

The Epistle To The Philippians



**A Study Guide With Introductory Comments,
Summaries, Outlines, And Review Questions**

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The Epistle To The Philippians

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This study guide was developed in preparation for teaching adult Bible classes.

- ◆ The objectives for each section are usually things I plan to emphasize during the class.
- ◆ I have found that summarizing and outlining helps me to better understand the Word of God. It is a practice I highly recommend to others.
- ◆ I generally delete the answers to the review questions before printing the material and giving it to the students. But that you might know what answers were intended by the questions, I have included them in these guides.

These outlines were developed in the course of my ministry as a preacher of the gospel. They are included in **The Executable Outlines Series**, a collection my sermon outlines and Bible study materials. Visit the EO web site (exeout.com) to browse or download more material.

Feel free to use them as they are, or adapt them to suit your own personal style. To God be the glory!

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The Epistle To The Philippians

Introduction

AUTHOR

The apostle **Paul (1:1)**, joined in his salutation by **Timothy**. Personal references by the author (**1:12-14; 2:19-24; 3:4-7; 4:15-16**) are certainly consistent with what we know of Paul from other New Testament sources. Paul's authorship of this letter is also supported by the testimony of early "church fathers" such as Polycarp and Irenaeus.

THE CITY OF PHILIPPI

Named after Philip of Macedonia, the father of Alexander the Great, it was a major city of Macedonia on the road from Rome to Asia known as the Egnatian Way. It was the site of a famous battle in 42 B.C. in which Antony and Octavius defeated Brutus and Cassius. In 30 B.C., Octavian made the town a Roman colony where retired soldiers could live and enjoy the full privileges of Roman citizenship (to which Paul may have alluded in **3:20**).

THE CHURCH AT PHILIPPI

During his second missionary journey (49-52 A.D.), Paul and his traveling companions (Timothy and Silas) were making their way across Asia Minor (Turkey) when Paul received a vision at Troas. In the vision, a man of Macedonia pleaded, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." Perceiving that the Lord was calling them to go to Macedonia, they sailed from Troas (Luke having joined them) and eventually arrived at Philippi (**Ac 16:6-12**).

With the conversion of Lydia (**Ac 16:13-15**) and the Philippian jailor (**Ac 16:25-34**), the church was established at Philippi. The lack of a synagogue seems to indicate that Jews were not prevalent and so the church may have consisted primarily of Gentiles. From the conversion of Lydia and references in the epistle itself (**4:2-3**), it is evident that a number of women played a role in the growth of the church.

When it became necessary for Paul to leave, Luke seems to have stayed at Philippi (based upon careful observations of personal pronouns; e.g., "we, they", cf. **Ac 16:12; 17:1**). As Paul left Macedonia, the church at Philippi became a significant source of support (**4:15-16; 2 Co 11:9**).

Paul visited the church at Philippi again on his third missionary journey (**Ac 20:3,6**).

TIME AND PLACE OF WRITING

Philippians is one of Paul's four "prison epistles" (**1:7,13,17**; cf. Ephesians, Colossians, and Philemon). The general consensus is that these epistles were written during Paul's imprisonment at Rome (cf. **Ac 28:16,30-31**). If such is truly the case, then Paul wrote Philippians around **61-63 A.D.** from **Rome**.

PURPOSE OF THE EPISTLE

The church at Philippi had sent a gift to Paul in Rome by the hand of Epaphroditus (4:10,18). Paul uses this occasion not only to thank them, but to comfort them concerning his situation as a prisoner for Jesus Christ (1:12-14). He also writes of his plans to send Timothy soon (2:19-24), and why he considered it necessary to send Epaphroditus back to them (2:25-30). There may have also been a problem at Philippi involving two women, for Paul has a few words to say concerning them (4:2-3).

THEME OF THE EPISTLE

Throughout this short and rather personal epistle, one keynote resounds again and again. That keynote is joy. Five times the word "joy" (Grk., chara) is found (1:4,25; 2:2,29; 4:1), and the verb "to rejoice" (Grk., chairein) occurs eleven times (twice in 1:18; 2:17,18; 4:4; once in 2:28; 3:1; 4:10). For this reason, the epistle to the Philippians has often been called Paul's "hymn of joy" in which the theme is:

"REJOICE IN THE LORD!"

