



HOW TO LIVE: Reading the Book of Philippians

6-7:30PM Wednesdays / Sept 10 - Nov 12 / WEPC Chapel

Life is complex. The New Testament book of Philippians provides us with straightforward spiritual guidance in light of the essential teachings of Christianity. For anyone that would like to grow as they learn what it means to follow Jesus. Led by Kevin Greene, Changjwok Deng, and Becca Wethered. Questions? kevin@wepc.org

What's Our Plan?

Class	Date	Text	Theme
1	Sept 10	Acts 16:6-40	How to Begin a Church
2	Sept 17	Philippians 1:1-11	How to Enjoy People
3	Sept 24	Philippians 1:12-30	How to Hope
4	Oct 1	Philippians 2:1-11	How to Know God
5	Oct 8	Philippians 2:12-18	How to Grow
6	Oct 15	Philippians 2:19-30	How to Have Fellowship
7	Oct 22	Philippians 3:1-9	How to be Ruthless
8	Oct 29	Philippians 3:10-21	How to be Passionate
9	Nov 5	Philippians 4:1-9	How to Make Peace
10	Nov 12	Philippians 4:10-23	How to be Content

Catch Up & Warm Up

"And be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith" (Philippians 3:9).

Last week, we saw how Paul has discounted everything that might get in the way of knowing the Gospel. Especially, the stuff we might try to use to build our

reputation or assert our righteousness. He throws out every bit of that good stuff that he might find in Christ alone having the righteousness of Jesus imputed to him by faith alone.

So, our practice was to **pay attention when you are tempted to put confidence in the flesh. Then, ask God to help you repent and remember that Christ died for your sin and for your righteousness. How did it go?**

Philippians 3:10-21, *How to be Passionate*

- What is a goal you are currently working toward in your life? How do you find energy to pursue that goal?

¹⁰that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

- What is Paul's goal?
- What motivates Paul to keep pressing on toward this goal? (11)

- What is the relationship between "suffering" and "death", and knowing Christ?

¹²Not 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. ¹³Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you. ¹⁶Only let us hold true to what we have attained.

- Paul says that he is “*forgetting what lies behind*” (13) in his race. What does he mean?
- Instead, Paul is “*straining forward to what lies ahead*” (13-15). What is in view for Paul?
- “*Let those of us who are mature*” (16). What are the marks of Christian maturity?

¹⁷ Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸ For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹ Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. ²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

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- What is Paul’s warning to the church (18-19)?
 - Who are the “enemies of the cross”? What things identify them? (18-19)
 - What is the purpose of the Cross of Christ?
 - What promises are given to those who trust the Cross? (20-21)
 - Paul says “*our citizen in heaven*” (20). Why might Paul use that imagery with the Philippians?
 - How does being a citizen of heaven impact the way we live today?
 - What will happen when Jesus returns?

Seeing & Becoming Like Jesus: TBD

Our repeated themes for Wednesday Night Fellowship are **Spiritual Vision: Seeing Jesus** (“What is Jesus doing?”) and **Spiritual Formation: Becoming Like Jesus** (“how do we change and grow to look like Jesus?”). In verse 10, Paul tells the Philippians “*I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his suffering, becoming like him in his death*” (Philippians 3:10).

- How do you know that you are *becoming like Jesus*? What is God using these days or used in the past (this could be a person or a situation) to make you become more and more like Jesus?

Group Discussion

Tell the group how do you know that you are becoming like Jesus? What is God using these days or have used in the past (this could be a person or a situation) to make you become more and more like Jesus?

Practice

Paul writes “*Not that...am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ has made me his own*” (Philippians 3:12). Paul acknowledges that there is a “not yet” aspect to the Christian life. We are not yet complete. Final perfection is not to be achieved on this side of the grave. Until that time comes, there will always be room for progress.

This week, when you sin against someone or someone sins against you, pray and to ask God to give you courage to repent, and to ask for forgiveness.

Your Labor Is Not In Vain

"Be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain." I Corinthians 15:58 ©2017 Porter's Gate Publishing (BMI), Hymns From the Porter's Gate (ASCAP), and Porter's Gate Publications (SESAC). Used by permission. CCLI #708363

Your labor is not in vain

Though the ground underneath you is cursed and stained

Your planting and reaping are never the same

But your labor is not in vain

Your labor is not unknown

Though the rocks they cry out and the sea it may groan

The place of your toil may not seem like a home

But your labor is not unknown...

For I am with you, I am with you

I am with you, I am with you

For I have called you

Called you by name

Your labor is not in vain

The vineyards you plant will bear fruit

The fields will sing out and rejoice with the truth

For all that is old will at last be made new

The vineyards you plant will bear fruit...

The houses you labored to build

Will finally with laughter and joy be filled

The serpent that hurts and destroys shall be killed

And all that is broken be healed...

Be Thou My Vision

"Whatever was gain to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ" Philippians 3:7. Ancient Irish Hymn (8 th century), trans. Mary Byrne (1905); Tune: SLANE, Traditional Irish melody. Public domain

Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart

Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art

Thou my best thought by day or by night

Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my Light

Be Thou my Wisdom, and Thou my true Word

I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord

Thou my great Father, I Thy true son

Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise

Thou my inheritance now and always

Thou and Thou only, first in my heart

High King of heaven, my treasure Thou art

High King of heaven, my victory won

May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heav'n's Sun

Heart of my own heart, whatever befall

Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all