

# Small Group Study Guide

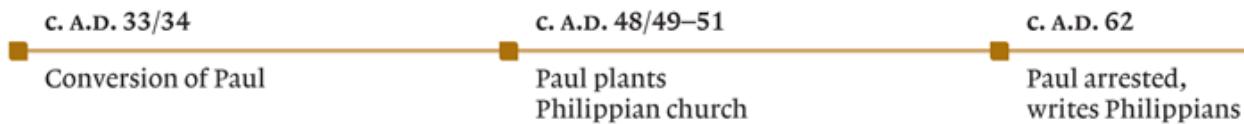
For the Book of

Philippians

Contents	Page
Introduction to Philippians	2
Study 1: Philippians 1:1 and 1:2	3
Study 2: Philippians 1:3-11	6
Study 3: Philippians 1:12-18	8
Study 4: Philippians 1:19-26	10
Study 5: Philippians 1:27-30	12
Study 6: Philippians 2:1-11	13
Study 7: Philippians 2:12-13	15
Study 8: Philippians 2:14-18	16
Study 9: Philippians 2:19-24	17
Study 10: Philippians 2:25-30	18
Study 11: Philippians 3:1-11	20
Study 12: Philippians 3:12-16	22
Study 13: Philippians 3:17-21	24
Study 14: Philippians 4:1-3	25
Study 15: Philippians 4:4-7	26
Study 16: Philippians 4:8-9	27
Study 17: Philippians 4:10-14	28
Study 18: Philippians 4:15-23	29

## Introduction to Philippians (*from the ESV Study Bible*)

### Timeline



#### Author, Date, and Recipients

The apostle Paul wrote this letter to the Christians in Philippi, probably from Rome c. A.D. 62.

#### Theme

Paul encourages the Philippians to live as citizens of a heavenly city, growing in their commitment to serve God and one another. Jesus is the supreme example of this way of life. Paul, Timothy, and Epaphroditus try to be good examples as well.

#### Purpose

Paul wrote to the Philippians from prison. He had several purposes in mind: (1) to tell them that Epaphroditus had recovered from a serious illness; (2) to encourage them in their faith; (3) to assure them that he was still in good spirits; and (4) to thank them for their continued support.

#### Key Themes

- I. Christians need to keep making spiritual progress (1:12, 25; 3:12–16).
- II. Such progress requires a proper spiritual outlook (1:5–11; 2:1–11; 3:7, 15; 4:7–9).
- III. Christ is the supreme example for the Christian. Mature Christians can also serve as role models (1:12–26; 2:5–11, 19–30; 3:3–17; 4:9).
- IV. Suffering will come, but Christians can still be joyful (1:12–26; 2:14–15; 4:4, 11–13, 19).
- V. Prayer is crucial for maintaining a joyful Christian life (1:3–11; 4:5–7).
- VI. Christians can enjoy rich relationships with one another; they can be united in service to promote the gospel (1:4, 7, 24–27; 2:1–4, 19–30; 4:2–4, 14).
- VII. Keeping the law cannot provide a right standing with God; believers are saved only through their faith in Jesus Christ (3:2–10).
- VIII. Jesus is fully God and fully man. Because of his suffering on the cross, he is now glorified as Lord and Christ (2:5–11).

#### Outline

- I. Greeting and Prayer (1:1–11)
- II. Paul's Reflections on His Imprisonment (1:12–30)
- III. Encouragement to Humble Service (2:1–30)

- IV. Opponents of the Gospel: Where Does Righteousness Come From? (3:1–21)
- V. Concluding Encouragement and Thanksgiving (4:1–23)

### The Setting of Philippians

c. A.D. 62

Paul wrote his letter to the Philippians while in prison, probably in Rome. Philippi was the site of a key military victory by Augustus Caesar, and as a result it was made a Roman colony. Philippi was the first city in present-day Europe where Paul established a church.



\* Before starting Study 1, read about the beginning of the Philippian Church in Acts 16:11-40.

## Study 1

Text: Philippians 1:1 (NET)

From Paul and Timothy, slaves of Christ Jesus, to all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the overseers and deacons.

- Key Words and Phrases

Discuss the meaning and significance of the following: “slaves”, “saints”, “overseers”, “deacons”.

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- Historical Facts

What do we learn about Paul from this text?

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What do we learn about the Philippian church?

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- Theological Insight

What does it mean to be “slaves of Christ Jesus”?

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- Discerning Authorial Intention

Why did Paul use the word “all” in reference to the saints? Why did he mention them separately from the overseers and deacons?

