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A STUDY OF PHILIPPIANS

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Philippians: A Personal Application

The reading of Philippians devotionally, praying, and meditating for personal application is a practice which should become a habit. Reading a book of the Bible for the purpose of receiving some personal application should be recommended to the many Bible readers who read just to say that they have read their Bible through in a year. Just reading does not necessarily provide personal application but reading, praying and meditating with intent to find personal application will allow the Holy Spirit to reveal Himself and to meet ones needs.

The entire Book of Philippians, when read over and over again, is quite revealing in its content and its application. Much of what Paul writes in this epistle concerns his imprisonment and his feelings concerning his possibility of release or death. Paul truly did not know what to expect at the hands of his judges. Chapter 1 verse 7, Paul expressed that whether he was in chains or defending the gospel, the Philippians had a share of God's grace which was in him. Further in verses 12-18 he shared that being in chains had advanced the preaching of the gospel. He rejoiced in that Christ was preached from the jail and throughout the town by himself and others.

The personal application of Paul being in chains and being able to love others and share his grace with them is an important concept. No matter what condition or what circumstances in which one finds oneself, Paul would tell them to rejoice. And he would say it again, rejoice. One's chains are oftentimes more mental than physical, and the bondage could really be handled spiritually if one would only allow the Holy Spirit to minister to him through personal Bible study for application purposes.

Another group of verses which provided personal edification is found in chapter 1 verses 9-11. Paul started this passage out with the words, this is my prayer. What a prayer it was that he prayed for the Philippian saints in Christ Jesus. He prayed that their love would grow deeper and deeper in their knowledge and the depth of insight. The knowledge Paul was asking for them of God seems to be that they would learn how to find what was best in God's sight and that they would, with this knowledge, keep themselves pure and blameless until Christ returned. The depth which Paul expressed may be found in his desire for them to be filled with the fruit of righteousness. If they did not know how to achieve the fruit of righteousness, Paul was quick to explain to them that it comes through Jesus Christ so that God will receive the glory and praise He deserves.

The personal application of these verses speaks to the need for prayer. One should pray for himself and for others. What better prayer to have than to pray that one's love should grow more and more as he searches for God's many riches in Christ Jesus. Depth of insight should be the prayer of every Christian. Christians should

attempt to discern for themselves and others what is best. For Paul, to be pure and blameless is a noble endeavor. One's prayer should be that through Jesus Christ his love will abound more and more.

Paul in chapter 2 verses 1 and 2 provided great insights for living. When read devotionally, praying and meditating for personal application, the words seem to separate and stand alone to give a pattern of living which will assist in a closer walk with God and man.

Paul used several "if" statements to make several points. The "then" statement which Paul used expresses the relationship between the if and then statements. These, when studied carefully for personal edification, reveal a considerable amount of knowledge and depth of insight. In the first "if" Paul was saying, one can get encouragement out of being united with Christ. In the second "if" Paul showed that one can expect comfort from Christ's love. In the third "if" is the expression that one can have fellowship with the Spirit. The last "if" tells of Godly tenderness and compassion. The "then" statement is a reflection of Paul's remembrance that he led these people to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. For that reason he asked them to make his joy complete. By being complete Paul meant for them to have the same kind of love that Paul had for them. He wanted them to be like minded, and to be one in spirit and purpose. Paul loved them deeply in and through Christ's love for him.

One can have in and through Christ encouragement, comfort, fellowship with the Spirit, and tenderness and compassion. One can also rejoice that he knows the love which can be shared with others making him one with them in spirit and purpose.

Much can be said for a study like this. It is important to note that one can receive insight and knowledge of God in Christ Jesus by reading, praying, and meditating. Men seek revelations from God in many places. The place to start for personal revelation is God's Word.

Outline of Philippians

- I. In Christ Jesus (1:1-30) Chapter One
 - A. In My Prayers (1:1-5).
 - B. In My Heart (1:6-11).
 - C. In My Bonds (1:12-17).
 - D. In My Hope (1:18-24).
 - E. I Know (1:25-30).
- II. Fulfill My Joy (2:1-30) Chapter Two
 - A. Consolation in Christ (2:1-4).

- B. Confess Christ (2:5-11).
 - C. Confident Salvation (2:12-16).
 - D. Companion in Labor (2:17-30).
- III. Changes in Christ (3:1-21) Chapter Three
- A. Our Confidence (3:1-6).
 - B. Our Conviction (3:7-10).
 - C. Our Calling (3:11-16).
 - D. Our Conversation (3:17-21)
- IV. Stand Fast (4:1-23) Chapter Four
- A. Rejoice (4:1-4).
 - B. Request (4.5-14).
 - C. Replenish (4:15-20).
 - D. Receive (4:21-23)

Bible Study Guide to Philippians
For Personal or Group Study

Session One

Title: In My Prayers

Focus: Prayer and thanksgiving in Christ Jesus will bring gratitude and a joyful heart.

