

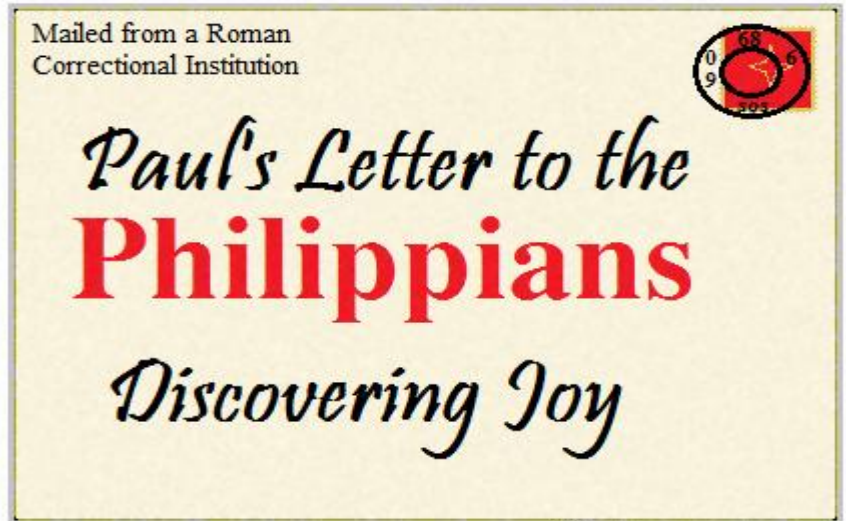


Bible Books - Chapter by Chapter Series

Philippians

Hebrews 4:12 "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

Philippians is basically a thank you letter from Paul to the church at Philippi. He is grateful for their gifts which they sent to take care of him, probably while he was in prison. Paul also takes the occasion to address some questions that were apparently sent to him, and perhaps some opposition to his teaching. Paul wrote it from prison, probably in Rome, but possibly elsewhere.



Suggested methodology for each lesson:

1. Fellowship (Save most of this for the end of class.)
2. Take prayer requests (Try to keep it from becoming a competition to see who has the most or the worst.)
3. Pray (The idea here is to leave our troubles with God so we can give His word our attention with a clear mind.)
4. Read the lesson's chapter aloud from the Bible. (... or a few verses at a time as you answer the questions.)
5. Answer and *briefly* discuss the "fill in the blank" questions. (Let those who prefer to listen, listen. My answers on the next page are just one opinion; you may have a better answer.)
6. On the final "Think & Pray" question everyone should take a few minutes to pray over it and jot down their own thoughts before the discussion. **This will give the Holy Spirit a time to speak.**
7. Discuss your "Think & Pray" answers. (Never force anyone to share theirs. As with the other questions, my answer is just one more opinion; you may have a better answer.)
8. Close in prayer (It is best to call on others to pray, but try to get their permission ahead of time.)
9. Fellowship (Leave this as open ended as possible for the time and place you meet.)

Depending on the number of people, each lesson is expected to take about one hour. Steps 4 thru 7 are about half of that. If you take longer, let each lesson take more than one meeting, or consider breaking into two groups. If you take less time, extra questions are provided for discussion called "For Further Thought"

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Philippians Introduction Philippi was the capital city of the Roman province of Macedonia. Macedonia is in south central Europe just above Greece. According to Acts, it is the first European place visited by Paul. The founding of the church at Philippi by Paul's missionary team is recorded in the sixteenth chapter of Acts. Read Acts 16:9-40 and answer the following questions:

- [A] Why did Paul decide to go to Macedonia? _____
- [B] Who went with Paul to Philippi? _____
- [C] What was the leading city of the Roman colony of Macedonia? _____
- [D] Who was the first reported European convert to Christianity? _____
- [E] Did Paul cast demons out of the slave girl out of compassion for her? _____
- [F] What crimes were Paul and Silas accused of committing? _____

[G] What did Paul and Silas do in prison? _____



After a good jailin' & beatin' Paul & Silas liked to kick back with a little JAIL HOUSE ROCK. Acts 16:25



An earthquake frees Paul after a midnight worship jail service, and in response the jailer prepares to kill himself. Acts 16:25-28

- [H] How were Paul and Silas released from their chains? _____
- [I] After realizing the prisoners had not escaped, what did the jailer want to know? _____
- [J] What three kindnesses did the jailer show Paul and Silas? _____
- [K] When Paul and Silas heard that they were free to leave jail, what did they do? _____
- [L] Where did Paul and Silas go when they were finally persuaded to leave prison? _____

[M] What do the following passages tell you about the kind of church the Philippians had? (Remember that Philippi was in Macedonia and the capital of it.)

