

# PHILIPPIANS

*Additional Notes*

## PAUL'S LETTER TO THE PHILIPPIANS

Like the other letters, Acts presents the history and starting point of the church at Philippi. In Acts 16, Paul receives the Macedonian vision and visits Philippi on his second missionary journey. Acts 16:12 states that Philippi is “a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony.” While here, Paul meets Lydia at a prayer meeting by the river. Her, along with her household, become Christians. Paul and Silas are thrown into jail after casting a demon out of a slave girl. Then we get to read of the amazing story of God’s deliverance of their captivity, as well as the conversion of the Philippian Jailor.

The book of Philippians is a letter that Paul sends to the church at Philippi while he is in prison. Most likely this occurs in Rome about 62 A.D. The other main option is Caesarea in the late 50s. Joy is the main theme of the letter. “Joy” and “rejoice” occur 16 times in Philippians. It is mentioned in every chapter. Because of what Paul went through and his faith in God, this letter is a huge encouragement to Christians. Paul relied on God through suffering and hardships and was able to stay focused on what truly mattered—the gospel. His awareness of what it meant to be a child of God was so much more valuable than what selfishness and sin had to offer. Salvation in Christ was the source of his continual joy and contentment.

# PHILIPPIANS 1

*“To Live is Christ, and to Die is Gain”*

Compare Philippians 1:1-2 with Ephesians 1:1-2. How are they different and similar?

Define the following words of Paul in verse 1:

Servants-

Saints-

Overseers-

Deacons-

What does Paul tell the Philippians that he prays about (1:9-11)?

In chapter one, Paul speaks of his imprisonment as a positive thing (1:12-14). What reasons does he give?

Find out from your parents what has happened in their life that would normally be considered a negative by the world, but in reality God used it for good. What example did they share? Have you already seen this in your own life? If so, how?

# CHRIST IN PHILIPPIANS

*Taken from “Know Your Bible” by Frank J. Dunn*

“Three of the great passages concerning Christ are in the prison epistles:

- (1) Far above all rule, head of the church (Eph. 1:20-23).
- (2) The mind, self-humiliation, and the exaltation of Christ (Phil. 2:5-11).
- (3) The preeminence of Christ (Col. 1:14-20).

## **Our relation to Christ appears in every chapter-**

Chapter 1– Christ is our life; He controls our life

Chapter 2– Christ is our example, the pattern for our life

Chapter 3– Christ is our object, the goal of our life.

Chapter 4– Christ is the source of joy, the strength of our lives.

**Rejoicing in Christ**– Christ is the source of contentment and joy. In Him we must ‘rejoice evermore.’

Chapter 1– Rejoice in evangelism and in facing death.

Chapter 2– Rejoice in lowly service and in brotherhood.

Chapter 3– Rejoice in suffering and heavenly citizenship.

Chapter 4– Rejoice in anxiety and privation”

# PHILIPPIANS

## *Suggested Verses to Memorize*

For to me to live if Christ, and to die is gain. *1:21*

Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility  
count others more significant than yourselves. *2:3*

Do all things without grumbling or disputing. *2:14*

Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth  
of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord...*3:8a*

Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect,  
but I press on to make it my own,  
because Christ Jesus has made me his own. *3:12*

I press on toward the goal for the prize  
of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. *3:14*

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. *4:4*

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything  
by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving  
let your request be made known to God.  
And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding,  
will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. *4:6-7*

I can do all things through him who strengthens me. *4:13*

Verse 21- “For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.”

For this week, try to memorize and use this verse for encouragement and inspiration. Why do you think Paul was able to completely give his life to Christ? Write down some ways that you plan to live for Christ.

In 1:27-28, Paul encourages them to have their “life be worthy of the gospel of Christ.” What do you think Paul means by this?

Then he challenges them to remain united and brave whether he is present or not. Do you shy away from accepting your brothers and sisters in Christ as your friends when you are at school? When you are not with other Christians do you struggle to be brave? Ask your parents how they handle situations where they are the odd person out.

What emotions do you feel when you read verses 29 & 30? How much are you willing to suffer for what is right? What type of suffering might you face for God?

A central theme in this letter is joy. Paul mentions it in every chapter and 3 times in chapter 1. It is amazing that even when we suffer, we can have joy in Jesus.

