

A Study in Philippians – Teacher’s Notes

Lesson Two – Philippians Chapter One

I. Review of Introduction – lesson one

1. Sent by Paul and Timothy to the church at Philippi. Paul wrote this letter during his imprisonment in Rome.
2. Primary purpose= to thank them for the support they sent and to encourage them in their present circumstances.
3. Philippi was an important commercial city situated strategically at the pass over the mountains that separate Europe from Asia.

Philippi was a Roman colony, followed Roman government, customs, religion, dress, etc.

Philippi had very few Jews, primarily gentiles.

Acts 16:6-40 – The planting of the church at Philippi. Lydia, the jailer, possibly the slave girl were among the first believers in the church there.

Paul had great love for the Philippian church.

- We never read of any words of correction from Paul to the Philippian church.
- He returned at least twice to visit them during his third missionary journey.

4. Paul wrote this letter about ten years after the church was planted.

The church had sent him support at least three times. This time they had sent Epaphroditus along to stay and minister to Paul. Paul sends him back with this letter.

5. Paul and Timothy describe themselves as bond-servants of Christ Jesus.

Paul blesses them with Grace and Peace.

*The theme of the letter to the Philippians is JOY. Paul could have joy in the midst of his circumstances, because he had a single mind, a single focus – Christ and the Gospel. Throughout the letter Paul encourages the Philippians to rejoice.

II. Paul's Prayer for the Philippian church (Phil 1:3-11)

Read Phil 1:3-6.

V3- "Thank my God" – what a joy to remember someone with gratitude, "happy memories", no regrets or pain, only happiness.

Remembrance= "I have you in my mind."

The Philippian church was much on Paul's mind.

What was he thinking?

V4 – every memory of them was a blessing, brought him joy. He prayed with joy. It should be joy for us to pray for those we love.

V5 – Remembered how they stood with him for the Gospel from the beginning. Remembered their work and their growth.

V6- Knew that what Christ began in their lives, He would complete.
(Heb. 12:1-2)

Our task is to yield to God as he perfects us for Christ's coming.

Read Phil 1:7-8.

"I have you in my heart."

Why did Paul love them so much?

V7&8 – They had a heart to be partners with Paul.

V5-participation

V7- partakers

- In grace – we all share in the grace of God. They received grace from God in their own circumstances.
- In work – the defense (protect against attack) and the furtherance (progress) of the gospel.
- In suffering – the experienced persecution in Philippi as well as "suffering with Paul" because they loved him. As believers we have a fellowship of suffering together- every land, every age, every generation.
- V8 - In love – Paul loved them as Christ loved them. (God as his witness.)

Read Phil 1:9-11.

"I have you in my prayers."

What did Paul pray for?

- V9- That they would be full of love, knowledge and discernment. Love is the way to knowledge. If you love something or someone, you will want to learn more.
- V10- That they would be faithful in their daily walk.
- V11- That they would be fruitful in Christian service. The ultimate purpose is to bring glory and praise to God (not ourselves.)

III. Paul put Christ first.

Read Phil 1:12-20.

V12 – “advancement” = to cut down in advance, used for cutting away trees and undergrowth to allow for the progress or advancement of an army.

V13- Praetorian guard – elite group of Roman soldiers, some would have been assigned to Paul, many heard of him and some received the gospel.

V14 – this brought courage to the Roman church.

V15-18 – Paul did not let himself be controlled by jealousy.

- He was focused on the spread of the gospel.
- Look beyond personalities.
- Look beyond methods.
- Look beyond our convenience or reputation.

V19-20 – Paul knows all will turn out for his good (the best for him)

- For his safety
- For his salvation

- For his well-being
- For his mission
- **Through what?** Their prayers and the Holy Spirit.

IV. Paul put others second

Read Phil 1:21-26.

V24 – Your sake

V25 – your progress in the faith, your joy

V26 – your confidence in Christ

He longed to be with Christ, but desired more to remain to help them grow in Christ.

V. Paul put himself last

Read Phil 1:27-30.

“Whatever happens to me... you go on with Christ.”

The Philippians must live worthily of their faith....continue to fight for the gospel.

How?

V27- You are not alone – stand firm in unity, striving together

V28- You are on the winning side – not alarmed by opponents.

V29-30 – It is a privilege to suffer for Christ. Believe in Him, suffer for His sake.