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- Contemporary Application

In today’s world, what do you think it means for Christians to be called “saints”? What do you think comes to mind for most people when they hear the word “saint”?

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- Personal Application

What does it mean for you to be a “slave” of Jesus Christ?

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Text: Philippians 1:2 (NET)

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!

- Key Words and Phrases

Discuss the meaning and significance of the following: “grace”, “peace”, “God our Father”.

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- Theological Insight

What does this verse show us about Paul’s understanding of God? Why do you think Paul writes “from God our Father **and** the Lord Jesus Christ”?

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- Discerning Authorial Intent

How does this verse set the tone for Paul’s relationship with the Philippian church?

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- Contemporary Application

What do you think the word “grace” means in today’s society? Where do people find peace?

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- Personal Application

What is the difference between the peace of the world and peace from God? How do you experience God’s peace?

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Additional Notes:

## Study 2

Text: Philippians 1:3-11(NET)

3 I thank my God every time I remember you. **4** I always pray with joy in my every prayer for all of you **5** because of your participation in the gospel from the first day until now. **6** For I am sure of this very thing, that the one who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus. **7** For it is right for me to think this about all of you, because I have you in my heart, since both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel all of you became partners in God's grace together with me. **8** For God is my witness that I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus. **9** And I pray this, that your love may abound even more and more in knowledge and every kind of insight **10** so that you can decide what is best, and thus be sincere and blameless for the day of Christ, **11** filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ to the glory and praise of God.

- Key Words and Phrases

Discuss the meaning and significance of the following: "participation in the Gospel", the day of Christ Jesus", "love", "knowledge", "insight", "blameless", fruit of righteousness".

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- Historical Facts

What do we learn about Paul's circumstances and his relationship with the Philippian believers?

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- Theological Insight

What do you think is the meaning of the promise in verse 6?

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Do you think the order of the content of Paul's prayer in verses 9 – 11 is significant? Why?

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- Discerning Authorial Intention

What specific issues in the Philippian church do you think Paul may be addressing in his prayer?

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- Contemporary Application

By observing this prayer, describe Paul's vision for the church. Do you think the modern church fits this vision?

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- Personal Application

What can you learn from Paul's prayer that can help you to grow in your prayer life?

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Additional Notes:

### Study 3

Text: Philippians 1:12-18 (NET)

**12** I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that my situation has actually turned out to advance the gospel: **13** The whole imperial guard and everyone else knows that I am in prison for the sake of Christ, **14** and most of the brothers and sisters, having confidence in the Lord because of my imprisonment, now more than ever dare to speak the word fearlessly.

**15** Some, to be sure, are preaching Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from goodwill. **16** The latter do so from love because they know that I am placed here for the defense of the gospel. **17** The former proclaim Christ from selfish ambition, not sincerely, because they think they can cause trouble for me in my imprisonment. **18** What is the result? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is being proclaimed, and in this I rejoice.

- Key Words and Phrases

Discuss the meaning and significance of the following: “gospel”, “speak the word fearlessly”, “defense of the gospel”, “rejoice”.

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- Historical Facts

How does Paul’s imprisonment effect his fellow believers? What is Paul’s view of those who preach from a wrong motivation?

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- Theological Insight

What do you learn about God working through circumstances from this text?

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What does this text reveal about a Christian attitude toward people serving Christ in spite of their motivation?

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- Discerning Authorial Intention

How do these verses encourage the Philippians if they had to face persecution?

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- Contemporary Application

How might you help people who feel trapped or don’t understand their circumstances?

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- Personal Application

What does this text teach you about handling adversity in your life?

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Additional Notes:

## Study 4

Text: Philippians 1:19-26 (NET)

Yes, and I will continue to rejoice, **19** for I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ. **20** My confident hope is that I will in no way be ashamed but that with complete boldness, even now as always, Christ will be exalted in my body, whether I live or die. **21** For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. **22** Now if I am to go on living in the body, this will mean productive work for me, yet I don't know which I prefer: **23** I feel torn between the two, because I have a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far, **24** but it is more vital for your sake that I remain in the body. **25** And since I am sure of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for the sake of your progress and joy in the faith, **26** so that what you can be proud of may increase because of me in Christ Jesus, when I come back to you.

- Key Words and Phrases

Discuss the meaning and significance of the following: "The Spirit of Jesus Christ", "hope", "living", "dying".

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- Historical Facts

Considering that Paul is torn between "living" and "dying", why do you think it is more important for him to remain living?