1:4	Prays with joy	JOY in Philippians
1:18	Rejoices that Christ is proclaimed	
1:25	Will remain living on earth, for the Philippians joy in the faith	

# PHILIPPIANS 2

*“In Humility Count Others More Significant Than Yourselves”*

Remember that the chapter breaks have been added in so we can have reference points. This is important to note because Paul continues to build on the importance of unity. In 2:1-5, what is our responsibility when it comes to unity?

Why is unity in the church so important?

Verses 6 through 8 talk about the example of Christ. List what Jesus did for us. What do you think would have been the most difficult to do?

Pause for a moment and reflect on 2:5-11. Write out below a prayer of thanks for the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. His love for us is incredible.

Paul discusses contentment as he closes the letter (4:10-20). What do you need to be content? If you do not have \_\_\_\_\_ you can not be happy? Spend some time on thinking about the value that you place on things.

How is Paul able to have contentment, even when he has faced so much? Read 2 Corinthians 11:21-28 for a list of some of the things he went through.

4:13 is one of the most popular verses in the Bible. Why do people love it so much and what does it mean to you?

In 4:14-20, what does Paul say is the reason for why he has a special connection to the church in Philippi?

4:1	Paul tells them they are his joy	JOY in Philippians
4:4	Twice tells them to rejoice in the Lord	
4:10	Rejoiced in the Lord at their concern for him	

# PHILIPPIANS 4

*“To Live is Christ, and to Die is Gain”*

What issue is addressed in 4:1-3?

What causes you to be anxious? Also read, Matthew 6:25-34.

Discuss with your parents a time in their life that they were anxious.

What role did prayer and God have in that situation?

How do we get “the peace of God” from prayer?

Why does Paul place an emphasis on what we think about in 4:8?

Make a list of things that meet these qualifications. How often to you think about the things on your list?

In 4:9 Paul instructs the Christians to “practice these things.”

Discipline does not happen by chance. To develop the mind of Christ (chapter 2), we must be focused and purposeful. What are you going to practice on this week?

Verse 14 sounds simple, but if we are honest with ourselves it is difficult to live by. So be honest with yourself for a moment. How often do you complain? “Grumbling” in Greek carries the idea of an inward displeasure. How do you respond when.....

Your parents ask you to put your phone down?

Your coach or instructor asks you to work or practice?

Your sibling wants your help with something?

Your parents tell you no?

You do not get your way?

What reason does Paul give in verse 15 for us to not be people who complain?

Notice that Paul says that those who “shine as lights in the world” are those who are “holding fast to the word of life.” Why is that? How does Scripture help us to remain pure in a wicked world?

In 2:19-30, Paul highlights the ministry of Timothy and Epaphroditus. Why does Paul mention them? Together with your parents, pick an individual who is currently on a mission trip or is a missionary and pray that they can have a similar impact as Timothy, Epaphroditus, and Paul.

2:2	Asks the Philippians to complete his joy	JOY in Philippians
2:17-18	Is glad and rejoices with the Philippians	
2:28	Sends Epaphroditus, that they might rejoice	
2:29	Tells them to receive Epaphroditus with joy	

## PHILIPPIANS 3

*“Because Christ Jesus Has Made Me His Own.”*

Why would Paul tell us not to put our confidence in the flesh?

What makes you feel confident? Where do you get your sense of identity from?

What things did Paul count as rubbish so that he could gain Christ?

How should this principle be applied to your life? Sacrifice is hard, but to Paul it was completely worth it.

Discuss with your parents what 3:9-11 means. What does he mean by not having a righteousness of the law, but from God that depends on faith?

Why is the resurrection important? Also, read Romans 6:1-11.

Verse 12 would be a great verse to memorize and focus on this week. Paul, who we admire and who has sacrificed so much to share Jesus does not allow himself to focus on what he has done in the past but only on what he can still do. How is Paul able to maintain this mindset? What do you do to avoid complacency?

For you to “press forward” spiritually, you must know where you are going. List three goals that you want to pursue. After you write the goals down, also include steps or ways to accomplish it.

What does Paul encourage Christians to do in 3:17-21?

Accountability and encouragement are such an important element of the church. Write down the names of some of your Christian friends. How are you encouraging them? What are you doing to help them become closer to God? Let’s not forget that we are a family and families help each other.