KEY VERSE: Philippians 4:4

"Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!"

OUTLINE

INTRODUCTION (1:1-11)

1. Salutation (1-2)
2. Thanksgiving and prayer (3-11)

I. THE SITUATION IN ROME (1:12-26)

A. PAUL'S IMPRISONMENT AND OPPOSITION (1:12-18)

1. Imprisonment has actually created opportunities to spread the gospel (1:12-14)
2. Even opposition has provided opportunity for Christ to be preached (1:15-18)

B. PAUL'S EXPECTATION OF DELIVERANCE (1:19-26)

1. By their prayers and the provision of the Holy Spirit, he knows all will turn out well for his salvation (1:19-20)
2. Whether he lives or dies, it will be a blessing (1:21-23)
3. Knowing their need of him at the present, he is confident of coming to them once again (1:24-26)

II. EXHORTATION TO BEHAVIOR WORTHY OF THE GOSPEL (1:27-2:18)

A. STAND FAST IN ONE SPIRIT (1:27-30)

1. Strive together for the faith of the gospel (1:27)

2. Do not be terrified by your adversaries (1:28-30)

B. BE OF ONE MIND BY FOLLOWING THE EXAMPLE OF CHRIST (2:1-11)

1. Make Paul's joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love (2:1-2)
2. In humility, look out for the interests of others (2:3-4)
3. Follow the example of Christ's humility (2:5-11)

C. SHINE AS LIGHTS IN THE WORLD (2:12-18)

1. By working out their own salvation, for it is God who is at work in them (2:12-13)
2. As children of God, blameless and harmless (2:14-16)
3. Consider Paul's imprisonment as a reason to rejoice (2:17-18)

III. PLANS INVOLVING TIMOTHY AND EPAPHRODITUS (2:19-30)

A. TO SEND TIMOTHY SOON (2:19-24)

1. Paul plans to send him shortly (2:19)
2. Commendation of Timothy (2:20-22)
3. Timothy to come soon, hopefully followed by Paul himself (2:23-24)

B. TO SEND EPAPHRODITUS AT ONCE (2:25-30)

1. Why Paul felt it necessary to send Epaphroditus (2:25-28)
2. Receive him in the Lord with all gladness (2:29-30)

IV. WARNINGS AGAINST JUDAISM AND ANTINOMIANISM (3:1-21)

A. AGAINST JUDAISM (3:1-11)

1. Rejoice in the Lord, beware of those who place confidence in the flesh (3:1-3)
2. If anyone had reason to boast in the flesh, it would have been Paul (3:4-6)
3. But he gave it all up, that he might know Christ and the power of His resurrection (3:7-11)

B. AGAINST ANTINOMIANISM (3:12-21)

1. Paul's attitude of pressing on to perfection (3:12-14)
2. An exhortation for them to have the same mind (3:15-17)
3. A warning against those who serve their own desires (3:18-19)
4. A reminder of our true citizenship, and the hope it entails (3:20-21)

V. EXHORTATIONS TO UNITY, JOY, AND PEACE (4:1-9)

A. AN APPEAL TO EUODIA AND SYNTYCHE (4:1-3)

1. Prefaced with an exhortation to stand fast in the Lord (4:1)
2. A plea for them to be of one mind, assisted by others (4:2-3)

B. EXHORTATION CONCERNING JOY AND PEACE (4:4-9)

1. Rejoice in the Lord always, and be gentle to all (4:4-5)
2. Through prayer, let the peace of God guard your hearts from anxiety (4:6-7)
3. Meditate upon things worthy of virtue and praise, and follow Paul's example (4:8-9)

VI. THANKSGIVING FOR THEIR GENEROSITY (4:10-19)

A. THEIR GIFT A SOURCE OF JOY TO PAUL (10-14)

1. Paul rejoiced when they were able to care for him again (4:10)
2. Not that he really had need, for he had learned contentment (4:11-13)
3. But they have done well to share in his distress (4:14)

