

6) What is a saint?

7) Notice that it says saints "in Christ Jesus". Read Galatians 2:20 and Romans 6:6-14 for insight into what "in Christ Jesus" means. Write down what you learn.

Day 2

8) Who are the overseers and deacons? See I Timothy 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9; Acts 6:1-7; and I Timothy 3:8-13.

9) What common greeting is given?

10) From where do grace and peace come?

11) What difference do grace and peace make in your daily life?

12) Why do you think Paul opens his letter with this greeting?

Day 3

13) What does Paul say about the Philippian people in verse 3?

14) In verse 4, what does he do on behalf of the people?

15) How does Paul feel when he prays for the Philippian people?

16) Why does he pray with joy?

17) What do you think Paul means by "partnership in the gospel"? Read Romans 10:12-15 and I Peter 2:9.

18) What are some ways you partner with others in the gospel?

Day 4

19) According to verse 6, what is Paul confident of?

20) Define confident.

21) Why is Paul sure his Christian friends will keep going in their faith?

22) What good work is God carrying to completion (Ephesians 2:4-10) and what does that look like (1 John 3:2-3)?

23) When will the work be completed? What is that? See I Thessalonians 5:23-24 and II Thessalonians 1:7-10.

24) Notice that God begins, carries along, and completes this work. How does this truth personally speak into your life?

Day 5

25) What feeling is right for Paul?

26) Where does Paul hold the Philippians?

27) Why does he hold them in his heart?

28) How do they share in God's grace with Paul?

29) How much does Paul yearn for the Philippians?

30) Summarize Paul's feelings for the Philippian saints.

31) Do you have a deep affection for your brothers and sisters in Christ? Why or why not?

Philippians

Lesson 2 - Philippians 1:9 - 11

Joy in the Journey

Day 1

Read Philippians 1:1-11. Pray that God's Spirit will teach you.

- 1) What do you think you can tell about someone from whether they pray, who they pray to, and what they pray?

- 2) What is Paul's prayer for the Philippians?

- 3) Define abound.

- 4) How does Paul want their love to abound? In what?

Day 2

5) What kind of knowledge is Paul talking about? (Jeremiah 9:23-24; John 17:3; Colossians 1:9-10; II Timothy 1:12)

6) What is discernment or depth of insight?

7) What is the result of love abounding in knowledge and depth of insight (discernment)?

8) How often do you long to discern or approve what is best?

Day 3

9) How would your life change if you only approved what is excellent?

10) What does it mean to be pure and blameless?

11) Refer back to Lesson 1. What is the day of Christ?

Day 4

12) What does it mean to be filled with the fruit of righteousness? (See also James 3:13-18 and Galatians 5:22-25.)

13) Through whom does this fruit come? Read also John 15:1-8.

14) What is the point of being able to discern what is best, pure and blameless, and filled with the fruit of righteousness?

Day 5

15) How is this prayer different from your prayers?

16) Think about the content of Paul's prayer. How might this transform the way you pray for other people?

Day 3

9) What are the two contrasting motivations for preaching the gospel?

10) What does Paul say about this in verse 18?

11) Read I Thessalonians 2:3-9. What was Paul's gospel proclamation motivated by?

12) What things are most important to you? What really matters?

Day 4

13) What is Paul's response to the gospel going forth?

14) What does it mean to preach Christ?

15) Think about your own circumstances right now, good or bad. How can they be used to advance the gospel?

16) Why would persecution of one Christian produce in others courage or confidence rather than fear?

17) Opposition to the gospel created opportunity for the gospel. Can you think of other stories in Scripture where something was meant for evil but God used for good?

18) Are you bold to speak the gospel without fear? If not, why?

Day 5

19) What do we learn about Paul's priorities, concerns, joys, and motivations from these verses?

20) Do you care more about your reputation or your Redeemer's? About your comfort or about Christ being made known?

21) Do you often only find hope in a change of circumstances? How do you need to be transformed by the Lord in this area?

