

Philippians 1

MONDAY: Read Philippians 1

Which is the most interesting truth/concept Paul discusses in this chapter? Why? *Pray that you (& we) learn to depend on the Spirit for understanding and application of God's truths to change our lives.*

TUESDAY: Read Philippians 1:1-6

How does Paul describe the recipients of his letter? What is Paul's overwhelming feeling about the Christians in Philippi? Why? Of what is Paul assured concerning their faith walk with Jesus? *Pray that the Spirit teaches you (us) all about the truths & realities of salvation and kingdom citizenship now.*

WEDNESDAY: Read Philippians 1:7-11

How will you be filled with the fruit of your salvation? How have you sensed the Spirit developing Christ's character in you? What does Paul identify as the result of overflowing in love and growing in knowledge & understanding of faith? *Ask Spirit to teach you truths about Christ's salvation & Return.*

THURSDAY: Read Philippians 1:12-19

How does Paul say that his imprisonment has helped spread the gospel? What does Paul say about the different motives for preaching the gospel? According to Paul, do motives controvert the power of Christ's gospel? *Spend some time pondering & thanking God for embracing us in His life and love.*

FRIDAY: Read Philippians 1:20-26

How strongly do you relate with Paul when he says, "*For me, to live is Christ – and to die is gain!*"? What life experiences have taught you this truth? In what ways will your living today be more fruitful for others? *Pray that you trust the Spirit to lead you today as a fruitful citizen of God's Kingdom.*

SATURDAY: Read Philippians 1:27-30

List some of the differences between living as a citizen of heaven vs of the world? Which are the 3 most important "gospel-worthy" characteristics of conduct to you? What 2 "privileges" are Christians given? Do you sense that you (FBCT) are standing together with one spirit and one purpose, fighting together for the faith? *Ask the Spirit to answer the questions you still have – and plan to take notes!*

PHILIPPIANS 1 (NLT)

1) This letter is from Paul and Timothy, slaves of Christ Jesus. I am writing to all of God's holy people in Philippi who belong to Christ Jesus, including the elders and deacons. **2)** May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ give you grace and peace.

3) Every time I think of you, I give thanks to my God. **4)** Whenever I pray, I make my requests for all of you with joy, **5)** for you have been my partners in spreading the Good News about Christ from the time you first heard it until now. **6)** And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.

7) So it is right that I should feel as I do about all of you, for you have a special place in my heart. You share with me the special favor of God, both in my imprisonment and in defending and confirming the truth of the Good News. **8)** God knows how much I love you and long for you with the tender compassion of Christ Jesus.

9) I pray that your love will overflow more and more, and that you will keep on growing in knowledge and understanding. **10)** For I want you to understand what really matters, so that you may live pure and blameless lives until the day of Christ's return. **11)** May you always be filled with the fruit of your salvation—the righteous character produced in your life by Jesus Christ—for this will bring much glory and praise to God.

12) And I want you to know, my dear brothers and sisters, that everything that has happened to me here has helped to spread the Good News. **13)** For everyone here, including the whole palace guard, knows that I am in chains because of Christ. **14)** And because of my imprisonment, most of the believers here have gained confidence and boldly speak God's message without fear. **15)** It's true that some are preaching out of jealousy and rivalry. But others preach about Christ with pure motives. **16)** They preach because they love me, for they know I have been appointed to defend the Good News. **17)** Those others do not have pure motives as they preach about Christ. They preach with selfish ambition, not sincerely, intending to make my chains more painful to me. **18)** But that doesn't matter. Whether their motives are false or genuine, the message about Christ is being preached either way, so I rejoice. And I will continue to rejoice. **19)** For I know that as you pray for me and the Spirit of Jesus Christ helps me, this will lead to my deliverance.

20) For I fully expect and hope that I will never be ashamed, but that I will continue to be bold for Christ, as I have been in the past. And I trust that my life will bring honor to Christ, whether I live or die. **21)** For to me, living means living for Christ, and dying is even better. **22)** But if I live, I can do more fruitful work for Christ. So I really don't know which is better. **23)** I'm torn between two desires: I long to go and be with Christ, which would be far better for me. **24)** But for your sakes, it is better that I continue to live. **25)** Knowing this, I am convinced that I will remain alive so I can continue to help all of you grow and experience the joy of your faith. **26)** And when I come to you again, you will have even more reason to take pride in Christ Jesus because of what he is doing through me.

27) Above all, you must live as citizens of heaven, conducting yourselves in a manner worthy of the Good News about Christ. Then, whether I come and see you again or only hear about you, I will know that you are standing together with one spirit and one purpose, fighting together for the faith, which is the Good News. **28)** Don't be intimidated in any way by your enemies. This will be a sign to them that they are going to be destroyed, but that you are going to be saved, even by God himself. **29)** For you have been given not only the privilege of trusting in Christ but also the privilege of suffering for him. **30)** We are in this struggle together. You have seen my struggle in the past, and you know that I am still in the midst of it.