Detailed Sentence Outline

In My Prayers
(Phil 1:1-5)

Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons: Grace be unto you, and peace from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank my God upon every

remembrance of you,, Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy, For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now;

Introduction to the letter: Paul at the time of the writing of this epistle is believed by most scholars to be in Rome about A. D. 63 or 64. This may be the last epistle written to a church and is clearly written from his heart.

I. Servant and Saints v1

A. From the Servants of Jesus Christ

1. Paul and Timotheus call themselves Jesus Christ's servants.
2. The word servant means slave.
3. Jesus Christ was their master.

B. Servants to Others

1. Being a servant of the Lord means service to others.
2. We are to witness to others concerning our master.
3. Jesus said if one would be great they should serve others.

C. To the Saints

1. A saint is one who is holy, set apart.
2. One who is born again.
3. They are different because of who they serve.

II. Grace and Peace v2

A. Paul asked for grace to be given to them.

1. He was asking for sufficient grace. 2 Cor 12.9
2. He wanted them to be what God's grace would cause them to be. 1 Cor 15.10
3. His desire was that grace should abound.

B. Paul asked for peace to be given to them.

1. He wanted them to let God's peace rule their heart. Col 3.15
2. He wanted them to let God's peace to keep their heart. Phil 4.7
3. He was aware that Jesus had left them His peace. John 16.33

III. Giving Thanks v3

A. To God

1. The source of everything.
2. Christians should learn to thank God for everything.
3. The more one gives thanks the more one realizes the more they need to give thanks.

B. In remembrance

1. Paul thanked God for the saints at Philippi.
2. He thought about them and prayed for them.

3. The remembrances were favorable.

C. Of thanksgiving

1. Paul gave thanks always for all things. Eph 5.20
2. We should likewise give thanks always for all things.

IV. Paul's Prayer v4

A. In joy

1. Paul knew he could pray to the Lord.
2. He knew he could pray for the saints.
3. He had been give Christ example of prayer.

B. Asking

1. He was praying on their behalf.
2. He prayed for them joyfully.
3. We should pray for one another.

C. Expecting

1. He made request for them.
2. We are expected to make request for others.

V. Fellowship v5

A. In the gospel.

1. The gospel was part of their fellowship together.
2. The gospel around which they fellowship is describe in 1 Cor 15.1-4.
3. Our fellowship because of the gospel should bring us joy.

B. In like-mindedness.

1. They wanted to fellowship one with another.
2. They wanted to share the gospel of that fellowship with others.

C. From the first day.

1. Believers start fellowship the moment they are born again.
2. They can continue to fellowship in joy with other believers until Jesus comes.
3. The relationships which they can establish with believers will foster fellowship in Christ.

Questions for Reflection

1. What does being a servant mean to you?
2. As a saint, do you feel holy or set apart?
3. Grace and peace in some commentaries is a salutation. In its use here, is it more than a greeting?
4. Paul said he gave thanks always for all things, how can one do that?

5. Can one pray, make request to God, for another person? If so, for what may one pray for them?

6. Describe non-Christian fellowship. Is it different from Christian fellowship? How?

Application for Personal Use.

Pray to know God's grace and peace through Jesus Christ more fully.

Ask God for joy as you remember the fellowship which you have with other believers.

Session Two

Title: In My Heart

Focus: One can know and/or experience in their heart the joy of being filled with Christ righteousness.

Detailed Sentence Outline

In My Heart
(Phil 1:6-11)

Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ: Even as it is meet for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart; inasmuch as both in my bonds, and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, ye all are partakers of my grace. For God is my record, how greatly I long after you all in the bowels of Jesus Christ. And I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment; That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ; Being filled with the fruit of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God.

I. Being Confident. v6

A. Confidence

1. Paul's confidence in Christ was unshakable.
2. He trusted in the Lord with all his heart. Prov 3.5
3. John said, we can be confident. 1 John 5.14

B. Confidence to finish

1. Paul was confident that Christ could finish what He started.
2. We should be confident that Christ will perform or complete a good work in us.
3. Christ the author and finisher of our faith.

