counseling or even companionship.

Visit someone you know who is in a nursing home or rehabilitation center.

Chapter Four – Session Three

Title: **Stand Fast**

Focus: **Acceptable sacrifice pleases God.**

Replenish

Philippians 4:15-20 (NIV)

15 Moreover, as you Philippians know, in the early days of your acquaintance with the gospel, when I set out from Macedonia, not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only; 16 for even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid again and again when I was in need. 17 Not that I am looking for a gift, but I am looking for what may be credited to your account.

18 I have received full payment and even more; I am amply supplied, now that I have received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent. They are a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God.

19 And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.

20 To our God and Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

I. Giving and Receiving v15-17

A. Materially

1. Food
2. Clothes
3. Shelter

B. Spiritually

1. Faith
2. Compassion
3. Safety

II. Paid in full v18-20

A. Physically

1. Giving to others is building.
2. Giving to others is Biblical
3. Giving to others is blessed.

B. Spiritually

1. Building for eternity 1 Peter 2.5
2. Make a sacrifice Hebrews 13.15-16
3. Make an acceptable offering to God Romans 15.16

Questions for Reflection

1. Can you remember a time when you gave to the needs of others, and received a spiritual blessing?
2. Do you understand the concept of “Building for Eternity,” 1 Peter 2.5

Application for Personal Use.

Read 1 Peter 2.5 until you grasp its concepts. Living stones, being built, spiritual house, holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God, through Jesus Christ.

Chapter Four – Session Four

Title: **Stand Fast**

Focus: **Filling your spirit with the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

Receive

Philippians 4:21-23 (NIV)

21 Greet all the saints in Christ Jesus. The brothers who are with me send greetings.

22 All the saints send you greetings, especially those who belong to Caesar's household.

23 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen.

I. Sainly Greetings v21-22

A. Greetings

1. To all the saints, true believers, and from the brothers serving with Paul.
2. Every saint should greet other saints. Even in the government.

B. Grace

1. To all the saints. .
2. Grace to all who believe.

II. Spiritual Grace .v23

A. The greeting

1. Wishing the grace of Jesus on other believers
2. Galatians 1.3; Ephesians 1.2

B. The Grace

1. Of our Lord Jesus Christ
2. The grace of His Spirit to our spirit.
3. Grace greater than all our sins.

Questions for Reflection

1. When we meet other saints are we genuine in our greeting of grace from our Lord Jesus Christ or do we just say words?
2. Do we assemble with like believers at every opportunity and greet them in God's grace?

Application for Personal Use.

Pray that God will put His Spirit in your blessing for other saints.

Remind yourself about the acronym G R A C E. Or ask someone about its meaning.

Last Things . . .

The letter to the church at Philippi contains several biblical principals. These principal include, but are not limited to, prayer, hope, salvation, confidence, and rejoicing. All of these elements revolve around Christ Jesus as Lord and becoming more like Him in mind, body, and spirit.

Some memorable passages are:

“to live is Christ and to die is gain” Philippians 1.21

“every knee should bow” Philippians 2.10

“I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection” Philippians 3.10

“Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!” Philippians 4.4

and my favorite, Philippians 1.9-11 *And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may 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 the glory and praise of God.*

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Other writings;

Discipleship: An Evangelistic Approach.

Sermons in Colossians.

Sermons for Sundays.

The Decree of God.

The Deity of Christ.

Biblical Inerrancy.

Personality of the Holy Spirit.

The Ministry of Angels.

The Creation and Fall of Man.

The Dilemma of Sin.

Salvation and Security.

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How to Claim a Victorious Christian Life.

Church Staff Administration.

Brief Studies in the Old Testament.

The Old Man and Flesh.

The Return of Christ.

The Right Foundation.

Dispensational Perspective.

Biblical Inerrancy.

Evangelism Program: From Policy to Procedure.

Pastoral Placement Process.

A Pastor's Calendar.

The Sinless Christ.