B. THEIR GIFT A SOURCE OF BLESSING FOR THEMSELVES (15-19)

1. A brief history of their giving to Paul (4:15-16)
2. Their giving abounds to their own account, viewed as an acceptable sacrifice to God, who will supply all their need (4:17-19)

CONCLUSION (4:20-23)

1. Praise to God (4:20)
2. Greetings from those with Paul, even those of Caesar's household (4:21-22)
3. Final benediction (4:23)

REVIEW QUESTIONS FOR THE INTRODUCTION

- 1) **On which missionary journey was the church at Philippi established?**
- Paul's second missionary journey
- 2) **Where can we read about the beginning of the church at Philippi?**
- Ac 16:11-40
- 3) **Who seems to have stayed at Philippi after Paul left? (cf. "we, they", Ac 16:12; 17:1)**
- Luke
- 4) **From where and when did Paul write Philippians?**
- From Rome, sometime around 61-63 A.D.
- 5) **What three other epistles were written about this time? What are the four epistles sometimes called?**
- Ephesians, Colossians, and Philemon
- The "prison epistles"
- 6) **What prompted the writing of Philippians? (cf. Ph 4:10,18)**
- A gift from the church at Philippi by the hands of Epaphroditus
- 7) **From Acts 16 and Philippians 4, who were some of the members of the church at Philippi?**
- Lydia, the jailor, Euodia, Syntyche, Clement, Epaphroditus
- 8) **What is the theme running throughout this epistle? Which verse stands out as the key verse?**

- Rejoice in the Lord!
- Ph 4:4

9) List the six main sections of this epistle as given in the above outline

- The situation in Rome
- Exhortation to behavior worthy of the gospel
- Plans involving Timothy and Epaphroditus
- Warnings against Judaism and antinomianism
- Exhortations to unity, joy, and peace
- Thanksgiving for their generosity

The Epistle To The Philippians

Chapter One

OBJECTIVES IN STUDYING THIS CHAPTER

- 1) To appreciate why the Philippians were a source of great joy to Paul
- 2) To learn from Paul's attitude concerning persecution, death, and the purpose of life

SUMMARY

Paul begins his epistle with his customary salutation followed by an expression of thanksgiving and prayer. The church at Philippi had been a source of great joy to Paul by virtue of their fellowship with him in the proclamation of the gospel. Confident that God will complete the work He began in them, Paul prays that their spiritual growth will continue (**1-11**).

His circumstances at Rome have actually been for the furtherance of the gospel, despite imprisonment and opposition by false brethren. He is confident that everything will turn out all right, and that he will even come to them again. It is not without mixed feelings, however, for he is torn between a desire to be with Christ and a realization that to remain in the flesh is more needful for them (**12-26**).

At the moment, his desire is that whether absent or present he may hear they are conducting themselves worthy of the gospel, by standing fast in one spirit and one mind for the gospel and not disturbed by any adversaries. They should take comfort in knowing that, like Paul, they have been granted the honor not only to believe in Christ, but also to suffer for His sake (**27-30**).

OUTLINE

I. INTRODUCTION (1-11)

A. SALUTATION (1-2)

1. From Paul and Timothy, servants of Jesus Christ (**1a**)
2. To the saints in Christ Jesus who in Philippi, with the bishops and deacons (**1b**)
3. Grace and peace from God and Jesus Christ (**2**)

B. PAUL'S THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER (3-11)

1. His thanksgiving for them (**3-8**)
 - a. That every thought, every request in their behalf, is one of joy (**3-4**)
 - b. For their fellowship in the gospel from the very first day (**5**)
 - c. He is confident that God will complete the work begun in them, for they have shared with him in his chains and the proclamation of the gospel (**6-7**)
 - d. God is his witness to how much he longs for them with the love of Jesus (**8**)
2. His prayer for them (**9-11**)

- a. That their love abound in knowledge and all discernment (9)
- b. That they approve the things that are excellent (10a)
- c. That they be sincere and without offense till Christ returns (10b)
- d. That they be filled with the fruits of righteousness (11)
 - 1) Made possible by Jesus Christ (11a)
 - 2) To the glory and praise of God (11b)

