

A workbook aid for studying

THE EPISTLE OF PAUL TO THE
PHILIPPIANS

Prepared by:
William J. Stewart (thestewarts@canada.com)

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PREFACE

This study book is intended to aid a Bible class in the study of Paul's epistle to the Philippians. The material herein will not take the student on a verse-by-verse analysis of the text, but is intended to bring attention to significant portions of the text. Rather than providing textual insight from the writer, the booklet has been designed with questions to provoke thought and further study on the student's part, so that principles and lessons applicable for the Christian's life can be learned.

The usefulness of the material, and the success of the Bible class is primarily dependent upon the preparation which is given by each participant. Verse references from Philippians are provided with each question. These are given as a starting point for answering the questions. Seldom will a question be fully answered and all the relevant points of a discussion exhausted by the given verses. Students are encouraged to look beyond the designated texts for related passages which will help to answer questions and reveal the lessons to be learned from the inspired record. Some questions given may require diligent investigation on the student's part to completely answer.

It is my hope that the questions provided will touch on all the important lessons which can be gleaned by the child of God today from these books. However, the class should not be limited to these questions. Perhaps segments of text which the given questions do not directly deal with, or detailed points which are found in the text will provoke questions on the student's part. Such questions are welcomed and encouraged. Though the intent of this class material is to benefit us for Christian living today, the class should also be conducted in such a manner that we also come to a better appreciation of the events and customs which are found in the times of old.

May this workbook be used to the glory of God and the strengthening of saints.

William J. Stewart
thestewarts@canada.com
www.lookinguntojesus.net

Paul's Praise Of And Prayer For The Philippians

PHILIPPIANS 1:1-11

"...always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, for your fellowship in the gospel from the very first day until now..." (1:4-5)

1. What do we learn about the structure of the Lord's church from Paul's greeting? Discuss briefly other Bible texts which shed light on church structure. (1:1)

2. Define the following terms: (1:1)
 - a. "...saints..."
 - b. "...bishops..."
 - c. "...deacons..."

3. Describe the frequency of Paul's prayers for the Philippian brethren. (1:3-4)

JOY / REJOICE is a prominent theme through the book of Philippians. The Greek *chara* (joy) appears in 1:4; 1:25; 2:2; 2:29; 4:1, and it's root word, *chairo* (rejoice) appears in 1:18; 2:17; 2:18; 2:28; 3:1; 4:4.

4. What is the "...fellowship in the gospel..." Paul speaks of? (1:5)

5. Paul was confident that "...He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ..." What is the "good work"? What is "the day of Jesus Christ" (1:6)

6. Discuss Paul's relationship with the Philippian brethren as expressed in **1:7-8**.

7. Paul's primary prayer for the Philippians is "...*that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment...*" What does that mean? (**1:9**)

8. Three additional points are mentioned, which are secondary elements to his prayer. Discuss each: (**1:10-11**)
 - a. "...*that you may approve the things that are excellent...*"

 - b. "...*that you may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ...*"

 - c. "...*being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ...*"

Lessons and principles:

[List and discuss what we can learn from this study to better our service before the Lord.]

Suffering And Service Before Christ

PHILIPPIANS 1:12-30

“...most of the brethren in the Lord, having become confident by my chains, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.” (1:14)

1. Discuss the types of “...*things which happened...*”to Paul? How have these things “...*turned out for the furtherance of the gospel...*”? (1:12-14)
2. Why should Paul’s ‘misfortunes’ be the cause for other Christians to increase in confidence and boldness? (1:14)
3. The apostle identifies two persuasions of preachers who have come to light on account of his sufferings for the cause of Christ. What makes these to differ? (1:15-17)
4. Paul is satisfied that the gospel is preached, “...*whether in pretense or in truth...*” However, what good can come from those who preach the gospel as disguise to fulfill their own selfishness? (1:18)
5. Paul KNOWS that through the prayers of the saints, the supply of the Spirit of Christ and his boldness in Christ, he will be granted “*deliverance*”. What is this “*deliverance*”? (1:19-20)
6. The writer reveals that whether by life or death, Christ will be magnified in his body. How so? (1:20)

7. Expressing his perspective of life and death, Paul stated, *“For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain...”* Discuss the importance of this declaration. (1:21)

8. Which did Paul prefer, life or death? Which is he confident will be granted to him? To what end? (1:23-26)

9. Consider the following significant clauses from 1:27:
 - a. *“Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ...”*

 - b. *“...whether I come and see you or am absent...”*

 - c. *“...stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel...”*

10. Why should the child of God not be afraid of the adversaries? How do the adversaries view this lack of terror? (1:28)

11. What has been *“granted”* to the child of God? How should the Christian approach this honour? (1:29-30)

Lessons and principles:

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Securing The Mind Of Christ

PHILIPPIANS 2:1-11

"Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus..." (2:5)

1. Discuss the following benefits which are found *"in Christ"* (2:1):
 - a. *"...consolation..."*
 - b. *"...comfort of love..."*
 - c. *"...fellowship of the Spirit..."*
 - d. *"...affection and mercy..."*

2. Paul emphasized the need for unity in 1:27, and does so again here. Discuss the implications and application of the command to be *"...like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind."* (2:2)

3. Contrast the two manners of conduct which the apostle references by defining the following terms (2:3-4):
 - a. *"...selfish ambition..."*
 - b. *"...conceit..."*
 - c. *"...lowliness of mind..."*

4. Paul supplies Jesus as the supreme example for us to pattern our lives after. Discuss how Jesus exemplified the qualities which Paul has demanded of the Philippians. (2:5-8)

5. Take a closer look at the following phrases in Paul's discourse, that we might appreciate further the example of humility which Jesus supplies (2:6-8):
 - a. *"...being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God..."*

b. *“...made Himself of no reputation...”*

c. *“...taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men...”*

d. *“...being found in appearance as a man...”*

6. How has God *“highly exalted”* Jesus? What is the *“name which is above every name”*? **(2:9)**
7. Paul says that *“every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth”*. Who are these different groups? When will this occur? **(2:10)**
8. In conjunction with the bowed knees of **2:10**, Paul says that *“every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord”*. What is the significance of such a confession? Discuss the implication of the word *“every”*. **(2:11)**

Lessons and principles:

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Shining As Lights In The World

PHILIPPIANS 2:12-30

“...that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world...” (2:15)

1. Why did Paul begin his statement with “*therefore*”? What relationship exists between obedience and salvation? (2:12)

2. What does it mean to “*work out your own salvation with fear and trembling*”? (2:12)

3. If we are to work out our own salvation, then why does Paul immediately say, “*...it is God who works in you both to will and to do...*”? How is it that these statements are not contradictory? (2:12-13)

4. Define the following words (2:14-15):
 - a. “*...complaining...*”
 - b. “*...disputing...*”
 - c. “*...blameless...*”
 - d. “*...harmless...*”

5. What is the evidence that one is indeed a child of God? (2:14-16)

6. Discuss the contrast established between the child of God and the world. Look at other Bible passages which illustrate this difference also. (2:14-16)

7. Paul rejoices, and calls the Philippians to rejoice with him if he “...*is being poured out as a drink offering on the sacrifice and service...*” of their faith. What does this mean? **(2:17-18)**

8. What do we learn about Timothy from Paul’s letter? Search for more characteristics of Timothy from the rest of Scripture. **(2:19-23)**

9. Who is this man Epaphroditus? What do we know about his relationship with Paul and the Philippians? **(2:25-26)**

10. What is the “...*sorrow upon sorrow...*” that Paul was troubled about? **(2:27-28)**

11. Discuss the commendation which Paul gave Epaphroditus to the Philippians. What can we learn from this man for our service to God today? **(2:29-30)**

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Securing The Knowledge Of Christ

PHILIPPIANS 3:1-11

"Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ..." (3:8)

1. What does it mean to "*rejoice in the Lord.*" How is the repeating of this command by Paul "*safe*" for Christians? (3:1)

2. Paul cautions that they "*...beware of dogs...evil workers...the mutilation!*" What are these things? (3:2)

3. The apostle writes, "*...we are the circumcision...*" Who is "*we*"? Discuss the characteristics specified about these. (3:3)

4. Discuss the fleshly things which Paul might lay confidence in (3:5-6):
 - a. "*...circumcised the eighty day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews...*"

 - b. "*...concerning the law, a Pharisee...*"

 - c. "*...concerning zeal, persecuting the church...*"

d. *“...concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.”*

5. How would these things be *“gain”* for Paul? What was Paul willing to do, that he might *“gain Christ”*? Discuss how these things are applicable to folks today. **(3:7-8)**

6. The apostle mentions two means of achieving righteousness, that which is from the law, and that which is by faith in Christ. Discuss the differences between these. Having identified himself *“...concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless...”*, why would Paul set it aside? **(3:9)**

7. What is *“...the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings...”*? How are these found? Why did Paul seek to know these? **(3:10-11)**

Lessons and principles:

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The Prize Of The Upward Call Of God

PHILIPPIANS 3:12-4:1

"...I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." (3:14)

