



PHILIPPIANS 1

Would you describe Paul as a “driven” man? If so, what was his drive?

What are some indicators of his drive from Philippians 1?

Philippians 1:21-24 (NIV)

*For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. ²² If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. **Yet what shall I choose? I do not know!** ²³ **I am torn between the two:** I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; ²⁴ but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body.*

If you had the choice of being taken up to heaven or staying here on earth, which would you choose? Why?

Consider Paul's Experience

Paul has seen heaven

2 Corinthians 12:2-4 (NLT)

I was caught up to the third heaven fourteen years ago. Whether I was in my body or out of my body, I don't know—only God knows. ³ Yes, only God knows whether I was in my body or outside my body. But I do know ⁴ that I was caught up to paradise and heard things so astounding that they cannot be expressed in words, things no human is allowed to tell.



How do you think this experience might have affected Paul's perspective of life on earth?

What does Paul conclude?

Philippians 1:23-26 (NIV)

I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; ²⁴ but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body. ²⁵ Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, ²⁶ so that through my being with you again your joy in Christ Jesus will overflow on account of me.

What is the one reason Paul would forsake departing to heaven and choose to stick around here on earth?

Is this how we live? What does the way in which we live reveal about our belief about heaven?

If we knew what was waiting for us, would we strive so hard after meaningless things here on earth? How might we live differently?

How would this perspective help solve the relational tensions in Philippi between Euodia and Syntyche?

How might this perspective help guard the unity of our church?

What are some action steps we might take in light of this perspective?



Old Testament (39 books)		
History (17)	Poetry (5)	Prophecy (17)
The Law (5) Pentateuch		Major Prophets (5) Large
Genesis Exodus Leviticus Numbers Deuteronomy	Job Psalms Proverbs Ecclesiastes Song of Songs	Isaiah Jeremiah Lamentations Ezekiel Daniel
Other Historical books (12)		Minor Prophets (12) Small
Joshua Judges Ruth 1 Samuel 2 Samuel 1 Kings 2 Kings 1 Chronicles 2 Chronicles Ezra Nehemiah Esther		Hosea Joel Amos Obadiah Jonah Micah Nahum Habakkuk Zephaniah Haggai Zechariah Malachi

This week we want to encourage you to memorize the rest of the historical books of the Bible.

JOSHUA - ESTHER

- Joshua:** Joshua takes over from Moses and leads the Israelites into the Promised Land.
- Judges** After Joshua dies, God establishes a series of Judges to lead the Israelites.
- Ruth:** The story of a non-Israelite who has more faith than the Israelites. The meaning of the characters' names plays a significant role in this book.
- 1-2 Samuel:** Israel is led by the prophet Samuel.
- 1-2 Kings:** The history of the kings up to the point of exile to Babylon.
- 1-2 Chronicles:** The history of the kings written AFTER exile to show why they ended up in exile.
- Ezra:** The return from exile to rebuild the temple.
- Nehemiah:** The return from exile to rebuild Jerusalem.
- Esther:** The story of how God used one woman, in exile, to save the entire Jewish nation.

The reason some of the books have parts 1 and 2 is simply because the scrolls they were written on would have been too long. To make them easier to read they broke them up into two separate scrolls.



Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. James 1:22 (NIV)

PASSAGE	THOUGHTS TO CONSIDER	APPLY 1 POINT TODAY
<p>DAY 1</p> <p>Philippians 2:1-4 (NLT) <i>Is there any encouragement from belonging to Christ? Any comfort from his love? Any fellowship together in the Spirit? Are your hearts tender and compassionate? ² Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one mind and purpose. ³ Don't be selfish; don't try to impress others. Be humble, thinking of others as better than yourselves. ⁴ Don't look out only for your own interests, but take an interest in others, too.</i></p>	<p>Paul is assuming the answer to each of these questions is a resounding YES! But think about each question to see if that is how you would truly answer. If so, why?</p> <p>Even in a church setting it is possible to work against each other. What is Paul's solution to avoiding division?</p> <p>If I took this approach, how might I respond to people differently?</p> <p>We can only be free to build up others if we stop being concerned about building up ourselves. It is a very freeing experience to not have to defend our pride. Why do you think that might be?</p> <p>How might we start serving others instead of expecting to be served?</p>	<p>In what way can this passage change my life if I apply what it says? What is one thing I can do differently today as a result of this passage?</p> <p>How might some concepts in this passage tackle the issue of tensions among people in a church setting?</p>



In the space below, write out the 12 “Other Historical” books of the Bible.