4) What is Paul's eager expectation and hope?

Day 2

5) Paul anticipates his deliverance as a result of what two things?

6) How does the Spirit help us?

7) Does Paul think he will be delivered from prison and death? How do you know? (See verse 20.)

8) What do you think Paul means by deliverance?

9) What do these verses show Paul is most concerned with?

Day 3

10) How can Christ be exalted in our bodies by life or death?

11) Explain verse 21.

12) How do your reactions to suffering show that you are, or are not most concerned about honoring Christ?

13) According to verses 22-24, what is Paul's struggle?

14) What is the "fruitful labor" Paul refers to?

15) How can thinking about our eternity being with Christ spur us on to fruitful labor now?

16) In what kind of fruitful labor in the church are you involved?

Day 4

17) What motivates Paul to go on living?

18) What do the words "continue" and "progress" imply?

19) What does Paul say will result through his being with the Philippians again?

20) Does your presence and investment in people cause them to overflow with joy in Christ Jesus?

Day 5

21) Think about whether you can say: "For me to live is Christ and to die is gain." Is the life or the death part harder for you to say? Explain your answer.

22) Are your labors more about bringing joy to yourself or are they for the progress and joy in the faith of others?

23) Can you think of some ways to serve others that will bring them joy and help them progress in the faith?

Philippians

Lesson 5 – Philippians 1:27-30

Joy in the Journey

Day 1

Read Philippians 1:12-30 and pray that the Spirit would teach you.

1) How does Paul tell his readers to conduct their lives?

2) When should they do this?

3) Is anyone worthy of the gospel? Read Romans 3:10-24; Ephesians 2:8-10; Deuteronomy 7:7-9.

4) What does it mean to conduct yourself in a manner worthy of the gospel?

Day 2

5) The command in verse 27, implies "live as a citizen." What parallels are implied between citizenship and Christian living?

6) What does Paul say he will hear and know about the believers in Philippi?

7) What does it reveal to the people who oppose the believers in Philippi?

8) Compare II Corinthians 2:15-16 to Philippians 1:28. What do these passages lead us to expect as a result of our witness?

Day 3

9) Read I Thessalonians 1:5-12. What is the destruction Paul writes about? What are some things you learn from this passage?

10) How does thinking about your salvation and the destruction of those who oppose God encourage you to endure suffering for Christ?

11) What does Paul say has been granted to the Philippian believers?

12) What does "granted" mean?

13) For whose sake have these things been granted?

Day 4

14) If belief is a gift, who gets the glory or credit?

15) Knowing God grants belief, how does it change your motivations in life? The way you pray for others to come to know God?

16) Do you consider suffering something granted to you on behalf of Christ? Read Matthew 5:10-12 and James 1:2-4.

Day 5

17) Does it make any difference to the Christian who suffers to see suffering as a gift?

18) How does seeing suffering as a gift change your attitude in the midst of it? the way you counsel others when they are suffering?

19) What do Paul and the Philippian believers have in common?

20) The gospel is good news but not easy news. How do you see this in verses 21-30?

Philippians
Lesson 6 - Philippians 2:1-11
Joy in the Journey

Day 1

Prayerfully read Philippians 2:1-11. Ask the Lord to Use His Word and Spirit to transform you.

1) What four things does Paul write about the Philippians having or possessing?

2) What should come as a result of these things being present in their life? What is Paul's appeal?

3) What will this do for Paul?

4) The word "if" is better translated "since," because you do have. How does that change what we understand Paul to be saying?

5) In what ways are you conscious of these being present in your life?

6) Why is unity of Christians so important? (Read also John 17:20-23.)

Day 2

7) Define selfish ambition and vain conceit.

8) What is acceptable to do from rivalry or conceit?

10) In what ways do you struggle with rivalry and conceit?

11) What does Paul tell the Philippians to do in humility? When should they do this?

12) How difficult is it for you to consider others better than yourself and look out for their interests above your own?

Day 3

13) Read verses 6-8 and describe the attitude of Christ Jesus.