Think & Pray Rom. 15:25-26 _____

2 Cor. 8:1-5 _____

2 Cor. 9:1-2 _____

2 Cor. 11:7-9 _____

----- ANSWERS -----

Philippians Introduction

- [A] Why did Paul decide to go to Macedonia? He saw a vision. Acts 16:9-10
- [B] Who went with Paul to Philippi? Luke, Timothy, Silas, and perhaps others. This was a sort of trick question designed to remind you of the importance of context. Silas - see Acts 15:40 and Acts 16:19; Timothy - see Acts 16:1-4; and Luke, the author of Acts - see Acts 16:10-13 noticing the pronoun "we" and Acts 16:15 noticing the pronoun "us"; others - Since we know Paul almost always had traveling companions, and because they are seldom named, we can never assume we have a complete listing of who was with Paul.
- [C] What was the leading city of the Roman colony of Macedonia. Philippi Acts 16:12
- [D] Who was the first reported European convert to Christianity? Lydia Acts 16:14-15
- [E] Did Paul cast demons out of the slave girl out of compassion for her? No. He did it because he was annoyed. Acts 16:18
- [F] What crimes were Paul and Silas accused of committing? Throwing the city into confusion, and proclaiming customs unlawful for Romans Acts 16:20-12
- [G] What did Paul and Silas do in prison? Prayed and sang hymns Acts 16:25
- [H] How were Paul and Silas released from their chains? An earthquake Acts 16:25-26
- [I] After realizing the prisoners had not escaped, what did the jailer want to know? How to be saved Acts 16:28-30
- [J] What three kindnesses did the jailer show Paul and Silas? Washed their wounds, took them into his house, and fed them Acts 16:33-34
- [K] When Paul and Silas heard that they were free to leave jail, what did they do? Refused to leave Acts 16:25-37
- [L] Where did Paul and Silas go when they were finally persuaded to leave prison? First to Lydia's house and then to Thessalonica through a couple of other places. Acts 16:40 and Acts 17:1 This is another example of the importance of checking context.
- [M] **CHURCH AT PHILIPPI** Here is how I analyzed it:
- Romans 15:25-26 They were generous givers.
 - 2nd Corinthians 8:1-5 Recipients of God's grace; in great trial of affliction; had abundant joy; were in deep poverty; were sacrificial givers; were persistent in prayer; submitted to God's will
 - 2nd Corinthians 9:1-2 Willing to follow the example of others
 - 2nd Corinthians 11:7-9 Supported Paul's missionary work while he was in Corinth

For further thought:

- (n) Who or what convinced the Philippian jailer that he needed to be saved? Acts 16:28-30.
- (o) Some people believe repentance is required for salvation. If it is essential why isn't it mentioned in Acts 16:22-34?
- (p) It says his whole household was saved because he believed. How does that work? Acts 16:31
- (q) The jailer was very kind to Paul and Silas after he was saved. What have you done for the person or people who led you to the Lord?
- (r) In Rom 15:25-26 it says the people of this church were generous and in 2 Cor 11:7-9 that they supported a missionary in a distant city. Does this describe you?
- (s) In 2 Cor 8:1-5 they are described as patient and even joyful in time of trouble. How about you?
- (t) In 2 Cor 8:1-5 they are described as persistent in prayer and submissive to God's will. How about you?

Philippians, Chapter 1. A greeting, a prayer for Paul's readers, and a quick report of his situation.

