



PHILIPPIANS

CHAPTER ONE

“For to me to live is Christ and to die gain (Philippians 1:21).”

This book was written about the same time as Ephesians and Colossians. The city received its name “Philippi” by Philip, the father of Alexander the Great. The area around this city was exceptionally fertile soil and was rich in minerals. Philippi was populated mostly by Romans. Few Jews lived there and there was no synagogue. Philippians is a letter of correction--a letter of Christian appreciation and exhortation.

One of the rules of a good Bible student is to find out who is speaking and who is being spoken to.

1. (v. 1) To whom is this letter (epistle) written? _____

2. (v. 2) Paul greets the Philippians with what greeting? _____

3. (vv. 3-5) Why did Paul thank God for the Philippians? _____

4. (v. 6) In your own words, tell what Paul was confident of? _____

5. (v. 6) Who had begun a good work in them? _____
6. (vv. 7-8) Why did Paul feel it was OK for him to feel this way toward the Philippians? _____

7. (v. 9) What did Paul pray for? _____

Note: The translation that is rendered for verse 10 is not true to the Greek. It should read “unto the end that you may prove the things differing (or that differ), that you may be sincere and without offense (sin) unto the day of Christ.”

8. (vv. 10) In your own word tell us what Paul wanted them to approve (discern)? _____

9. What is the “day of Christ” mentioned in this verse? _____

10. (v. 11) What did he desire for them to be filled with? _____

Notice carefully: The Philippians fellowshiped with Paul by sharing with him in his need. They sent financial and/or material (food, clothing) aid to help to him. They did this since the first day he knew them. Because of that fellowship, he had them “in his heart.” He thanked God for them and prayed for them.

Be sure you understand his prayer for them:

- (a) That their love should abound more and more in knowledge and judgment.
- (b) That they should approve the things which are excellent.
- (c) That they should be sincere and without offense.
- (d) That they should be filled with the fruits of righteousness.

Believers today need these same spiritual qualities which Paul prayed for the Philippians!

12. (vv. 12-13) Tell in your own words who had heard that Paul was in prison (bonds)? (Acts 28:30)

13. (v. 14) Describe the attitude of many of the brethren because of Paul’s bonds (chains)? _____

14. (v. 15-20) What was Paul’s attitude toward those who preached Christ out of wrong motives?

15. (v. 20) What did Paul want done through his body? _____

The main thing is for CHRIST TO BE PRAISED. Paul was in prison. Because of this, some preached Christ out of love for Paul. Others preached Christ out of envy and strife over Paul. What did Paul say? "I therein rejoice, and will rejoice."

When others preach Christ in the way of truth in accordance with the Word of God, we should rejoice. We must not forget that everyone needs to hear the Gospel of Christ Jesus. If others are doing it too, according to God's Word, let us rejoice.

Also, we need to remember that the word "salvation" (as in verse 19) does not always mean the salvation of the soul. Paul was in prison. He waited for salvation. Which salvation? The salvation or deliverance, of his body out of the prison by their prayers and the intercession of the Holy Spirit in Christ Jesus. When we read about salvation in any given passage, we must find out what kind of salvation is being discussed.

17. (vv. 21-26) Using you own words write out Paul's desire. _____

18. (vv. 27-28) What did Paul want to hear about the Philippians? _____

19. (vv. 29-30) What did Paul say about suffering and the Christian? _____

CHAPTER. TWO

"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus (Philippians 2:5)."

As we study the second chapter, the first word "if" confronts us. This word used here and in other scriptures (Rom.6: 5; 8:31; Gal.5: 25; Col.3:1) should be translated "For as much as," "In view of the fact," or "Seeing that." The word assumes the hypothesis stated is an actual fact. With this thought in mind, let us rejoice in the things we know for sure we have in Christ.

1. What are four benefits of being in Christ given in verse 1?

- (1.) _____
- (2.) _____
- (3.) _____
- (4.) _____

2. (vv. 2) What are the virtues that would fulfill Paul's joy for the Philippians? _____

Are these virtues valid for Christians today? _____

3. (v. 3) They should do nothing through what? _____

4. (v. 3) What attitude should they have toward each other? _____

5. (v. 4) What should each one do regarding oneself and others? _____

6. (v. 6) What does this verse say about Christ? _____

7. Using your own words write out what you think verse 7 & 8 say about Christ. _____

Note: Each believer should think of others as better than himself. Yes, it is difficult; but look at Christ Jesus! He was God, yet He humbled himself, became a man, and died for us sinners. Therefore, we ought to humble ourselves and to think of others, not self.

8. (v. 9-10) What did God do for Jesus? _____

9. (v. 11) Someday what will every tongue confess? _____

Note: We see here that everyone will some day bow before Christ, confessing Him as LORD! Not everyone will do this by faith in Christ. Millions will only do it because they will be forced to do it. Everyone will do it because He is LORD of all.

