

Philippians Chapter 1 Study Guide

Directions for Each Section:

- Read, Mark Repeated Terms, Mark Significant “Connector” Terms (and, but, for, etc.)
 - Mark any other terms that are significant, Answer Questions, Summarize the Section
 - Mark any question you don’t know with a ? to discuss during Sunday School
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1 Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus,

To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are at Philippi, with the overseers and deacons:

² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

- What can you learn from other books about the historical background?
- What does the book of Philippians teach us about Paul and Timothy?
- What do we learn about church government from this section?
- Explain why Paul says “grace” and “peace.”
- Explain how these come from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ
- What is the difference between an Overseer and a Deacon?
- Why does Paul categorize the Church Members into 3 categories?

Summarize Verses 1-2:

³ I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, ⁴ always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, ⁵ because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶ And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷ It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸ For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. ⁹ And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, ¹⁰ so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure 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.

- Why is Paul thankful for the Philippians?
- Describe Paul’s relationship with the Philippians.
- What specific terms does Paul use to describe his relationship with the Philippians?
- What is Paul’s prayer for the Philippians?
- What does it mean for love, knowledge, and discernment to abound?

- How can we practically approve what is excellent?
- What is the Day of Christ?
- How does Paul's prayer for the Philippians differ from our own prayers for others?
- What aspects does Paul highlight in his prayer for the Philippians?
- What makes Paul so sure that he will complete the good work that began in the Philippians?
- Who is "he" in verse 6 (Father, Son, Spirit....GOD)?
- What is the good work?
- Does this confidence only apply to the Philippians or to us as well?
- What is the fruit of Righteousness?

Summarize Verses 3-11: _____

¹² I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, ¹³ so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. ¹⁴ And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

- Where is Paul?
- How has this impacted the growth of the Gospel?
- Describe the irony of this situation.
- How does Paul being in prison help others to be confident and bold?
- What qualities of leadership is Paul displaying here?

Summarize Verses 12-18: _____

¹⁵ Some indeed preach Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from good will. ¹⁶ The latter do it out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. ¹⁷ The former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely but thinking to afflict me in my imprisonment. ¹⁸ What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice. Yes, and I will rejoice

- Describe the content of those who preach the Gospel.
- What is Paul's perspective towards them?
- What can we learn about Paul's response?

Summarize Verses 15-18 _____

¹⁹ for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, ²⁰ as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. ²¹ For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. ²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. ²³ I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. ²⁴ But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. ²⁵ Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith, ²⁶ so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.

-What is Paul's perspective about his imprisonment?

-What does Paul think about dying?

-What is Paul's purpose in life?

-What are the pros and cons of living versus dying?

-Why would it be better for Paul to continue living?

-Are we as focused on others as Paul is?

Summarize Verses 19-26

²⁷ Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸ and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God. ²⁹ For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, ³⁰ engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

-Why does Paul say "only?"

-What does it mean to "live a life worthy of the Gospel?"

-How does Paul describe unity in this section?

-What should unity produce?

-What sign does it give to our opponents when we are not afraid of them?

-What have we been granted as Christians?

Summarize Verses 27-30

Final Instructions for Chapter 1:

-Based on your chapter summaries, explain how each paragraph connects to each other.

-Summarize your paragraph summaries to get a chapter summary.

Philippians Chapter 2 Study Guide

Directions for Each Section:

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2 So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, 2 complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. 3 Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. 5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant being born in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. 9 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, 10 so 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.

-What comes from Christ?

-What completed Paul's joy? How can we do this practically?

-How would verse 3 relate with having unity?

-How does one fight being selfish?

-What can we learn from Jesus to help us be more selfless?

-How did Jesus humble himself?

-What is the significance of God's "name" from other passages in Scripture?

-What does this section teach us about Jesus?

-What does this section teach us about the Trinity?

Summarize Verses 1-11

12 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, 13 for it is God

who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. ¹⁴ Do all things without grumbling or disputing, ¹⁵ that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, ¹⁶ holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. ¹⁷ Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. ¹⁸ Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.

-What is the "therefore" referring to?

-Why are we to work out our salvation?

-In what ways are we allowed to complain (grumbling/disputing)?

-What is the result of us not complaining?

-How does our not complaining impact the rest of the world?

-How does our not complaining impact believers?

-What does Paul mean when he speaks of being poured out as a drink offering? (refer to 2 Timothy 4).

-How does Paul feel about being poured out as a drink offering?

Summarize Verses 12-18

¹⁹ I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, so that I too may be cheered by news of you. ²⁰ For I have no one like him, who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare. ²¹ For they all seek their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. ²² But you know Timothy's proven worth, how as a son^[a] with a father he has served with me in the gospel. ²³ I hope therefore to send him just as soon as I see how it will go with me, ²⁴ and I trust in the Lord that shortly I myself will come also.

-What is Paul's relationship like with Timothy based on 2nd Timothy?

-Paul says that he may too be cheered by news of the Philippians. What does this imply?

-How is Timothy described in this section?

-How is he contrasted with others?

-How does this section show Paul's relationship with the church of Philippi?

-What can we learn from Timothy's example for our lives?

Summarize Verses 19-24

25 I have thought it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus my brother and fellow worker and fellow soldier, and your messenger and minister to my need, 26 for he has been longing for you all and has been distressed because you heard that he was ill. 27 Indeed he was ill, near to death. But God had mercy on him, and not only on him but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow. 28 I am the more eager to send him, therefore, that you may rejoice at seeing him again, and that I may be less anxious. 29 So receive him in the Lord with all joy, and honor such men, 30 for he nearly died for the work of Christ, risking his life to complete what was lacking in your service to me.