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- Theological Insight

What does it mean to live? What does it mean to die? What does it mean when Paul writes "Christ will be exalted in my body, whether I live or die"?

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- Discerning Authorial Intention

To what is Paul referring when he writes "so that what you can be proud of may increase because of me in Christ Jesus"? What might have this meant to the Philippian readers?

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- Contemporary Application

How does our contemporary society view death? As Christians, do we view death differently?

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- Personal Application

What does it mean when Paul writes “living is Christ”? How might that become our reality?

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Additional Notes:

## Study 5

Text: Philippians 1:27-30 (NET)

**27** Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ so that – whether I come and see you or whether I remain absent – I should hear that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind, by contending side by side for the faith of the gospel, **28** and by not being intimidated in any way by your opponents. This is a sign of their destruction, but of your salvation – a sign which is from God. **29** For it has been granted to you not only to believe in Christ but also to suffer for him, **30** since you are encountering the same conflict that you saw me face and now hear that I am facing.

- Key Words and Phrases

Discuss the meaning and significance of the following: “a manner worthy of the gospel”, “contending... for the faith”, “suffer for him”.

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- Historical Facts

What conflict do the Philippians face that they saw Paul face?

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- Theological Insight

How does the church “stand firm in one spirit, with one mind”? Why is this important?

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- Discerning Authorial Intention

What is Paul referring to when he speaks of a “sign” in verse 28? Why is he drawing the attention of the Phillipian readers to this?

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- Contemporary Application

What is the difference between the world’s view of suffering and a believer’s view of suffering?

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- Personal Application

How does this text influence how you view suffering and conflict?

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Additional Notes:

## Study 6

Text: Philippians 2:1-11 (NET)

**1** Therefore, if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort provided by love, any fellowship in the Spirit, any affection or mercy, **2** complete my joy and be of the same mind, by having the same love, being united in spirit, and having one purpose. **3** Instead of being motivated by selfish ambition or vanity, each of you should, in humility, be moved to treat one another as more important than yourself. **4** Each of you should be concerned not only about your own interests, but about the interests of others as well. **5** You should have the same attitude toward one another that Christ Jesus had,

**6** who though he existed in the form of God

did not regard equality with God  
as something to be grasped,

**7** but emptied himself

by taking on the form of a slave,  
by looking like other men,  
and by sharing in human nature.

**8** He humbled himself,

by becoming obedient to the point of death  
– even death on a cross!

**9** As a result God exalted him

and gave him the name  
that is above every name,

**10** so that at the name of Jesus

every knee will 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.

- Key Words and Phrases

Discuss the meaning and significance of the following: “same mind”, “same love”, “selfish ambition”, “humility”, “equality with God”, “emptied himself”.

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- Historical Facts

According to this text, what would complete Paul’s joy? What does this say about Paul’s connection to the Philippian church?

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- Theological Insight

Summarize what you specifically learn about Christ in this passage? How is it that Christ is simultaneously Lord and servant?

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- Discerning Authorial Intention

What is Paul teaching the Philippians about relationships through the example of Christ?

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- Contemporary Application

What should be the difference between what motivates believers and what motivated the world? Is this evident in today's church?

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- Personal Application

How do you practically live out the instruction to "treat one another as more important than yourself"? Why might it be difficult to live as a Christ-like servant?

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Additional Notes:

## Study 7

Text: Philippians 2:12-13 (NET)

**12** So then, my dear friends, just as you have always obeyed, not only in my presence but even more in my absence, continue working out your salvation with awe and reverence, **13** for the one bringing forth in you both the desire and the effort – for the sake of his good pleasure – is God.

- Key Words and Phrases

Discuss the meaning and significance of the following: “reverence”, desire and effort”.

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- Theological Insight

How is “working out” your salvation, as Paul writes, different than “working for” your salvation? Why is this important?

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- Discerning Authorial Intention

In what way is verse 13 encouraging in relation to Paul encouraging the Philippians to “continue working out your salvation”?

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- Contemporary Application

What dangers might there be in emphasizing the effort of man over the power of God or completely dismissing human effort in light of God’s power?

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- Personal Application

How do you “continue working out” your salvation?

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Additional Notes:

## Study 8

Text: Philippians 2:14-18 (NET)

**14** Do everything without grumbling or arguing, **15** so that you may be blameless and pure, children of God without blemish though you live in a crooked and perverse society, in which you shine as lights in the world **16** by holding on to the word of life so that on the day of Christ I will have a reason to boast that I did not run in vain nor labor in vain. **17** But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service of your faith, I am glad and rejoice together with all of you. **18** And in the same way you also should be glad and rejoice together with me.