Answer the following questions while reading chapter 1:

[1A] Who wrote Philippians? _____

[1B] How often does Paul thank God for his readers? _____

[1C] Who was Paul confident would do what? _____

[1D] Paul prays that his readers will have something that continues to grow. What? _____

[1E] Where does the fruit of righteousness which fills us come from? _____

[1F] Which verse or verses tell us that Paul is in jail or prison? _____

[1G] What was Paul's response to hypocrites proclaiming Christ? _____

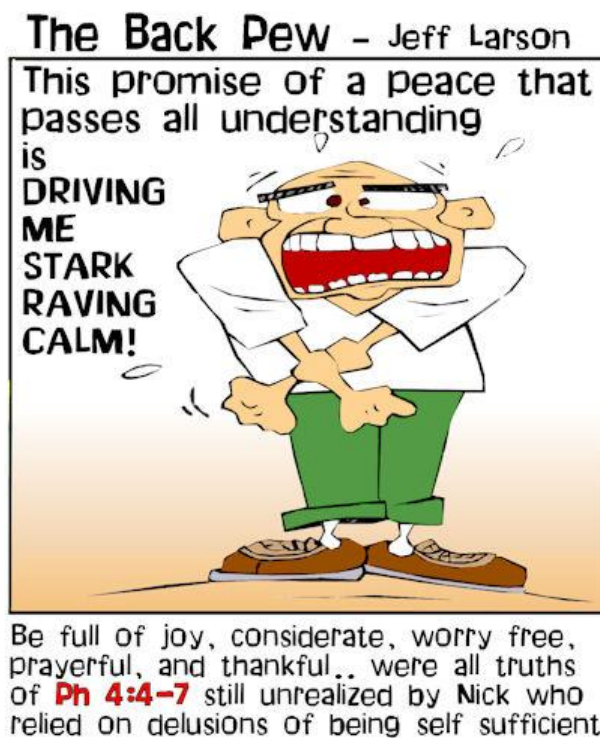
[1H] Who did Paul say would be exalted in his body regardless of anything? _____

[1I] Paul says that for him to live is _____ but for him to die is _____

[1J] Which did Paul prefer, life or death? _____

[1K] How did Paul urge his readers to conduct themselves? _____

[1L] What two things were the Philippians given? _____



[1M] In Phil 1:12-20 Paul seems happy to be in jail. Why? (See also Acts 16:25)

Think & Pray _____

----- ANSWERS -----

Philippians Chapter 1

[1A] Who wrote Philippians? Paul and Timothy Phil 1:1

[1B] How often does Paul thank God for his readers? Every time he thinks of them. Phil 1:3.

[1C] Who was Paul confident would do what? "I am confident ... that He who began a good work in you will perfect it." Phil 1:6 He is Jesus Christ in this case

[1D] Paul prays that his readers will have something that continues to grow or abound. Love Phil 1:9

[1E] Where does the fruit of righteousness which fills us come from? Jesus Christ Phil 1:11

[1F] Which verse or verses tell us that Paul is in jail or prison? Phil 1:13-14

[1G] What was Paul's response to hypocrites proclaiming Christ? He rejoiced Phil 1:15-18

[1H] Who did Paul say would be exalted in his body regardless of anything? Jesus Christ Phil 1:19-20

[1I] Paul says that for him to live is Christ, but for him to die is gain. Phil 1:21

[1J] Which did Paul prefer, life or death? He wasn't sure. They both had pros and cons. Phil 1:21-26

[1K] How did Paul urge his readers to conduct themselves? In a manner worthy of the Gospel Phil 1:27

[1L] What two things were the Philippians given? Belief in Christ & suffering for His sake Phil 1:29

[1M] **HAPPY IN JAIL** I believe it is because Paul saw God's mighty hand using the situation for the furtherance of the Gospel. His attention was focused on God, not his circumstances. (I would like to be more like that.) Paul knew that God could deliver him from the Roman prison any time He chose to do so; therefore he was content to be where God wanted him to be. It reminds me of a song that G.A. Young wrote in 1934:

"God Leads Us Along"

Some through the waters, some through the flood,
Some through the fire, but all through the blood;
Some through great sorrow, but God gives a song,
In the night season and all the day long.