II. THE SITUATION IN ROME (11-26)

A. PAUL'S IMPRISONMENT AND OPPOSITION (12-18)

1. Imprisonment has actually created opportunities to spread the gospel (12-14)
 - a. Things have turned out to the furtherance of the gospel, for even among the palace guard it is evident his chains are in Christ (12-13)
 - b. His example has emboldened others to speak without fear (14)
2. Even opposition has provided opportunity for Christ to be preached (15-18)
 - a. While some preach Christ out of love and good will, others do so with envy and strife, hoping to make things harder for Paul (15-17)
 - b. Yet Paul rejoices that in every way Christ is preached (18)

B. PAUL'S EXPECTATION OF DELIVERANCE (19-26)

1. He knows all will turn out well for his salvation (19-20)
 - a. Through their prayers and the help of the Holy Spirit (19)
 - b. He is confident that no matter what happens, Christ will be magnified (20)
2. Whether he lives or dies, it will be a blessing (21-23)
 - a. To live is Christ, to die is gain (21)
 - b. To live will mean fruitful labor, but to depart and be with Christ will be far better for him personally (22-23)
3. Knowing their need of him at the present, he is confident of coming to them once again (24-26)

III. EXHORTATION TO STAND FAST (27-30)

A. STRIVE TOGETHER FOR THE FAITH OF THE GOSPEL (27)

1. He pleads that their conduct be worthy of the gospel (27a)
2. So that whether present or absent, he may hear that they are standing fast in one spirit, united in their efforts for the faith of the gospel (27b)

B. DO NOT BE TERRIFIED BY YOUR ADVERSARIES (28-30)

1. For such confidence is not a sign of perdition, but of salvation from God (28)
2. They have been granted not only to believe in Jesus, but also to suffer for Him even as he does (29-30)

REVIEW QUESTIONS FOR THE CHAPTER

- 1) What are the main points of this chapter?**
 - Introduction (1-11)
 - The situation in Rome (12-26)
 - Exhortation to stand fast (27-30)

- 2) Who joins Paul in addressing this epistle? To whom is it sent? (1)**
 - Timothy
 - The saints in Christ Jesus in Philippi, with the bishops and deacons

- 3) For what is Paul thankful concerning the Philippians? (5)**
 - For their fellowship in the gospel

- 4) What is Paul confident of concerning the Philippians? (6)**
 - That God will complete the work begun in them until the day of Jesus Christ

- 5) Upon what basis did Paul have this confidence concerning the Philippians? (7)**
 - Their participation with Paul in both his chains and in the proclamation of the gospel

- 6) What four things did Paul pray for in behalf of the Philippians? (9-11)**
 - That their love might abound in knowledge and discernment
 - That they might approve the things that are excellent
 - That they might be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ
 - That they might be filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ

- 7) What was the effect of Paul's imprisonment? (12)**
 - It actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel

- 8) What was Paul's attitude about those preaching Christ out of envy and strife, trying to do him harm? (15-18)**
 - Christ was still being preached, and in that Paul rejoiced

- 9) What was Paul's earnest desire and expectation that he could do with all boldness? (20)**
 - To magnify Christ in his body, whether by life or by death

- 10) What was Paul's attitude toward life and death? (21)**
 - To live is Christ, and to die is gain

- 11) Between what two things was Paul hard pressed? (23-24)**
 - A desire to depart and be with Christ
 - A realization that to remain in the flesh was more needful for them

- 12) What sort of conduct did Paul consider worthy of the gospel of Christ? (27)**
 - Standing fast in one spirit, with one mind stringing together for the faith of the gospel

- 13) What had been granted to the Philippians on behalf of Christ? (29)**
 - Not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake!

The Epistle To The Philippians

Chapter Two

OBJECTIVES IN STUDYING THIS CHAPTER

- 1) To appreciate the importance of unity, and how it can be maintained by following Jesus' example of humility
- 2) To understand what is involved in "shining as lights in the world"

SUMMARY

The first chapter included an exhortation to stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel (1:27). Paul continues with the call for unity, providing reasons why we should desire unity, the nature of our unity, and attitudes necessary to maintain unity (1-4). Stressing the need for humility and sacrificial service towards others, Paul appeals to the example of Christ and expounds upon how far Christ was willing to go to save us (5-11).