C. Confidence in Christ

1. Christ is doing the good work.
2. We can have confidence that we will be change to be like Him. Eph 2.10
3. Confidence includes becoming a new creature. 2 Cor 5.17

II. Gospel confirmed v7

A. In my heart

1. Confirmation of the gospel can be felt in one's heart.
2. Paul kept the Philippians in his heart.
3. In his heart he knew it was right to think of them doing the work of Christ.

B. The gospel

1. In his bonds Paul confirmed the gospel.
2. In chains or not, Paul would further the gospel.
3. Paul was ready with his defense of the gospel. He knew what believed and could confirm it.

C. My grace

1. Paul wanted to share his grace with them.
2. He used the word partakers to denote that they were in fact sharing his grace.
3. He shared his grace with all of them. There is even sufficient grace for you and me.

III. For the record v8,9

A. God is my witness

1. Paul said God is his witness to how he felt about the Philippian believers.
2. He expressed his love for them as an expression of Christ love.
3. This type of love would go a long way in churches today.

B. Longing after them

1. Paul really loved them.
2. Paul was sure God understood what he felt for them.

C. This I pray

1. Paul prayed that their love would abound.
2. He wanted it not only to be big but he wanted it to be bigger and bigger.
3. He wanted that love to be in knowledge and in all judgment.

IV. Be without offense v10

A. Approval

1. Approval can be made of many things.
2. Give approval to that which is excellent.

B. Sincere

1. Believers of all people should be sincere.
2. They need to live so they can show Christ.

C. Without offense

1. Live a life that shows Christ has changed you.
2. How long should one behave? Until Christ comes again.
3. The day of Christ is coming.

V. Be filled v11

A. Fruits of righteousness

1. Paul expected the Philippians to be filled with the fruits of righteousness.
2. We should desire to be filled with fruits of righteousness.
3. Fruits of righteousness are demonstrated by what Christians produce by their righteousness.

B. The filling

1. One is filled by Christ Jesus.
2. The righteousness is in Christ Jesus.
3. We should live like Christ. 1 Pet 2.21

C. The results

1. Fruit will be produced.
2. Result will be glory to God.
3. Result will be praise to God.

Questions for Reflection

1. What was Paul convinced in heart that Christ could complete? Is Christ working in you?
2. Are you a partaker of God's grace? If not, why not?
3. If you had one request, would it be to increase in knowledge and in all judgment?
4. Can one be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ? What must one do to attempt such an undertaking?

5. Can you see in other Christians fruits of righteousness?

Application for Personal Use.

The believer should give evidence of fruits of righteousness.

Born again saints should give glory and praise to God for the changes in their lives.

Session Three

Title: In My Bonds

Focus: Even if one is in bondage or affliction, in Christ Jesus they can be set free.

Detailed Sentence Outline

In My Bonds
(Phil 1:12-17)

But I would ye should understand, brethren, that the things which happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel; So that my bonds in Christ are manifest in all the palace, and in all other places; And many of the brethren in the Lord, waxing confident by my bonds, are much more bold to speak the word without fear. Some indeed preach Christ even of envy and strife; and some also of good will: The one preach Christ of contention, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my bonds: But the other of love, knowing that I am set for the defense of the gospel.

I. Understand v12

A. Have knowledge

1. Paul wanted the Philippians to know about his circumstances.

2. He desired that they should understand the results of

what happened to him.

3. As brethren, he felt they had a need to know.

B. Things happen

1. What happened to him was gain for the gospel.
2. As long as Paul could be used for Christ sake, he was ready to suffer, if necessary.

C. Gospel advanced

1. Paul wanted the Philippians to know that all things work good for them that love the Lord.
2. The word rather used by Paul denotes that something else could have occurred.
3. The furtherance of the gospel for Paul was why he lived.

II. In all the right places v13

A. In the palace

1. Paul was not in a palace, he was in jail.
2. Paul was imprisoned for the gospel. Acts 16.16
3. Paul made an appeal to Caesar to be free to preach the gospel and it cost him his freedom.

B. In bonds

1. He was in bonds for Christ, not crime.
2. He was guilty of trying to save people.
3. Paul's bondage was opportunity to show Christ in him in the palace.

C. In other places

1. Paul's imprisonment allowed others to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ.
2. His jailor heard and was saved.
3. Those who guarded him heard the gospel.

III. The fallen out v14

A. The brethren

1. Brethren in the Lord were helped by Paul's imprisonment.
2. Brethren aware of what happened to him.
3. Paul used by God as an example to his brethren.