- Key Words and Phrases

Discuss the meaning and significance of the following: “grumbling”, “blameless”, “perverse”, “word of life”, “drink offering”.

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- Historical Facts

How did Paul feel about the possibility of his martyrdom (being poured out)? How were the Philippians supposed to feel about this?

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- Theological Insight

What does verse 14 and the beginning of 15 teach us about God’s call on the Christian’s life?

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- Discerning Authorial Intention

What does Paul reveal to them that is the key to being able to “shine as lights in the world”?

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- Contemporary Application

Why do you think that sometimes the church fails at shining as lights in the world?

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- Personal Application

How is it possible for you to be “without blemish” in our “crooked and perverse society”?

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Additional Notes:

## Study 9

Text: Philippians 2:19-24 (NET)

**19** Now I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, so that I too may be encouraged by hearing news about you. **20** For there is no one here like him who will readily demonstrate his deep concern for you. **21** Others are busy with their own concerns, not those of Jesus Christ. **22** But you know his qualifications, that like a son working with his father, he served with me in advancing the gospel. **23** So I hope to send him as soon as I know more about my situation, **24** though I am confident in the Lord that I too will be coming to see you soon.

- Key Words and Phrases

Discuss the meaning and significance of the following: "hope in the Lord Jesus", "confident in the Lord".

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- Historical Facts

What do we learn about the relationship between Paul and Timothy?

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- Theological Insight

How did Paul as a leader influence Timothy? How did this contribute to the advancing of the gospel?

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- Discerning Authorial Intention

How might have the news of Timothy coming to visit the Philippians influence or affect them?

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- Contemporary Application

How does the relationship between Paul and Timothy provide a healthy model for developing leaders in the church?

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- Personal Application

Who is the Paul or Timothy in your life?

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Additional Notes:

## Study 10

Text: Philippians 2:25-30 (NET)

**25** But for now I have considered it necessary to send Epaphroditus to you. For he is my brother, coworker and fellow soldier, and your messenger and minister to me in my need. **26** Indeed, he greatly missed all of you and was distressed because you heard that he had been ill. **27** In fact he became so ill that he nearly died. But God showed mercy to him – and not to him only, but also to me – so that I would not have grief on top of grief. **28** Therefore I am all the more eager to send him, so that when you see him again you can rejoice and I can be free from anxiety. **29** So welcome him in the Lord with great joy, and honor people like him, **30** since it was because of the work of Christ that he almost died. He risked his life so that he could make up for your inability to serve me.

- Key Words and Phrases

Discuss the meaning and significance of the following: “brother”, “coworker”, “fellow soldier”, “messenger”, “minister”.

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- Historical Facts

From this passage, how would you describe Epaphroditus?

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- Theological Insight

Based on your responses to the section on key words and phrases, how would you describe the purpose of a believer in Christ?

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- Discerning Authorial Intention

Why did Paul want the Philippians to receive Epaphroditus with great joy and honor?

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- Contemporary Application

Is willingness to die necessary to be a servant of Christ? Do you think people in today’s church are willing to risk their lives for the sake of the gospel?

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- Personal Application

How do we properly honor people? Who deserves to be honored?

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Additional Notes:

## Study 11

Text: Philippians 3:1-11 (NET)

**1** Finally, my brothers and sisters, rejoice in the Lord! To write this again is no trouble to me, and it is a safeguard for you. **2** Beware of the dogs, beware of the evil workers, beware of those who mutilate the flesh! **3** For we are the circumcision, the ones who worship by the Spirit of God, exult in Christ Jesus, and do not rely on human credentials **4** – though mine too are significant. If someone thinks he has good reasons to put confidence in human credentials, I have more: **5** I was circumcised on the eighth day, from the people of Israel and the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews. I lived according to the law as a Pharisee. **6** In my zeal for God I persecuted the church. According to the righteousness stipulated in the law I was blameless. **7** But these assets I have come to regard as liabilities because of Christ. **8** More than that, I now regard all things as liabilities compared to the far greater value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things – indeed, I regard them as dung! – that I may gain Christ, **9** and be found in him, not because I have my own righteousness derived from the law, but because I have the righteousness that comes by way of Christ’s faithfulness – a righteousness from God that is in fact based on Christ’s faithfulness. **10** My aim is to know him, to experience the power of his resurrection, to share in his sufferings, and to be like him in his death, **11** and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.

