
THE BOOK OF PHILIPPIANS

SUMMARY & APPLICATION

Well, you've made it! Ten weeks of study in the small book of Philippians. For our study today, we will review the overall message of the book - the Doctrine of Happiness, and how Paul portrayed that message throughout the four chapters. You may not have realized but we have looked at over 30 categories of doctrine these past ten weeks and have examined the foundational doctrines the believer needs to understand in order to claim joy in Christ. You now have the knowledge, but do you have the joy?

As we looked at, in the beginning of our study, there were four aspects related to the development of happiness. They were outlined in each chapter.

In chapter one the emphasis was on Christ our _____.

In chapter two it was Christ our _____.

In chapter three we looked at Christ our _____.

In chapter four we saw Christ our _____.

Let's take a look at each aspect.

Look up the key verses as well as the verse that goes with each point.

Chapter 1 - Christ Our Life: Philippians 1:21 says, "For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain." There are seven evidences present when Christ is the believer's true life.

- a. The believer will have the affections of Christ. (1:8)
- b. The believer will have the interests of Christ. (1:12-18)

- c. The believer will have the Spirit of Christ. (1:19)
- d. The believer's conduct will manifest Christ. (1:20)
- e. The believer will have a desire to be with Christ. (1:23)
- f. The believer will show Christ likeness. (1:27)
- g. The believer will have confident stability (1:27-28)

Look back on chapter one. What did God teach you about Christ being your life? Was there something He spoke to you about specifically? Write it here.

Chapter 2 - Christ Our Mind: Philippians 2:5 says, "have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus."

- a. We are commanded to have the mind of Christ. (2:1-2)
- b. We are shown evidences of the believer with the mind of Christ. (2:3-4)
- c. We are given an explanation of the Mind of Christ. (2:5-8)
- d. We are shown the application of the Mind of Christ. (2:12-14)
- e. We are given an illustration of the Mind of Christ. (2:30)

Look back on chapter two. In what way does your mind need to be more like the mind of Christ? Write your answer here.

Chapter 3 - Christ Our Goal: Philippians 3:10 says, “that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death.”

- a. Our confidence is to be in Christ and not the flesh. (3:4-9)
- b. We are to keep pressing toward spiritual maturity. (3:10-14)
- c. We are to live as citizens of the kingdom of Heaven. (3:17-21)

Look back on chapter three. What did God teach you? How will you pursue Christ from here out? Write your answer here.

Chapter 4 - Christ Our Strength: Philippians 4:13 says, “I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.” God has provided the power of the Holy Spirit to help us. We should operate in the very strength of Christ enabling us to do the following:

- a. Let forbearance be known to all men. (4:5)
- b. Be anxious in nothing. (4:6)
- c. Let the peace of God guard your mind. (4:7)
- d. Practice the things you have learned, received, heard, and seen. (4:9)

Look back on chapter four. Which area do you struggle with the most? What have you learned that might help with that? Write your answer here.

Can you summarize in one word what you learned in Philippians?

We looked at each aspect of true happiness in the introduction of our study. Hopefully you see them in a new way now that we have gone through an in-depth look at the book of Philippians. As Christians, Christ should be our life, our mind, our goal and our strength. Christ should be, in fact, our everything.

Our relationship with God the Father begins with Christ, and continues on this earth, as we study Christ's mind, the Word of God. Physical life on earth may end at our death, but everlasting spiritual life continues in heaven with Christ, when we are "absent from the body."

May Christ always and forever be our everything, and may we know Him more as we continue in His word.

Psalm 119:105 says

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."

Let us never forsake the study of God's word! It is full of promises that allow us to be joyful even when things are not as we'd like. Being in God's word is imperative to understanding our Creator, to growing spiritually and to living the Christian life as we press on to spiritual maturity. By His grace, as we do, we end up Finding His Joy.

Thank you for coming along with us in the study of Philippians. Let's pray.

Dear Lord, thank you so much for your Word and for its exactness. Thank you for its absolute truth and the fact that we can rely on it in every circumstance of our lives. Please help each of us to continue in the study of your word. Help us to remain consistent in our relationship and fellowship with you! Thank you for all you've taught us in this study! In Jesus name, Amen!