14) What would it look like in your daily life for you to reflect this attitude of Christ?

15) What do we learn about Jesus in verse 6? (See also John 1:1-4, 14-18; and Colossians 1:15-20.) What else do we learn about him in verse 7?

16) What did Jesus give up when he became man? Read John 17:5 and II Corinthians 8:9.

17) Did Jesus give up his divinity while he was on the earth, or did he remain fully God at all times? (John 1:18; 5:18; 8:58-59; 10:30; and 20:28) Explain your answer.

18) Why is it necessary for Jesus, the Messiah, to be fully God and fully man?

Day 4

19) What is the nature of a servant?

20) How would your relationships in the church be different if your life was characterized by humility?

21) In what ways was Jesus obedient? Read John 4:34 and Hebrews 4:15. How far did his obedience go?

22) What did God do in response to Christ's humiliation?

Day 5

23) According to verse 10 and 11, what will be the result of this?

24) How can you explain verse 10 and 11 knowing that everyone does not bow the knee to Jesus or confess Him as Lord?

25) All of this will be for what ultimate purpose?

26) Have you acknowledged Jesus as Lord? In what ways do you currently bow your knees and confess with your tongue that Jesus Christ is Lord?

27) Are there areas of your life in which you are revisiting bowing your knees to Christ?

28) How should the truth that one day every knee will bow and every tongue confess Jesus Christ as Lord affect your relationships with those who don't currently confess Christ?

29) Jesus serves as a perfect example for us, but he is also much more than an example. Why did God send his Son to die on the cross? Read I Peter 3:18.

5) What does it mean to work out our salvation?

6) How are the Philippians told to work it out? What does that mean?

Day 2

7) What is the difference between “working for” and “working out” our salvation?

8) In what two ways does God work in the Philippians? What does that mean?

9) There is a small connecting word between verses 12 and 13. What is it and how does it function?

10) How can Paul tell the Philippians to work and at the same time write that God is doing the work? Read also 1 Corinthians 15:10; Ephesians 2:10; Philippians 1:6; and Hebrews 13:20-21.

11) In your life, what is the evidence that you are serious about working out your salvation?

Day 3

12) What is God's good purpose for you?

13) What is the command given in verse 14 and when should we do it?

14) What is the result of doing everything without complaining or arguing?

15) What are the Philippians in the midst of?

16) Why is verse 14 challenging? What kinds of things provoke these responses in your life?

Day 4

17) What are the Philippians to hold fast to?

18) How can holding fast to the word of life help you keep from grumbling and complaining in particular areas of your life?

19) What does Paul say he can boast in?

20) When is the day of Christ?

21) Explain verse 17.

Day 5

22) What does Paul say he is able to do and encourage the Philippians to do in verse 18?

23) Why would Paul rejoice even if his life is sacrificed? What is more important to Paul: his life or the Philippians faith? Why?

24) Can the people who have invested in you spiritually rejoice because of the fruit they observe in your life?

25) What truths in this passage encourage you to rejoice on a daily basis?

- 5) Do you treat the need to encourage others as more important than your own needs?
What is the only thing that could motivate you to live this way?

Day 2

- 6) In verse 22, how does Paul describe his relationship with Timothy?
- 7) In light of this passage and II Timothy 1:1-7 and 3:10-17, what seem to have been the chief features of this discipling relationship?

8) What does Paul tell the Philippian believers again verse 23?

9) What is Paul confident about in verse 24? From where does this confidence come from?

Day 3

10) Whom else is Paul sending?

11) What do we learn about Epaphroditus?

12) What kept Epaphroditus from dying?

13) How was this mercy for Paul as well?

Day 4

14) Why is Paul all the more eager to send Epaphroditus?

15) How does Paul encourage the Philippian believers to think of and treat Epaphroditus? Why?

16) Whom do you honor and rejoice to be around? For what reasons?

17) How can we develop gratitude and admiration for the gifts and graces of others?