For further thought:

(1n) In Philippians 1:6 Paul says Jesus Christ will finish what He started in us. What did He start? How will we know when He is finished?

(1o) In Philippians 1:29 they were given two things: belief in Christ and suffering for His sake. Is it possible to have one without the other? Why?

(1p) In Philippians 1:21-26 Paul ponders whether he prefers life or death. He decides it would be better to live for the sake of others. What do you think about this?

(1q) How do you think Paul felt about the Philippians? What makes you think so?

(1r) What motives could the people described in Phil 1:15-18 have for preaching the Gospel? Are there still people like that today. How should we respond to them?

(1s) In Philippians 1:27 Paul exhorts his readers to behave in a manner worthy of the Gospel. If you were to watch somebody behaving in this manner, what exactly would they be doing?

Philippians, Chapter 2. An encouragement towards unity, humility, and spreading the gospel message. A short summary of the gospel. Timothy and Epaphroditus are lifted up as examples. Answer the following questions while reading chapter 2:

[2A] If the Philippians were united in mind and spirit, having the same love, and were all having a single purpose what would it do for Paul? _____

[2B] Whose interests are we supposed to watch out for? _____

[2C] Paul says our mind or attitude should be the same as whose? _____

[2D] How obedient was Jesus? _____

[2E] How many are going to confess that Jesus Christ is Lord? _____

[2F] We are to do all things without what? _____

[2G] In what sort of generation of people did the Philippian church exist? _____

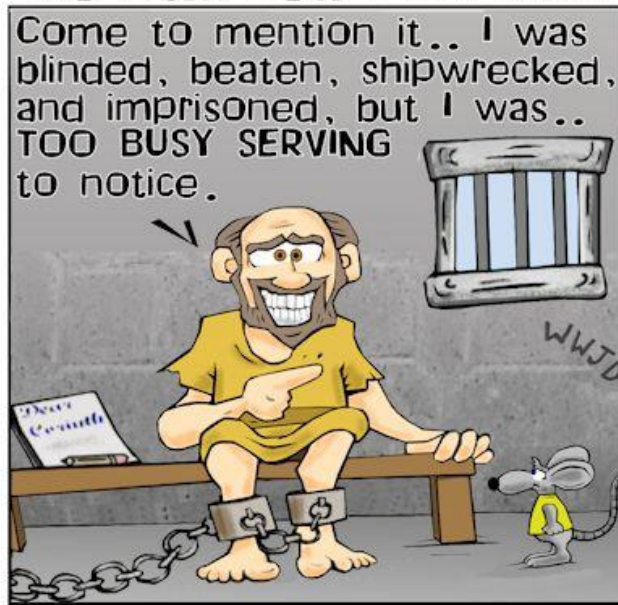
[2H] Who does Paul hope to send to the Philippians? _____

How had Timothy served Paul? _____

[2I] Who probably carried this letter to the Philippians? _____

[2J] How sick was Epaphroditus? _____

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



The Apostle Paul.. too wrapped up in his love for God to notice his own problems. **Acts** THAT'S A NICE WAY TO APPROACH LIFE.

[2K] Would you interpret Philippians 2:5-8 to mean that Jesus was equal with God, or that He was not equal with God? Why? (Hint: Hebrews 2:9)

Think & Pray _____

----- ANSWERS -----

Philippians Chapter 2

- [2A] If the Philippians were united in mind and spirit, having the same love, and were all having a single purpose what would it do for Paul? Fulfill his joy or make his joy complete Phil 2:2
- [2B] Whose interests are we supposed to watch out for? Everyone's including our own Phil 2:4
- [2C] Paul says our mind or attitude should be the same as whose? Jesus Christ Phil 2:5
- [2D] How obedient was Jesus? To the point of death Phil 2:8
- [2E] How many are going to confess that Jesus Christ is Lord? Everyone Phil 2:9-11
- [2F] We are to do all things or everything without complaining, grumbling, disputing, arguing, or murmuring. Phil 2:14
- [2G] In what sort of generation of people did the Philippian church exist? Crooked & perverse Phil 2:15
- [2H] Who does Paul hope to send to the Philippians? Timothy Phil 2:19-23
How had Timothy served Paul? Like a child serving his father Phil 2:22
- [2I] Who probably carried this letter to the Philippians? Epaphroditus Phil 2:25-30
- [2J] How sick was Epaphroditus? To the point of death Phil 2:27
- [2K] **TRINITY** Jesus Christ is a member of the Godhead and is co-equal with the Father and the Holy Spirit. However, for the brief time He was here on earth, He voluntarily gave up His rights, without giving up His divinity.