10. (v. 12) What were the Philippians to do in Paul's absence? _____

What do you think the term “work out your salvation” means here? _____

11. Express the thought of vs. 13 in your own words. _____

12. (v. 15-16) What 5 qualities were they to have as the Sons of God (Christians)?
(1.) _____
(2.) _____
(3.) _____
(4.) _____
(5.) _____

Note: In verses 12-16 we have human responsibility and divine enablement, a perfect balance, which must be kept if the Christian life is to be lived at its best. It is not a “let go and let God” affair but rather it is “participate with God.” It is mutual cooperation with the Holy Spirit in interests and activities which are the things of God.

13. (v. 16) What would make Paul rejoice (boast)? _____

14. (v. 16) When would Paul rejoice? _____

15. (vv. 17-18) Paul states that even if his imprisonment results in being put to death, he will be glad and rejoice with them. What does Paul ask them to do? _____

Note: There are two “days” or periods of time in scripture that need explanation. The “Day of Christ” relates entirely to the reward and blessing of saints at His coming in the air (1 Thess.4:13-18; Titus 2:13; Philippians. 1:6,10).

The “Day of the Lord” has to do with Christ’s second coming to the earth. There will be signs to herald His coming. The “Day of Christ” is a secret (without a sign) coming. The “Day of the Lord” is preeminently the time when Jesus Christ will be revealed to the universe as King of kings and Lord of lords.

16. (v. 19-20)What did Paul find in Timothy that he could not find in other Christians? _____

17. (v.21) What was the problem with Paul’s other helpers? _____

18. (v. 27-30) Epaphroditus was sick close to death, but God had mercy on him. Why, or for what reason was he in this condition? (v.30) _____

19. Search verses 20-30 for examples of being like Christ in Timothy and Ephroditus. List 4 of these character qualities:

- (1.) _____
- (2.) _____
- (3.) _____
- (4.) _____

CHAPTER THREE

“That I may know him and the power of his resurrection (Philippians 3:10a)”

In this chapter we should look for the blessedness of finding our complete satisfaction in Christ. Paul demonstrates this in presenting all he was in the Jewish religion, and then concludes by placing it on the scrap pile. Let’s examine our own life as we go through this chapter.

- 1. (v.1) What did Paul want the Philippians to do? _____
- 2. (v. 2) What were the Philippians to beware of? _____

What does Paul mean by the phrase “mutilators of the flesh”? _____

- 3. (v. 3) Name three virtues of Christians, the true circumcision.
 - (1.) _____
 - (2.) _____
 - (3.) _____

Note: Christ is the true fulfillment in life. He alone brings genuine joy. All real rejoicing concentrates on Him and what He has done. It is not tedious for the apostle Paul to point out and warn against spiritual counterfeits which steal away the Philippians joy.

- 4. (v. 5,6) Name seven reasons Paul could have confidence in the flesh.
 - (1.) _____
 - (2.) _____
 - (3.) _____

(4.) _____

(5.) _____

(6.) _____

(7.) _____

5. (v. 7-8) All the achievements that Paul gained through the legalistic practice of the Jewish religion he counted as loss. Why did he do this? _____

6. (v. 9) What did Paul want instead of his own righteousness which was by the law? _____

7. (vv. 10-11) Paul writes that he wants to know Christ and the power of His resurrection. To what end was he striving in Christ? _____

Note: Charles F. Baker writes: “We must not get the impression that Paul obtained the righteousness of God by his sacrificing and giving up of all things. That would be going back to boasting of one’s own works. He completely gave up any merit for his own righteousness based upon law principle, and received as a free gift the righteousness of God, which was based entirely upon the faith principle in Christ. It was Paul’s deep appreciation of Christ’s work of salvation that produced his great love for Christ and which caused him to sacrifice all for Christ.

8. (v.12) Did Paul consider himself as “having arrived” (or perfect)? Yes _____ No _____
Why? _____

Note: Paul shows us that he was full of reasons to praise himself if he wished to do so. Circumcision was an important thing with the Jews, and he had been circumcised the eighth day! The Israelites were God’s chosen people, and he was one of them! The tribe of Benjamin was the tribe, which had remained true to God in Israel, and he was one of them! The true Hebrews and the Pharisees were the important people among the Jews, and he was one of them! He had been a Pharisee and had even persecuted the church!

He counted all this as loss, as dung! Why? In order that he might get to know Christ Jesus more and more intimately ! He wanted to be found in Him, to have the righteousness of God by faith, to really know Christ in His resurrection power, His sufferings, and His death.

9. (v.13) What good advice does Paul give concerning life? _____

10. (v. 14) What was the Apostle Paul’s great desire? _____

11. Read verses 15-21, 1 Cor. 11:1; 14:37, Phil. 3:17; 4:9, Rom. 11:13 and tell who you think we should follow for Christian instruction. _____

Why? _____

Note: There are different ways of knowing Christ. Paul surely knew Christ as his Savior. He knew him as the Son of God. He knew him as his Lord. Such knowledge was factual but there was another way of knowing Christ, and Paul expresses the desire to know Him in a very intimate and experiential way. A person either knows Christ as Savior or he doesn't know Him at all. But there are degrees of knowing Christ experientially, and Paul felt that he still had room to grow in this area.