Day 5

18) Who is held in high regard/honored in your church and why? Would Timothy and Epaphroditus be? Why or why not?

19) How does Timothy show us what humility looks like in real life?

20) How does Epaphroditus show us what humility looks like in real life?

21) Reflect on all of Philippians 2. How does this passage teach, correct, rebuke, and train you in righteousness?

5) When do you find it difficult to rejoice in the Lord?

Day 2

6) For whom does Paul tell the Philippians to look out?

7) How does Paul further describe who the dogs are?

8) Who does Paul contrast the dogs with in verse 3?

9) What is circumcision? Read Genesis 17:9-14.

10) What is the circumcision that Paul is writing about? See Deuteronomy 30:6 and Romans 8:28-29.

11) How are the false teachers putting confidence in the flesh?

12) In what ways do we see the same Christ-plus false teaching in our day that Paul saw in Philippi?

Day 3

13) What are the three characteristics of true Christians which Paul lists in verse 3?

14) What are the practical implications of these characteristics?

15) What does Paul's resume look like? Why does he have reasons to put confidence in the flesh?

16) What does Paul say about his resume 'in verse 7?

17) In what ways do you struggle with putting confidence in the flesh?

18) To what does Paul consider everything a loss and of surpassing worth?

19) What does he call all those things he has suffered loss in verse 8?

20) In what ways are we tempted to rely for our standing before God on things in our background?

Day 4

21) What does it mean to “know” Christ Jesus my Lord?

22) What has Paul gained?

23) Why is this such a gain for Paul? For us?

24) About what two kinds of righteousness does Paul write?

25) Can a person be truly righteous apart from Christ? (Romans 3:10-24)

Day 5

26) Who and what does Paul long to know according to verse 10?

27) What does knowing the power of the resurrection do for us? Read Ephesians 1:18-20; Colossians 1:11 and II Peter 1:3-4.

28) What is the fellowship of sharing in his suffering? See I Peter 2:19-26; 3:9-18; 4:1-2,12-14?

29) What does this do for us?

30) Read II Corinthians 4:6-11. What does "becoming like him in his death" mean?

31) When will we attain to the resurrection of the dead?

32) What do you value more than knowing Christ? (Consider what is reflected in your bank statement, weekly schedule, and use of free time.)

33) What would the people closest to you say is most important to you?

Day 2

5) What does he say Christ Jesus has done for him?

6) Has Christ taken hold of you? How do you know?

7) What does he call the Philippians in verse 13?

8) What does he tell the brothers at the beginning of verse 13?

Day 3

9) What is the one thing Paul says he does?

10) What lies behind that Paul resolves to forget?

11) In what ways do you struggle with forgetting what is behind?

12) What language does Paul use in verse 12-14 to describe his approach to the Christian life? What imagery is he conveying? What does it say about the nature of Christian growth?

Day 4

13) To what does Paul say he strains toward?

14) What does Paul press on toward?

15) What is Paul referring to by what lies ahead, the goal, the prize, and the upward call?

16) How does Paul exhort the Philippians in verse 15?

17) What does he say to those who think differently?

18) Who will make things clear to those who think differently?

Day 5

19) What does Paul urge the Philippians to do in verse 16 and how might this be practically worked out in our lives?

20) In what ways do you struggle with forgetting what is behind?

21) How does being made Christ's own and knowing the prize awaits you motivate you to press on?

5) Are you able to say to other Christians "imitate me"? Why or why not?

Day 2

6) In verse 18, what does he tell them that he has obviously told them before?

7) Who does he say lives this way?

8) How does this affect Paul?

9) What does their life look like?

- How do they live?

- What is their end?

- Who is their god?

- What do they glory in?

- What are their minds set on?

10) Elaborate on what you think all of your answers to question 9 mean?

Day 3

11) What are the appetites that your culture seeks to satisfy, that lead to shame and destruction?

12) Why is self-indulgence contrary to serving Christ?

13) Do you weep over and for the enemies of the cross? How should that affect the way we live?