-What do other passages in the Bible say about Epaphroditus?

-How is he described here?

-What is his relationship like with Paul and with the Philippians?

-What can we learn about Christians dying from this section? How does this relate to 1 Thessalonians 4?

-How do we reconcile Paul being anxious here with Paul's commanding us not to be anxious in Philippians 4?

-How should we treat those who risk their lives for the sake of the Gospel?

Summarize Verses 25-30_____

Final Instructions for Chapter 2:

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Philippians Chapter 3 Study Guide

Directions for Each Section:

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Verses 1-11

3 Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you is no trouble to me and is safe for you. ²Look out for the dogs, look out for the evildoers, look out for those who mutilate the flesh. ³For we are the circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh—⁴though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also. If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. ⁷But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ.⁸Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— ¹⁰that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

- The term “finally” shows a transition into a new topic. What is this new topic?
- Where else does Paul use the term “rejoice” or “joy” in this epistle?
- Who are the “dogs,” “evildoers,” and “those who mutilate the flesh?”
- What were they basing their confidence on?
- What were Paul’s reasons for having confidence in the flesh?

-What is the significance of Paul being “from the tribe of Benjamin?”

-What is the significance of Paul calling himself a Pharisee in regards to the Law? How did the Pharisees view the Law?

-Before Christ Paul placed a high view on his good works to please God. How does he consider those works now?

-As Christians, how should we view our good works towards God? Should we strive for good works?

-Use verse 9 to explain the Gospel.

-Paul seems to be very concerned about pressing on and striving to attain the resurrection from the dead (verse.11). How do you reconcile this with his emphasis on relying on Christ for salvation and not on the works of the flesh?

Summarize Verses 1-11: _____

Verses 12-16:

¹²Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you. ¹⁶Only let us hold true to what we have attained.

-What did Paul think about Christians obtaining perfection in this life?

-Why did Paul press on?

-How did Paul press on?

-How can you emulate Paul as you press on in the faith?

-What was the goal for Paul as he pressed on?

Summarize Verses 12-16: _____

Verses 17-21:

¹⁷Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. ²⁰But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

-Are you able to tell others to imitate your walk in the faith?

-Do you try to imitate those who have a godly walk?

-What are the characteristics of those who walk as enemies of the cross of Christ?

-What awaits those who walk as followers of Christ?

-What kind of perspective should we have on the things of this world based on this section?

-What will our future be like based on these verses?

-What is the significance of the term "citizenship?"

-What kind of body can we expect to have in heaven?

Summarize Verses 17-21:

Final Instructions for Chapter 3:

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Philippians Chapter 4 Study Guide

Directions for Each Section:

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Verses 1-9

¹Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved.

²I entreat Euodia and I entreat Syntyche to agree in the Lord. ³Yes, I ask you also, true companion, help these women, who have labored side by side with me in the gospel together with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. ⁵Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; ⁶do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

-What is the “therefore” there for?

-How does Paul view the church of Philippi? (What is the significance of him calling them his joy/crown)?

-How we can apply verse 2 to our own church context?

-How does verse 4 relate with the conflict between the two ladies?

-Do we follow these principles when there is conflict?

-How does this passage help with dealing with worry and anxiety?

-How can looking to the coming of the Lord help someone to have peace?

-Are we those who look to what is true, honorable, just, etc.? What are some practical ways that we can be better about focusing on these qualities?

-Paul writes to be anxious for nothing and to have joy and peace while in prison. How do we do when we are facing trials and struggles? Do we have the kind of perspective that Paul had?

Summarize Verses 1-9: _____

Verses 10-20:

¹⁰I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me. You were indeed concerned for me, but you had no opportunity. ¹¹Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. ¹²I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. ¹³I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

¹⁴Yet it was kind of you to share my trouble. ¹⁵And you Philippians yourselves know that in the beginning of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church entered into partnership with me in giving and receiving, except you only. ¹⁶Even in Thessalonica you sent me help for my needs once and again. ¹⁷Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that increases to your credit. ¹⁸I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. ¹⁹And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. ²⁰To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.

-Do we have concern for missionaries?

-How do we compare with Paul when it comes to contentment? Are we content in any circumstance?

-How did Paul find contentment in such difficult circumstances?

-What does this passage say about supporting those who are ministers of the Gospel?

-What is the benefit of giving to those who share the Gospel?

-How does our giving to missionaries and pastors help us?

-How does Paul describe the gift that the church of Philippi gave to him?

-Paul reminds them of God being able to supply our every need. How does this apply to our own giving?

Summarize Verses 10-20: _____

Verses 21-23:

²¹ Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The brothers who are with me greet you. ²² All the saints greet you, especially those of Caesar's household.

²³ The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

-What do the terms "Christ," "Jesus," and "saint" mean?

-What is the significance of mentioning "Caesar's household?"

-Summarize the book of Philippians in one paragraph.

-Summarize the book of Philippians in one sentence.

-Summarize the book of Philippians in three words.

Summarize Verses 21-23: _____

Final Instructions for Chapter 4:

-Based on your chapter summaries, explain how each paragraph connects to each other.

-Summarize your paragraph summaries to get a chapter summary.