For further thought:

- (2L) Compare Paul's behavior in Acts 16:18 with what Paul writes in Philippians 2:3-4. Is it fair to say Paul could learn from his mistakes? Why or why not?
- (2m) In Philippians 2:12 we are the one who is working, but in the next verse it is God that is working? How do we explain that?
- (2n) In Philippians 2:15 their circumstances are described as being in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation. Does that describe our circumstances? Why or why not?
- (2o) In Philippians 2:17-18 Paul uses phrases "share my joy" and "share your joy." What does it mean to share joy in the difficult circumstances being described?
- (2p) In 2:1-4 Paul gives the Philippians an exhortation about their behavior. Was this just the Apostle waxing eloquent about the nature of Christian behavior or was he addressing something he had heard about their behavior? Of course, our answer is speculative, but whatever you think about this, why do you think so? Do you think your church would benefit by doing what Paul is talking about here?
- (2q) What did we learn about Timothy and Epaphroditus in Philippians 2:19-30? Which one are you more like? What makes you think so?

Philippians, Chapter 3. Imitation of Christ, not becoming like a Jew, should be our goal.

Encouragement to continue in our Christian walk regardless of obstacles.

Answer the following questions while reading chapter 3.

[3A] How are we to rejoice? _____

[3B] What are we to have no confidence in? _____

[3C] What did Paul regard as far superior to all his accomplishments and worldly possessions?

[3D] Paul wanted to be conformed to the death of Christ in order to what? _____

[3E] Did Paul consider himself fully mature or perfect? _____

[3F] Towards what prize or goal was Paul pursuing or pressing? _____

[3G] If our attitude is wrong who did Paul say was going to let us know? _____

[3H] How did Paul offer to lead the Philippians? _____

[3I] What is the god of those who are the enemies of the cross of Christ? _____

[3J] Where is our citizenship? _____

[3K] What did Paul mean by conforming to the death of Christ in Phil 3:10? (Hints: Mt 10:38 & Mt 16:24)

Think & Pray _____

The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



I strain to reach the end of the race and receive the prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us up to heaven.

Philippians 3:14

----- ANSWERS -----

Philippians Chapter 3

[3A] How are we to rejoice? In the Lord Phil 3:1

[3B] What are we to have no confidence in? the flesh Phil 3:3

[3C] What did Paul regard as far superior to all his accomplishments and worldly possessions?
Knowing Jesus Christ the Lord. Phil 3:4-10

[3D] Paul wanted to be conformed to the death of Christ in order to what? Be resurrected Phil 3:10-11

[3E] Did Paul consider himself fully mature or perfect? No Phil 3:12

[3F] Towards what prize or goal was Paul pursuing or pressing?
The heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus. Phil 3:14

[3G] If our attitude is wrong who did Paul say was going to let us know? God Phil 3:15

[3H] How did Paul offer to lead the Philippians? By example Phil 3:17

[3I] What is the god of those who are the enemies of the cross of Christ?
Their stomach, belly or appetite Phil 3:19

[3J] Where is our citizenship? Heaven (The KJV calls it conversation instead of citizenship, and since the Greek word only appears once in the New Testament, it is difficult for lexicographers to determine its exact meaning. It is clearly related to the Greek word for politics, so citizenship does seem like the better translation. It also seems to better fit the context.) Phil 3:20

[3K] **CONFORMING** I think it means to deny yourself, and live for Christ instead. How are you doing with that?

For further thought:

(3L) Do Philippians 3:1 and 2 seem to have a totally different tone? Why?