- Key Words and Phrases

Discuss the meaning and significance of the following: “the flesh”, “the circumcision”, “zeal”, “power of his resurrection”.

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- Historical Facts

What was evil about those who Paul called evil workers?

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- Theological Insight

Contrast Paul’s understanding of God from before he knew Christ and after he knew Christ?

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- Discerning Authorial Intention

How does Paul’s discussion regarding “human credentials” help the Philippians in relation to the “evil workers”?

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- Contemporary Application

How do “human credentials” become “liabilities because of Christ”? What does it mean that “righteousness from God” is “based on Christ’s faithfulness”?

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- Personal Application

How do we go about knowing God in the way Paul describes in verse 10?

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Additional Notes:

## Study 12

Text: Philippians 3:12-16 (NET)

**12** Not that I have already attained this – that is, I have not already been perfected – but I strive to lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus also laid hold of me. **13** Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself to have attained this. Instead I am single-minded: Forgetting the things that are behind and reaching out for the things that are ahead,**14** with this goal in mind, I strive toward the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. **15** Therefore let those of us who are “perfect” embrace this point of view. If you think otherwise, God will reveal to you the error of your ways. **16** Nevertheless, let us live up to the standard that we have already attained.

- Key Words and Phrases

Discuss the meaning and significance of the following: “already attained this”, “perfected”, “single-minded”, “upward call of God in Christ Jesus”.

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- Historical Facts

What do you think Paul may have thought about how the believers in Philippi viewed him?

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- Theological Insight

How is it that a believer can be “perfect” and yet still strive for perfection?

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- Discerning Authorial Intention

What do you think Paul is trying to teach the Philippians concerning a realistic approach to the Christian life?

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- Contemporary Application

Do you think Christians might substitute “other prizes” in place of the “prize” mentioned in verse 14? What might these possibly be?

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- Personal Application

In light of the last part of verse 13, what should we forget and what should we reach for? What standard have you attained (verse 16)? Should you be content with that?

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Additional Notes:

## Study 13

Text: Philippians 3:17-21 (NET)

**17** Be imitators of me, brothers and sisters, and watch carefully those who are living this way, just as you have us as an example. **18** For many live, about whom I have often told you, and now, with tears, I tell you that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ. **19** Their end is destruction, their god is the belly, they exult in their shame, and they think about earthly things. **20** But our citizenship is in heaven – and we also await a savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, **21** who will transform these humble bodies of ours into the likeness of his glorious body by means of that power by which he is able to subject all things to himself.

- Key Words and Phrases

Discuss the meaning and significance of the following: “imitators”, “cross of Christ”, “citizenship is in heaven”, “subject all things”.

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- Historical Facts

Based on this text, what do you think was a threat to the Philippian church?

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- Theological Insight

What does verse 21 teach us about the future of believers?

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- Discerning Authorial Intention

What is Paul trying to achieve by contrasting himself as someone to imitate as opposed to some others who are “enemies of the cross”?

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- Contemporary Application

How can Christians be protected from being sidetracked and tempted by “earthly things”?

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- Personal Application

How comfortable would you be saying to people “be imitators of me”? Is this important?

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Additional Notes:

## Study 14

Text: Philippians 4:1-3 (NET)

**1** So then, my brothers and sisters, dear friends whom I long to see, my joy and crown, stand in the Lord in this way, my dear friends! **2** I appeal to Euodia and to Syntyche to agree in the Lord. **3** Yes, I say also to you, true companion, help them. They have struggled together in the gospel ministry along with me and Clement and my other coworkers, whose names are in the book of life.

- Key Words and Phrases

Discuss the meaning and significance of the following: "my joy and crown", "agree in the Lord", "true companion", "book of life".

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- Historical Facts

Why do you think Paul was appealing to Euodia and Syntyche?

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- Theological Insight

What role do Christians have in helping others solve conflicts?

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- Discerning Authorial Intention

What do you think Paul is hoping for in this text? What is motivating him?

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- Contemporary Application

In what way is disagreement or conflict among believers a problem? What way is it an opportunity?

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- Personal Application

How would you describe a Christians responsibility in relation to peace and unity? Should we agree about everything? Are there some things worth dividing over?

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Additional Notes:

## Study 15

Text: Philippians 4:4-7 (NET)

**4** Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I say, rejoice! **5** Let everyone see your gentleness. The Lord is near! **6** Do not be anxious about anything. Instead, in every situation, through prayer and petition with thanksgiving, tell your requests to God. **7** And the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

- Key Words and Phrases

Discuss the meaning and significance of the following: “rejoice”, “anxious”, “petition”, “peace of God”.