1. What image does the apostle use to speak of the Christian's pursuit of victory? What has Paul not yet attained? Define the word "*perfected*". (3:12)
2. Twice the apostle says "...I press on..." What thought does this phrase convey? What is it that Paul presses on to receive? (3:12-14)
3. After repeating the fact that he has not yet laid hold, we read, "...one thing I do, forgetting those things which are ahead and reaching forward to those things which are ahead..." Discuss the meaning and application of this text. (3:13)
4. What "*mind*" does the apostle call upon the mature to have? In what way might one "...think otherwise..."? How will God "...reveal even this to you..."? (3:15)
5. Paul acknowledges that people differ in their level of maturity as Christians. What is the apostle's instruction for all? (3:16)
6. The writer calls upon the saints to follow him (and those who walk as he did) as examples. What do we know of Paul's walk that would qualify him as our example? How do we determine today who we should follow as a pattern? (3:17)

7. Paul identifies those who are enemies of Christ. Discuss the words used by Paul to describe them. **(3:18-19)**
 - “...whose end is destruction...”

 - “...whose god is their belly...”

 - “...whose glory is their shame...”

 - “...who set their minds on earthly things...”

8. What are the implications of Paul’s statement, “...For our citizenship is in heaven...”? **(3:20)**

9. Discuss the transformation which will occur at the Lord’s coming. What other Bible texts speak of this event? **(3:20-21)**

10. What does it mean to “...stand fast in the Lord...”? Discuss the significance of each word in the phrase. **(4:1)**

Lessons and principles:

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Securing The Peace Of Christ

PHILIPPIANS 4:2-9

“...and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.” (4:7)

1. What do we know about Euodia and Syntyche? Comment on the double usage of the word “*implore*” in Paul’s statement regarding these two. (4:2-3)
2. Why tell the saints to “...*rejoice in the Lord always...*” at this particular place in his epistle? (4:4)
3. What does it mean to “...*let your gentleness be known...*”. How do we do this? What does “*gentleness*” entail? (4:5)
4. How do we replace our anxieties with the peace of God? Paul says the peace of God “...*surpasses all understanding...*” What does this mean? (4:6-7)
5. What is the difference between a “*prayer*” and a “*supplication*”? What key element needs to be included in our prayers? (4:6)

PHILIPPIANS 4:5 FROM VARIOUS VERSIONS

“...let your **gentleness** be known to all...” (NKJV)
“...let your **forbearance** be known to all...” (ASV)
“...let your **moderation** be known unto all...” (KJV)
“...let your **gentle behaviour** be clear to all...” (BBE)
“...let your **gentle spirit** be known to all...” (NASB)

6. Define the following words: (4:8)
- “...true...”
 - “...noble...”
 - “...just...”
 - “...pure...”
 - “...lovely...”
 - “...of good report...”
 - “...virtue...”
 - “...praiseworthy...”
7. What do all these characteristics describe? How does one go about meditating on these things? (4:8)
8. What is the significance of each of the following words: (4:9)
- “...learned...”
 - “...received...”
 - “...heard...”
 - “...seen...”
9. What awaits those who will walk according to the path exemplified in the apostle Paul? How does the promise of this verse relate to that of **verse 6-7**? (4:9)

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God's Care For His Own & Greetings

PHILIPPIANS 4:10-23

"And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus." (4:19)

1. What action/relationship does the word "care" refer to? Why had the Philippian "care" for Paul ceased for a time? (4:10)
2. Discuss the contentment which Paul speaks of. What do his words reveal about his experiences as a minister of Christ? (4:11-12)
3. Discuss the significance of the statement, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." (4:13)
4. How involved were the Philippians' in Paul's work? What does this teach us about the saints in Philippi? What lesson is in this for us? (4:14-16)
5. Who receives the greater benefit when congregations share with a preacher "...concerning giving and receiving..."? (4:17-19)
6. Discuss the promise, "...my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus." Can you find other passages in Scripture which relate to this text? (4:19)

7. Why use “...my God...” in **verse 19**, but “...our God and Father...” in **verse 20**?

8. What are the implications of Paul’s statement, “...to our God and Father be glory forever and ever”? (**4:20**)

9. In other epistles, when Paul expressed greetings from himself to the saints, we find specific people mentioned (ie. **Romans 16:3-15; Colossians 4:15-17; 2 Timothy 4:18**). Why, with the obviously close relationship Paul has with the Philippians does he merely give the general statement, “Greet every saint in Christ Jesus.”? (**4:21**)

10. When sending greetings from others, the apostle mentions three specific groupings, “...the brethren who are with me...”, “...all the saints...”, and “...those who are of Caesar’s household.” Who are each of these groups? (**4:21-22**)

11. Paul ends with a statement very much like he began his epistle with (**1:2**). Define the word “grace”, and discuss the meaning of the phrase used. (**4:23**)

Lessons and principles:

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