14) When you look at the description of enemies of the cross, does it sound like you at all? If so, describe and confess these things to God?

15) What little word is key in verse 20?

16) Where does Paul say that he and the Philippians have their citizenship?

Day 4

17) What does it mean to be a citizen of heaven? (Read also Hebrews 11:13-16 and John 14:1-4.)

18) What characterizes our life as citizens of heaven?

19) What will Jesus do and by what power?

20) Do you consider heaven your home? If so, how should this daily change your life?

21) How should we think of our heavenly citizenship as a *now and not yet* reality?

Day 5

22) How can you help one another to run hard for home?

23) How does he address the brothers in 4:1? What does this tell us about his relationship with them?

24) What is the “therefore” there for in 4:1? How is Paul’s exhortation to stand firm connected to the preceding verses?

25) What does this idea of standing firm imply?

26) In what ways do we fail to live for the things that will last?

27)

5) What are some of the potential dangers for a Christian fellowship when two prominent members seriously disagree?

6) What is true about everyone mentioned in the first three verses?

7) Why would Paul have written about the ladies' names as well as the others mentioned being written in the book of life?

Day 2

8) What command is given in verse 4? How many times?

9) In what and when should we rejoice?

10) What things in your life keep you from rejoicing?

11) What two statements are in verse 5?

12) What does Paul command in verse 6?

13) Why is the presence of the Lord an antidote for anxiety? (See also Isaiah 41:10.)

Day 3

14) According to verses 6-7, what is the cure for anxiety?

15) How should we present our requests to God?

16) What is the result of all this?

17) Define peace.

18) How does peace guard our hearts and minds?

19) What difference does it make that the beginning of verse 6 is a command and not an aspiration?

Day 4

20) Why is our society so anxiety-ridden?

21) On a scale of 1-10, 10 being the highest, rate your level of joy and anxiety. Do you notice a correspondence between your level of anxiety and your level of joy?

22) What have you felt anxious about lately? Write them down and take them to the Lord in prayer.

23) List the things Paul tells the Philippians to think about

24) Define the adjectives in verse 8.

25) How would your life be different if you only thought about those kinds of things?

Day 5

26) In what practical ways might you proactively "think about" Paul's list in verse 8?

27) There is an inseparable connection between what we think about and how we live. How have you experienced this?

28) What does Paul tell them to do with what they have learned, received, heard, and seen in him?

29) What is the result of putting those things into practice?

30) What has this passage taught us are three great dangers to joy and peace?

31) How can you encourage one another to avoid these pitfalls and so enjoy the peace of God?

5) What is the secret to being content that Paul has learned?

Day 2

6) Verse 13 is often quoted and taken out of context. What exactly is Paul talking about?

7) What does it mean to be content?

8) How do you think Christ strengthens Paul in hunger and need?

9) In which circumstances or areas of life do you find it hardest to be content?

10) Is it harder to find contentment in Christ when times are hard, or when times are good?

Day 3

11) What do you learn about Paul's relationship with the Philippian church?

12) What does Paul say about the gifts Epaphroditus brought?

13) Why did the Philippian church give in the way they did? For additional insight read II Corinthians 8:1-5, 9-15 and 9:5-15?

14) What promise does Paul give in verse 19?

15) Out of what will God supply the Philippian's needs?

16) What applications does Paul's relationship to the Philippians (in giving and receiving) have today?

Day 5

17) Paul mingles thanks to the Philippians with praise to God. What is Paul teaching you by this model?

18) According to verse 20, what is the ultimate cry of Paul's heart? Is it the cry of your heart?

19) How does Paul reference the people in verses 21 and 22? Why does he call them this?

20) What is Paul's closing benediction?

21) What does it mean for the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ to be with your spirit? How might that look in your life?

Philippians

Reflections on Philippians

Joy in the Journey

What new lessons have been impressed on your heart from this study? Think back over the whole letter. What reasons has Paul given you to have joy in your life? Which truth has most transformed you?