He continues with another exhortation to "shine as lights in the world" as they work out their own salvation with fear and trembling. Doing all things without complaining and arguing, while holding fast the word of life, they will prove themselves to be children of God in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation. This will also prove to Paul that his labors have not been in vain, and any persecution he endures is viewed as a sacrifice in the service of their faith and a cause for mutual rejoicing (12-18).

He then writes of his plans pertaining to Timothy and Epaphroditus. He will send Timothy shortly, that he might know of their condition. But Epaphroditus is coming at once in order to set their hearts at ease about Epaphroditus' brush with death due to a recent illness (19-30).

OUTLINE

I. EXHORTATION TO UNITY (1-11)

A. THE MOTIVATION FOR UNITY (1)

1. The consolation we have in Christ
2. The comfort found in love
3. The fellowship we have in the Spirit
4. The affection and mercy we can enjoy

B. THE NATURE OF UNITY (2)

1. Being of like mind, having the same love
2. Of one accord, of one mind

C. ATTITUDES FOR MAINTAINING UNITY (3-5)

1. Do nothing through selfish ambition or conceit (3a)
2. With lowliness of mind let each one esteem others better than himself (3b)
3. Be concerned for the interest of others (4)
4. Let the mind that was in Christ be in you (5)

D. JESUS AS AN EXAMPLE OF UNSELFISH HUMILITY (6-11)

1. Though He was Deity, He was willing to come in the likeness of man (6-7)
2. As a man He humbled Himself in obedience to the point of dying on the cross (8)
3. Therefore God highly exalted Him so that at His name all should bow and confess Him to be Lord (9-11)

II. EXHORTATION TO SHINE AS LIGHTS IN THE WORLD (12-18)

A. BY WORKING OUT THEIR OWN SALVATION (12-13)

1. Doing so with fear and trembling (12)
2. Remembering that God is at work in them (13)

B. AS CHILDREN OF GOD WITHOUT FAULT (14-16)

1. Doing all things without murmuring and complaining (14)
2. Blameless and harmless in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation (15)
3. Holding fast the word of life, so that Paul may rejoice in the day of Christ (16)

C. VIEWING PAUL'S PERSECUTION AS A REASON TO REJOICE (17-18)

1. He views it as a "sacrifice", offered in the service of their faith (17a)
2. For this he is glad, and calls upon them to rejoice with him (17b-18)

III. PLANS INVOLVING TIMOTHY AND EPAPHRODITUS (19-30)

A. TO SEND TIMOTHY SOON (19-24)

1. That Paul might be encouraged when he learns of their condition (19)
2. His commendation of Timothy, as one who seeks the things of Christ, and who serves with Paul in the gospel as a son with his father (20-22)
3. He will be sent at once, as soon as Paul knows how things will go with him, and he himself hopes to come shortly (23-24)

B. TO SEND EPAPHRODITUS AT ONCE (25-30)

1. Because of his longing for them and his distress when they heard he was sick (25-27)
2. So he is coming that they might rejoice, and Paul himself will be less sorrowful (28)
3. Therefore receive him in the Lord with all gladness, and hold such men in high esteem for their sacrificial service to Christ and others (29-30)

REVIEW QUESTIONS FOR THE CHAPTER

- 1) What are the main points of this chapter?**
 - Exhortation to unity (1-11)
 - Exhortation to shine as lights in the world (12-18)
 - Plans involving Timothy and Epaphroditus (19-30)

- 2) What four things should serve as a motivation for unity? (1)**
 - The consolation we have in Christ
 - The comfort found in love
 - The fellowship we have in the Spirit
 - The affection and mercy we can enjoy

- 3) What should be the nature of our unity? (2)**
 - Being of like mind, having the same love, of one accord, of one mind

- 4) What four things are necessary to maintain unity? (3-5)**
 - Do nothing through selfish ambition or conceit
 - With lowliness of mind let each one esteem others better than himself
 - Be concerned for the interest of others
 - Let the mind that was in Christ be in you