J _____

J _____

R _____

1S _____

2S _____

1K _____

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1C _____

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PASSAGE	THOUGHTS TO CONSIDER	APPLY 1 POINT TODAY
<p>DAY 2</p> <p>Philippians 2:5-11 (NLT) <i>You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. ⁶ Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. ⁷ Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, ⁸ he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honor and gave him the name above all other names, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.</i></p>	<p>What privileges did Jesus deny himself in order to bring others into a relationship with the Father?</p> <p>How much am I willing to give up for the same purpose?</p> <p>Desiring the respect of others is often one of the biggest barriers to us reaching out to others. Jesus seemed to be free of this. Why did he not have to "grasp" after his identity as God in front of everyone?</p> <p>What does that say to me about my "need" for respect and sense of worth?</p> <p>If I am secure in who I am and what I am here to accomplish, how might that affect my courage in reaching out to others?</p> <p>Jesus was very intentional about what the Father sent him here to accomplish. How can I become more intentional in my own life in reaching out to others? What might it cost me? What might I need to let go of? What will be the reward?</p>	<p>In what way can this passage change my life if I apply what it says? What is one thing I can do differently today as a result of this passage?</p> <p>How might some concepts in this passage tackle the issue of tensions among people in a church setting?</p>



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<p>DAY 3</p> <p>Philippians 2:12-18 (NLT) <i>Dear friends, you always followed my instructions when I was with you. And now that I am away, it is even more important. Work hard to show the results of your salvation, obeying God with deep reverence and fear. ¹³ For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him. ¹⁴ Do everything without complaining and arguing, ¹⁵ so that no one can criticize you. Live clean, innocent lives as children of God, shining like bright lights in a world full of crooked and perverse people. ¹⁶ Hold firmly to the word of life; then, on the day of Christ's return, I will be proud that I did not run the race in vain and that my work was not useless. ¹⁷ But I will rejoice even if I lose my life, pouring it out like a liquid offering to God, just like your faithful service is an offering to God. And I want all of you to share that joy. ¹⁸ Yes, you should rejoice, and I will share your joy.</i></p>	<p>Now that I have salvation, how is it being worked out in my life?</p> <p>Do I truly revere and fear God?</p> <p>Are there areas in my life where I am disobeying God?</p> <p>How much do I complain?</p> <p>What does my complaining say to God?</p> <p>How does complaining hinder my effectiveness in witnessing to others?</p> <p>How effective am I at running a purposeful race for God?</p> <p>Does news of my life cheer up those who care about me spiritually?</p>	<p>In what way can this passage change my life if I apply what it says? What is one thing I can do differently today as a result of this passage?</p> <p>How might some concepts in this passage tackle the issue of tensions among people in a church setting?</p>



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<p>DAY 4</p> <p>Philippians 2:19-24 (NLT) <i>If the Lord Jesus is willing, I hope to send Timothy to you soon for a visit. Then he can cheer me up by telling me how you are getting along. ²⁰ I have no one else like Timothy, who genuinely cares about your welfare. ²¹ All the others care only for themselves and not for what matters to Jesus Christ. ²² But you know how Timothy has proved himself. Like a son with his father, he has served with me in preaching the Good News. ²³ I hope to send him to you just as soon as I find out what is going to happen to me here. ²⁴ And I have confidence from the Lord that I myself will come to see you soon.</i></p>	<p>Would news of my spiritual progress encourage someone who cared about me spiritually?</p> <p>Am I noted as one who cares for the spiritual welfare of others?</p> <p>Have I proven myself to be a faithful representative of Jesus Christ?</p> <p>Have I taken ministry seriously or simply viewed it as something someone else does?</p> <p>Are there people I am consistently praying for and encouraging spiritually or am I primarily focussed on myself?</p> <p>How can I start caring for others spiritually?</p>	<p>In what way can this passage change my life if I apply what it says? What is one thing I can do differently today as a result of this passage?</p> <p>How might some concepts in this passage tackle the issue of tensions among people in a church setting?</p>



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<p>DAY 5</p> <p>Philippians 2:25-30 (NLT) <i>Meanwhile, I thought I should send Epaphroditus back to you. He is a true brother, co-worker, and fellow soldier. And he was your messenger to help me in my need. ²⁶ I am sending him because he has been longing to see you, and he was very distressed that you heard he was ill. ²⁷ And he certainly was ill; in fact, he almost died. But God had mercy on him—and also on me, so that I would not have one sorrow after another. ²⁸ So I am all the more anxious to send him back to you, for I know you will be glad to see him, and then I will not be so worried about you. ²⁹ Welcome him with Christian love and with great joy, and give him the honor that people like him deserve. ³⁰ For he risked his life for the work of Christ, and he was at the point of death while doing for me what you couldn't do from far away.</i></p>	<p>Are these words that people could use to describe me: true brother/sister; co-worker in Christ; fellow soldier?</p> <p>Have I invested so heavily in the relationships in my church that people care about how I am faring spiritually and physically?</p> <p>Am I willing to risk my life in service to Jesus Christ?</p> <p>If there is something I can do for the kingdom of God when others can't, do I jump at the opportunity to serve?</p> <p>Do I use some of my time to help encourage the kingdom of God?</p> <p>Do I try to make a difference for the kingdom of God?</p>	<p>In what way can this passage change my life if I apply what it says? What is one thing I can do differently today as a result of this passage?</p> <p>How might some concepts in this passage tackle the issue of tensions among people in a church setting?</p>

In the space below, write out all 17 Historical books of the Bible.