B. The bonds

1. He gave others confidence while he was in jail.
2. His circumstances persuaded them to action.

C. Being bold

1. Boldness to speak by others not in bonds.
2. His bonds gave them cause to speak.

3. In the face of bondage they were without fear.

IV. Preach Christ v15

A. Christ is preached

1. There are many reasons Christ is preached.
2. Some had the wrong reason.
3. Envy and strife against Paul was a reason.

B. Envy and strife

1. Creating difficulties and problems for someone is not preaching Christ.
2. Envy and strife are of the devil.
3. For Paul any preaching, at his expense was gain for Christ.

C. Good will

1. A fruit of righteousness type of preaching.
2. The right reason to preach Christ is very important.
3. For Paul whether one preached for his good or bad he did not care, as long as Christ was preached.

V. The defense v16,17

A. Contention

1. Paul explains the occurrence.
2. He explains the motive of the preaching.
3. Some preach to add to Paul's affliction.

B. Affliction

1. Paul in bonds has to put up with preachers who preach just so he will suffer more.
2. The preaching of such people is not sincere.
3. Clearly not in Christian love. Wrong motives.

C. Love

1. Paul believed when Christ was preached out of love, he was set for the defense.
2. Paul wanted the opportunities to defend the gospel.
3. He was ready to preach the gospel in Rome. Rom 1.14-16

Questions for Reflection

1. How did knowing of the circumstances surrounding Paul further the gospel? Does the sharing of your circumstances further the gospel?
2. Paul preached in prison and the gospel was heard in the palace and other places. What does this say about where one shares the

gospel?

3. Believers should be bold in Christ Jesus. How can we be bold as Christians?

4. As Christians when we here preaching which is out of envy and strife, what should we do?

5. Are present events causing Christians to have a need for the defense of the gospel?

Application for Personal Use.

Religious liberties are being taken away at every judicial opportunity. Search your heart to determine what you must do to keep the gospel out of bondage.

Make an effort this week to reduce any envy or strife that you may be aware of in your church.

Session Four

Title: In My Hope

Focus: The hope of man, dead or alive, is not to depart or to stay but to glorify God in Christ Jesus.

Detailed Sentence Outline

In My Hope
(Phil 1:18-24)

What then? notwithstanding, every way, whether in pretense, or in truth Christ is preached; and I therein do rejoice, yea, and will rejoice. For I know that this shall turn to my salvation through your prayer, and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. But if I live in the flesh, this is the fruit of my labour: yet what I shall choose I wot not. For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better: Nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you.

I. What then v18

A. In pretense

1. The motive was wrong.
2. It was disguised. It was not what it seemed.
3. The motive makes a difference to God

B. In truth

1. The right way is in truth.
2. Jesus is preached for right reasons.
3. People heard Christ preach in pretense and in truth.

C. Rejoice

1. Paul rejoiced that Christ was preached.
2. Even if in pretense, Paul was happy.
3. All Paul cared about was that Jesus was preached.

II. For I know v19

A. The results

1. Paul's salvation was to be delivered.
2. His deliverance would occur because of prayer.
3. Prayer can deliver the trusting saint.

B. The supply

1. The Spirit had the deliverance it would take to release Paul.
2. The Spirit will supply all our need. Phil 4.19
3. David said, I shall not want. Ps 23.1

C. The Spirit

1. The Spirit wants to fill you. Eph 5.18
2. The Spirit wants to guide you. John 16.13,14
3. The Spirit wants to help in our infirmities. Rom 8.26

III. My hope v20

A. Expectation

1. Paul expected to see what his faith believed.
2. His belief was in earnest.
3. We can have expectation when we believe.

B. Unashamed

1. Paul did not want to let his master down.
2. He was not ashamed of what he had already accomplished for Christ.
3. He was concerned that as he faced death he would remain strong in the Spirit, though the flesh might be weak.

C. Magnifying Christ

1. Paul's desire was to represent Christ boldly.

2. He wanted to demonstrate Christ living in him.
3. In death he wanted to die with Christ receiving the victor over his bonds.

IV. Living for Jesus v21,22

A. To live

1. We are alive physically.
2. We are alive spiritually.
3. Being alive in Christ is alive forever.

B. To die

1. All of us will die physically.
2. Electing to remain unsaved, one will die spiritually.
3. Christ does not want you to die spiritually. His desire is that you live forever in Him.

C. That is the question

1. We all live in the flesh.
2. Is the fruit of your labors in the flesh?
3. Choose, living for Jesus, or dying in sin.

V. Caught in the middle v23,24

A. In a tough spot

1. Paul wanted to live that he might further the gospel.
2. He wanted to leave to be out of his chains with Christ.
3. For Paul both was best. What was better was his dilemma.