- 5) What is said about Christ that proves Him to be a prime example of humility? (5-8)**
 - Though in the form of God, He did not consider it "robbery" to be equal to God
 - Made Himself of no reputation, becoming a servant and coming in the likeness of men
 - He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of dying on the cross

- 6) Having been highly exalted, what should every person do at the name of Jesus? (9-11)**
 - Every knee should bow
 - Every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord

- 7) What did Paul want his beloved brethren to do in his absence? (12)**
 - To work out their own salvation with fear and trembling

- 8) What is said about God working in the Christian? (13)**
 - He works in us both to will and to do for His good pleasure

- 9) What two things are necessary if we are to be children of God without fault, harmless and blameless, shining as lights in the world? (14-16)**
 - Do all things without murmuring and disputing
 - Hold fast the word of life

- 10) How did Paul view his imprisonment? (17)**
 - As being poured out as a drink offering on the sacrifice and service of their faith
 - As a reason to be glad and rejoice

11) What two things are said about Timothy? (20, 22)

- Paul had no one like-minded, who would sincerely care their state
- He had proven character, having served with Paul in the gospel as a son with his father

12) How does Paul describe Epaphroditus? (23)

- A brother, a fellow worker and fellow soldier, their messenger, and the one who ministered to Paul's need!

The Epistle To The Philippians

Chapter Three

OBJECTIVES IN STUDYING THIS CHAPTER

- 1) To see the error of placing confidence in fleshly accomplishments
- 2) To understand the need to strive toward perfection in our desire to know and serve Christ
- 3) To be reminded of our true citizenship in heaven

SUMMARY

In this chapter we find a warning against those who place great confidence in the flesh (1-3). If anyone had reason to boast about fleshly accomplishments, it was Paul with his Jewish heritage (4-6). But all such things were considered rubbish in relation to the excellence of knowing Christ Jesus (7-8).

Therefore Paul had as his goal to be found in Christ, having that righteousness which is by faith in Jesus, knowing Him and the power of His resurrection, and even sharing in His sufferings, that he might by any means attain to the resurrection from the dead (9-11).

Paul then describes his attitude of pressing on, and encourages all to follow his example and that of others who walk likewise (12-17). Such an exhortation is necessary in view of the reality that there are many people who are enemies of the cross of Christ, who have made their fleshly appetites the focus of their minds, and indeed their god (18-19). Christians, however, should remember that their true citizenship is in heaven, from which we eagerly wait for Jesus Christ who will transform our lowly bodies to be conformed to His glorious body (20-21).

OUTLINE

I. WARNINGS AGAINST JUDAISM (1-11)

A. BEWARE OF THE JUDAIZERS (1-3)

1. Rejoice in the Lord! (1)
2. Beware of "dogs", evil workers, the false circumcision (2)
3. For the true circumcision are those who...
 - a. Worship God in the Spirit
 - b. Rejoice in Christ
 - c. Have no confidence in the flesh (3)

B. PAUL'S EARLIER CONFIDENCE IN THE FLESH (4-6)

1. Paul had many grounds for boasting in the flesh (4)
2. A list of things pertaining to the flesh in which he could have boasted (5-6)

C. PAUL'S DESIRE TO KNOW CHRIST (7-11)

1. He counted all as loss for the surpassing value of knowing Christ (7-8)
2. He supreme goal:
 - a. To have that righteousness which comes through faith in Christ (9)
 - b. To know Christ and the power of His resurrection (10a)
 - c. To share in His sufferings, even in His death, that by any means he might attain to the resurrection from the dead (10b-11)

II. WARNINGS AGAINST ANTINOMIANISM (12-21)

A. PAUL'S ATTITUDE OF PRESSING ON (12-14)

1. He does not consider himself perfect, so he presses on (12)
2. He forgets those things which are behind, and reaches forward to what lies ahead (13)
3. His goal is the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus (14)

B. AN EXHORTATION FOR THEM TO HAVE THE SAME MIND (15-17)

1. Let those who are mature have the same mind (15)
2. To the degree you have already attained, so live (16)
3. Follow the example set by Paul and others, who live this way (17)

C. A WARNING AGAINST THE ENEMIES OF THE CROSS (18-19)

1. With tears, Paul warns them of those who do not walk properly (18)
2. Such people set their minds on earthly things, making their belly their god (19)

D. A REMINDER OF OUR TRUE CITIZENSHIP (20-21)

1. Our citizenship is in heaven, from which we eagerly wait for Jesus (20)
2. Who when He comes will transform our lowly body to conform to His glorious body (21)

REVIEW QUESTIONS FOR THE CHAPTER

1) What are the main points of this chapter?