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- Historical Facts

Based on your reading of Philippians, what may have been the possible causes of anxiety for this group of believers?

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- Theological Insight

How would you describe the “peace of God”? Is peace based on circumstances?

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- Discerning Authorial Intention

What is the connection between this text and the circumstances referenced in verses 2 - 3?

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- Contemporary Application

Why do you think so many people today suffer from anxiety or acute anxiety? What are the common treatments for anxiety? What is Paul’s method for dealing with anxiety?

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- Personal Application

What causes anxiety in your life? Do you think rejoicing in the Lord and praying about everything is good solution? What do our hearts and minds need to be guarded from?

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Additional Notes:

## Study 16

Text: Philippians 4:8-9 (NET)

**8** Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is worthy of respect, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if something is excellent or praiseworthy, think about these things. **9** And what you learned and received and heard and saw in me, do these things. And the God of peace will be with you.

- Key Words and Phrases

Discuss the meaning and significance of the following: “think about these things”, “do these things”, “God of peace”.

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- Historical Facts

What have the Philippians “learned and received and heard and saw” in Paul?

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- Theological Insight

What are some examples of things we are to think about?

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- Discerning Authorial Intention

Why do you think Paul is connecting thinking and doing with the God of peace being with us?

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- Contemporary Application

Based on verse 9, how would describe Paul’s leadership style? Who are some leaders today that you think are worth imitating?

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- Personal Application

How do you control your thought life? Do you have a real sense of God’s peace?

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Additional Notes:

## Study 17

Text: Philippians 4:10-14 (NET)

**10** I have great joy in the Lord because now at last you have again expressed your concern for me. (Now I know you were concerned before but had no opportunity to do anything.) **11** I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content in any circumstance. **12** I have experienced times of need and times of abundance. In any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of contentment, whether I go satisfied or hungry, have plenty or nothing. **13** I am able to do all things through the one who strengthens me. **14** Nevertheless, you did well to share with me in my trouble.

- Key Words and Phrases

Discuss the meaning and significance of the following: “content”, “times of need”, “times of abundance”.

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- Historical Facts

What was the source of Paul’s great joy?

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- Theological Insight

What do we learn about circumstances in relation to Christ?

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- Discerning Authorial Intention

What is the importance of Paul’s message in relation to the circumstances of the Philippian church?

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- Contemporary Application

To what degree do circumstances govern people’s attitude toward life? How much do you think material wealth has a bearing on people’s circumstances? Generally speaking, do you think it is easier for Christians to joyfully serve Christ in “times of abundance”?

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- Personal Application

How do your circumstances affect you? What are the similarities and differences between contentment and peace? What is the source of our contentment?

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Additional Notes:

## Study 18

Text: Philippians 4:15-23 (NET)

**15** And as you Philippians know, at the beginning of my gospel ministry, when I left Macedonia, no church shared with me in this matter of giving and receiving except you alone. **16** For even in Thessalonica on more than one occasion you sent something for my need. **17** I do not say this because I am seeking a gift. Rather, I seek the credit that abounds to your account. **18** For I have received everything, and I have plenty. I have all I need because I received from Epaphroditus what you sent – a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, very pleasing to God. **19** And my God will supply your every need according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus. **20** May glory be given to God our Father forever and ever. Amen. **21** Give greetings to all the saints in Christ Jesus. The brothers with me here send greetings. **22** All the saints greet you, especially those who belong to Caesar's household. **23** The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

- Key Words and Phrases

Discuss the meaning and significance of the following: “gospel ministry”, “matter of giving and receiving”, “every need”, “fragrant offering”, “glorious riches in Christ Jesus”.

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- Historical Facts

What is behind Paul’s reference to Thessalonica? (See Acts 17:1-9)

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- Theological Insight

Who is the source of supply for our needs? How do needs get met? What is the significance of glory being given to God? What is the significance of Paul’s application of grace in verse 23?

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- Discerning Authorial Intention

What is Paul trying to communicate to the Philippians regarding the source of the gift they sent him? Why is this important?

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- Contemporary Application

In what way is the Philippian’s tending to Paul’s needs a form of worship? Do we see this kind of activity as an act of worship?

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- Personal Application

How does verse 19 shape your understanding of your walk of faith in Jesus Christ? Why is it important to follow verse 19 with verse 20?

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What have you learned through this study of Philippians that has helped you grow or clarify your understanding in regard to your relationship with Jesus?