

Philippians

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## Why are we starting with Philippians?

Because it's one of my favorite books in the Bible. It's a short book. It has some very famous passages that I want you to study. If you haven't read it yet, you'll love it!

## What are the other HABITS I should be developing?

Great question! (Thanks, I wrote it.) One of the many goals in our ministry is to help committed students develop HABITS necessary for continual spiritual growth. We've identified these habits and created some tools (like ROOTWORKS) to assist you in developing these habits:

**H**ang time with God

**A**ccountability (with another believer)

**B**ible memorization

**I**nvolvement with the church body

**T**ithing commitment

**S**tudy the Bible

If you don't have any of the other tools besides this ROOTWORKS notebook, you can get them from your small group leader or at one of the weekend services.

I'm proud of you for taking the RootWorks challenge,



**Brandon Johns**

## Read this Stuff Before you begin

### The Author: Paul

Paul wrote over half of the books in the New Testament. In your reading of the New Testament, you will find that Paul is passionate about God. He not only wants to live for Christ, he wants others to know him as well. Paul came from an elite Jewish background and spent several years trying to persecute and destroy the early Christian Church.

His zeal for persecution ended when God “sent him for a spin.” If you aren’t aware of how Paul became a Christian, I encourage you to read about his conversion experience in the book of Acts (it’s mentioned three times: Acts 9:1-19; 22:1-21; 26:12-18). Once God changed Paul’s heart, he was on his way to become a great preacher, missionary, and church planter. Paul was one of God’s key instruments in the rise of Christianity and the building of the early Church.

### The Audience: Christians in Philippi

The apostle Paul wrote the book of Philippians from a Roman jail cell. He was writing to the Christians in the church of Philippi whom he knew from his earlier years of ministry. Paul established this church and was keeping in contact with them. He had heard reports that they were suffering and that there was some false teaching in their midst. He wanted to set them straight and remind them of his foundational teaching.

As a pastor, I love reading this book because Paul expresses, in great detail, his love for his people. He wants them to know that he loves Jesus, and he wants them to follow and love Jesus too. Paul is filled with the love of Christ and everything else is worthless in comparison.

My prayer is that you will also find everything in life worthless in comparison to knowing Jesus Christ.



Questions for Philippians 1:1-2

1. The term “servant” is similar to the word “slave” or “slave to a master.” Why do you think Paul would call himself a servant or slave of Jesus Christ?
2. What would a present day servant “look like?” Give some specific examples.
3. When Paul addresses ALL the Christians in Philippi he greets them using the word “grace.” This word means “God’s favor is given to sinful people with no strings attached.” I like to define grace as “undeserved favor.” Why do you think Paul started a letter with this greeting?

Questions for Philippians 1:3-6

1. In verses 3-6 you should be able to sense Paul’s love for these Christians. List three examples of Paul’s love (i.e. v. 3 “I thank my God every time I remember you.”)

Who is someone in your life that when you think of them you break out in a prayer of thanksgiving? Have you ever told this person? [At the end of your study try writing them a letter and let them know you appreciate them.]



2. Think of one of your friends and list three ways he or she might need your help:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

3. Is it easy or difficult for you to help your friends during their difficult times?

4. How do you like to be treated during difficult times?

5. Reread Philippians 1:1-8 and summarize the passage in one sentence.

What is one truth you've learned from lesson one? How can you apply this truth to your life?





Questions for Philippians 1:9-11

1. In these verses Paul outlines a prayer for the Christians in Philippi. Read the first two sentences of this prayer and then fill in the blanks.

Dear \_\_\_\_\_, (insert your name)  
I pray that your love will \_\_\_\_\_. I also pray that you will not only love much but you will love \_\_\_\_\_. I want you to follow your heart and your feelings but I also want you to think so your love will be more than emotional and it will be intelligent and \_\_\_\_\_.

2. What do you think it means be “pure and blameless?”

3. List three words that define purity to you.

4. Do you know any Christians who could be described as pure? What is it about that person that is attractive to you?

5. Using verses 9-11 as an example of a prayer, spend a few minutes and pray that prayer for someone you love.

## Questions for Philippians 1:12-14

1. What has happened as a result of Paul's imprisonment?
2. What does Paul's experience say about how God can work through difficult circumstances?
3. How does Paul's experience relate to the following verse?  
*"And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to His purpose for them." Romans 8:28*
4. Do you ever feel imprisoned at school or chained to someone?
5. How might your "imprisonment" serve to help you talk about God?



## Questions for Philippians 1:15-18

1. Paul is talking about two types of preaching being conducted while he's in jail. One group has sincere motives while the other group has greedy motives. Paul recognizes the mixed motives but he's thrilled the message of Christ is getting out regardless of motives. What is an example of a church having greedy motives?
2. What can one do when he/she recognizes impure motives?

3. What is an area of your life where you find yourself with impure motives on a regular basis?

4. Reread Philippians 1:9-19 and summarize the passages in one sentence.

WHAT IS ONE TRUTH YOU'VE LEARNED FROM LESSON TWO?  
HOW CAN YOU APPLY THIS TRUTH TO YOUR LIFE?