(3m) Suppose you were trying to make the same point Paul was in Philippians 3:3-9? What could you list as accomplishments and virtues that might be generally accepted? Then you could say, "they mean nothing to me compared with Jesus Christ."

(3n) In Philippians 3:13-14 Paul describes a difficult effort he is making towards becoming more Christ like. Can you truthfully say you are "forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead?"

(3o) Paul vividly describes a very lost person in Philippians 3:19. Do you know anyone like that? How could they be reached with the Gospel of Jesus Christ?

(3p) In Philippians 3:20 what does it mean that we have our "citizenship in heaven?"

Philippians, Chapter 4. A hymn of rejoicing and a note of thanks.

Answer the following questions while reading chapter 4

[4A] Paul names three people who may not have been getting along. Who? _____

[4B] How often are we to rejoice in the Lord? _____

[4C] When we are praying to God about what we want what should our attitude be? _____

[4D] What will keep or guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus? _____

[4E] What are we to do with those things that are admirable, commendable, excellent, honest, honorable, just, lovely, noble, praiseworthy, pure, reputable, right, true, and virtuous?

[4F] How does Paul offer to lead the Philippians? _____

[4G] What has Paul learned how to do regardless of his circumstances? _____

[4H] What could Paul do through Him who gave him strength? _____

[4I] How many times had the Philippians sent gifts to help Paul - once, twice or many times? _____

[4J] When Philippians 4:4 says "Rejoice" is it a command or a suggestion? Why?

Think & Pray _____

FORT PEACE

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



www.joyfultoons.com © 2007 Michael D. Waters

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

- PHILIPPIANS 4:6,7 NIV

----- ANSWERS -----

Philippians Chapter 4

[4A] Paul names three people who may not have been getting along. Who? Euodia, Syntyche & Clement Phil 4:2-3

[4B] How often are we to rejoice in the Lord? Always Phil 4:4

[4C] When we are praying to God about what we want what should our attitude be? Thankful or grateful Phil 4:6

[4D] What will keep or guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus? The peace of God which is more than we can understand Phil 4:7

[4E] What are we to do with those things that are admirable, commendable, excellent, honest, honorable, just, lovely, noble, praiseworthy, pure, reputable, right, true, and virtuous?
Think about them, let our minds dwell on them, or meditate on them. Phil 4:8

[4F] How does Paul offer to lead the Philippians? By example Phil 4:9

[4G] What has Paul learned how to do regardless of his circumstances? Be content Phil 4:11-12

[4H] What could Paul do through Him who gave him strength? Everything or all things Phil 4:13

[4I] How many times had the Philippians sent gifts to help Paul - once, twice or many times? Many times Phil 4:16 says more than once before and when you add the gift he was thanking them for in this letter it makes it at least more than twice.

[4J] **COMMAND?** It certainly looks like a command, doesn't it? It is kind of a trick question designed to get you interested in studying Greek. This is one of those times where the English is a little misleading. In English, it looks a lot like a command, but in the Greek the first rejoice is in the indicative mood, not imperative as the English construction would lead us to believe. It is as if Paul is simply stating a fact, "You rejoice!" The second rejoice is in the future tense. Paul is exhorting us to rejoice now and expect to continue rejoicing in the future. It is an encouragement and exhortation, not a command of God, at least in this particular verse. Is it commanded elsewhere?

For further thought:

(4k) If you were writing a letter to a group of Christians in difficulty what examples from your own behavior would you be able to mention for them to imitate? Phil 4:9

(4l) In Phil 4:19-23 Paul blesses his readers. Do you believe that blessing extends to us? Why or why not?

(4m) In Phil 4:2-3 Paul is trying to make peace. How does he try to do it? Do you try to make peace that way? Why or why not?

(4n) If someone was to ask you what Philippians is about what would you tell them?

(4o) What about the book of Philippians do you hope you will be able to apply in your life?

(4p) Which verse would you think might be best to memorize from Philippians? Why?



I can do everything through him who gives me strength.
- PHILIPPIANS 4:13 NIV