12. Do you desire to grow in this area? _____
How do you plan to achieve this Growth? _____

13. Do you know Christ as Savior? _____
14. (v. 19) Using your own words describe the enemies of the cross of Christ? _____

15. Verse 20, 1 Thess 4:15-17, and Titus 2:13 all speak of a certain event. What is that event?

16. Write out verse 20 in your own words (conversation means citizenship KJV). _____

17. What transformation takes place in verse 21? _____

Note: This change from humiliation to glory is going to be accomplished by the power that enables Him to bring all this under His control. Those who have died in Christ will first be raised bodily. Then those who are still alive at the time will be changed into the same glorious body. Salvation includes the whole man body, soul, and spirit.

CHAPTER FOUR

“I can do all things through Christ which strengthenth me. (Philippians 4:13)”

1. (v. 1) Sandwiched between Ephesians and Colossians, the main theme is said to be that of joy and rejoicing. This chapter starts out with the Apostle Paul expressing himself in terms of gentleness and love to the believers in Philippi.
What words did he use? _____

- In the previous chapter he warned them of those who were enemies of the cross. What words of exhortation did he give them? _____

2. (v. 2) What did Paul say in this verse to indicate there was trouble between Euodia and Syntyche?

3. (v. 2) Paul is saying this to these two women personally, even as he had similarly instructed the church previously. Write the phrases indicating this from the following chapters and verses:

(1.) (1:27-30) _____

(2.) (2: 1-4) _____

(3.) (2:5-8) _____

When there is disharmony and disagreement, it is difficult or impossible to rejoice. Rejoicing is a prominent word in the epistle, but true rejoicing is impossible apart from the mind of Christ. Paul is emphatic: "I will say it again, Rejoice!" Christians can rejoice when there is pressure and opposition from the outside. In fact, Peter says to count it all joy when we suffer for Christ's sake (1 Pet.4:13, 16). But where there is internal conflict, the joy evaporates.

4. What would you say is the *key word* which characterizes the attitude of a Christian found in chapters 1:18; 2:16, 17, 18, and 28, 3:1,3 and 4:4? _____

5. Underline the statement that you think is meant in verse five:

1. The Lord is near in a spiritual sense,

2. The coming of the Lord is near.

Note: The constant expectation of the Rapture (the Lord's coming in the air) is a purifying hope.

6. (v. 6) Every Christian should memorize this verse. Write out this verse in your own words? _____

The gracious exhortation of verse six should put our hearts to rest "Be careful for nothing" which is saying, "Be full of care for not one thing."

8. (v. 7) What is promise the promise given here? _____

9. (v. 8) We find a series of things that should occupy our minds. List six things our minds should be concerned with?

(1.) _____

(2.) _____

- (3.) _____
- (4.) _____
- (5.) _____
- (6.) _____

Note: If we have the mind of Christ, these things will characterize our thinking. Our thought life is not limited to these things alone. We have to think about our daily employment, about the needs of our families, etc. But in all of these varied activities we must be true and just. We must be pure in our motives and actions. We must promote the finer things of life and avoid the base and ugly. We must strive for excellence and praiseworthiness and not be content with mediocrity. Everything is to be done as unto the Lord.

In 1 Cor. 11:1 Paul says, "Follow me as I follow Christ." Here in verse nine he is saying the same, only in different words. Charles Baker says, "This sounds like egotism on the surface, but we must remember that God was the one who chose Paul and separated him, even from his mother's womb (Gal. 1:15) to reveal his Son in him and to make him the example of what a true believer should be... They had had a complete demonstration in the life of Paul of the mind of Christ. They knew that such a life was possible. They and we are exhorted to so live, and the promise is made that the God of peace shall be with us."

10. (v. 9a) What is the command Paul has given the Philippians in the first part of this verse? _____

11. (v. 9b) What is the promise that Paul gives the Philippians at the end of this verse? _____

Read verses 10-13. Contentment is not something that comes automatically. It is something that must be learned through experience. Paul does not say simply, "I am content," but "I have LEARNED, in whatsoever state I am, therein to be content." "I have learned the secret," says Paul.

12. Are there circumstances in your life that you could learn to be content with? _____

13. (v. 13) How was Paul enabled "to do all things"? _____

Note: When Paul says, "I can do all things," he is not claiming some kind of omnipotence, even if it came through Christ himself. There were many things which were physically impossible for Paul to do. This statement has to be taken in its context. The "all things" are those things he has been talking about.

14. (v.14-20) Paul recaps all the times the Philippians shared with him and how pleased the Lord was with their offering. How does Paul tell them God will meet their needs? _____

15. (v. 20-23) How does Paul close this letter? _____

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