B. Life or death

1. Paul wanted to depart this life to be with Christ.
2. Paul was home sick for heaven.
3. Paul was ready to depart.

C. I need to stay

1. The Spirit will reveal what one should do.
2. The Spirit revealed to Paul the better way was to stay for the preaching of the gospel.
3. The Spirit revealed the need to Paul, the Spirit will reveal the need to you.

Questions for Reflection

1. Can preaching Christ be for the wrong reason?
2. Do prayers really bring salvation (deliverance) from trials and

difficult times?

3. Paul did not want to be ashamed of his actions. As Christians have we done something which may cause us to be ashamed?

4. Are you living for Jesus? What is the evidence of that life? What are the fruits of your labors in the flesh?

5. For some people life makes them wonder if it is worth living. What would the Spirit reveal to them if they compared living for Jesus or dying for gain?

Application for Personal Use.

Living or dying, whatever we do should all be for the glory of God in Christ Jesus.

The furtherance of the gospel was one of Paul's concerns. The other concern was fellow believers. Let us make these two concerns our concerns as well.

Session Five

Title: I Know

Focus: One can know and experience life by standing fast in their faith even in persecution.

Detailed Sentence Outline

I Know

(Phil 1:25-30)

And having this confidence, I know that I shall abide and continue with you all for your furtherance and joy of faith; That your rejoicing may be more abundant in Jesus Christ for me by my coming to you again. Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel; And in nothing terrified by your adversaries: which is to them evident token of perdition, but to you to salvation, and that of God. For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake; Having the same conflict which ye saw in me, and now hear to be in me.

- I. Have confidence v25,26
 - A. Others will abide with you
 - 1. You are not alone in your faith.
 - 2. Continue with other Christians.
 - 3. Abide in Christ.
 - B. You will have joy in your faith
 - 1. You go further with help from Christian friends.
 - 2. Your joy will grow.
 - 3. The right faith produces joy.
 - C. Abundantly rejoice
 - 1. In Christ one can abundantly rejoice.
 - 2. Others rejoice with you.
 - 3. Abundant life is found only in and through Jesus Christ. He is the reason for rejoicing.
- II. Have the right testimony v27
 - A. Focus on one thing
 - 1. Do only that which is stated in the word.
 - 2. Live worthy.
 - 3. Live honoring the gospel.
 - B. Find out about you
 - 1. People will see your life.
 - 2. People will hear what you do.
 - 3. Your life will be a witness.
 - C. Firm stand is necessary
 - 1. Stand fast.
 - 2. Stand in one spirit.
 - 3. Stand in one mind.
- III. Be unafraid v28
 - A. Nothing should bother you
 - 1. Don't be frightened.
 - 2. The opposition cannot hurt you.
 - 3. You have a protector.
 - B. Know they will be destroyed
 - 1. God will deal with those who oppose you.
 - 2. They know their condition.
 - 3. They witness your salvation.
 - C. You will be saved
 - 1. Your faith is evidence of God's saving grace.

2. Your help comes from God.
3. Be faithful.

IV. You have been granted v29,30

A. To believe

1. You have been given opportunity to be saved.
2. You have been given a witness.
3. You are a sign to the lost.

B. To suffer

1. You will have opposition.
2. You will need to be unafraid.
3. You will not be destroyed.

C. To struggle

1. Your struggle will demonstrate your faith in your God.
2. You may suffer as did Paul.
3. The struggle is on Christ's behalf.

Questions for Reflection

If you were writing to a church for the last time, what would you write?

What are some characteristics of a great church?

Application for Personal Use.

1. In your testimony, remain unwavering.
2. As a church it is important to stand together.
3. One may become unpopular as a Christian, that is alright.
4. Honor the gospel by witnessing for the Lord.
5. Maintain one spirit with other Christians.
6. In any test, remember Christ is with you, and you cannot fail.

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Other writings;

Discipleship: An Evangelistic Approach.

The Decree of God.

The Deity of Christ.

Personality of the Holy Spirit.

The Ministry of Angels.

The Creation and Fall of Man.

The Dilemma of Sin.

Salvation and Security.

The Church.

End Times or Last Things.

Systematic Theology Synopses.

The Birth of Christ.

Church History AD 31 to AD 1517.

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Evangelism Then and Now.

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Personal Evangelism.

How to Claim a Victorious Christian Life.

Church Staff Administration.

Brief Studies in the Old Testament.

The Old Man and Flesh.

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The Right Foundation.

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Evangelism Program: From Policy to Procedure.

Pastoral Placement Process.

A Study of Philippians.

A Pastor's Calendar.

The Sinless Christ.