- Warnings against Judaism (1-11)
- Warnings against antinomianism (12-21)

2) Who does Paul warn against? (2)

- Dogs, evil workers, the "mutilation" (false circumcision); i.e., Judaizers, those who would impose circumcision and the keeping of the Law of Moses on Gentile Christians (cf. Ac 15:1-6)

3) What characterizes those who are the true circumcision? (3)

- They worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh

4) What sort of things could Paul have boasted pertaining to the flesh? (4-6)

- Circumcised the eighth day
- Of the stock of Israel
- Of the tribe of Benjamin

- A Hebrew of the Hebrews
- Concerning the Law, a Pharisee
- Concerning zeal, persecuting the church
- Concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless

5) How did Paul view these fleshly things? (7-8)

- As loss, as rubbish, in contrast to the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus

6) What was Paul's earnest desire? (9-11)

- To be found in Christ
- To have the righteousness that comes through faith in Him
- To know Him and the power of His resurrection
- To know the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death
- To attain to the resurrection from the dead

7) Did Paul view himself as having already attained, or having been perfected? (12)

- No

8) According to Paul, what was the "one thing" he did? (13-14)

- Forgetting those things which are behind, reaching forward to those things ahead, he pressed toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus

9) What is the attitude, or mind, of those who are "mature"? (15)

- The attitude Paul had, of pressing on

10) How should the Christian walk? (16)

- To the degree or rule that they have attained

11) Whose example were the Philippians to follow? (17)

- Paul's, and those whose "walk" was similar to his

12) What description is given of those who are "enemies of the cross of Christ"? (18-19)

- Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, their glory is in their shame, and they set their minds on earthly things

13) Where is our citizenship? (20)

- In heaven

14) What will Christ do when He comes again? (21)

- Transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body

The Epistle To The Philippians

Chapter Four

OBJECTIVES IN STUDYING THIS CHAPTER

- 1) To notice Paul's tactfulness in dealing with Euodia and Syntyche
- 2) To glean Paul's secrets for joy, peace, contentment, and strength
- 3) To consider how Paul viewed the Philippians' generosity towards him

SUMMARY

This final chapter begins with a series of exhortations to unity, joy, and peace. With great affection, Paul pleads with his beloved Philippians to stand fast in the Lord (1). With great diplomacy and a call for assistance from others, he implores Euodia and Syntyche to be of one mind in the Lord (3-4). He then follows with a call for them to rejoice always in the Lord, letting their gentleness be known to all, and through prayer and supplication with thanksgiving to allow the peace of God remove any anxiety (5-7). His final exhortations include a call to meditate on things of virtue and worthy of praise, and to imitate his example in order to ensure that God will be with them (8-9).

At last he comes to the matter which occasioned this letter, expressing joy and gratitude for the gift they had sent to him by way of Epaphroditus. As they had done before on several occasions, so now they had provided for his necessities. He is thankful, even though he was quite content, for he knows that this gift really abounds to their account, serving as a sweet-smelling sacrifice that is well pleasing to God (10-19).

His closing remarks include praise to God, and greetings from those with him, especially members of Caesar's household. As was his custom, he closes with a final prayer that the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with them all (20-23).

OUTLINE

I. EXHORTATIONS TO UNITY, JOY, AND PEACE (1-9)

A. AN APPEAL TO EUODIA AND SYNTYCHE (1-3)

1. Prefaced with an exhortation to stand fast in the Lord (1)
2. A plea for Euodia and Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord (2)
3. A request for assistance in helping these women (3)

B. EXHORTATIONS TO REJOICE AND TO BE AT PEACE (4-9)

1. Rejoice in the Lord always, letting your gentleness be known to all (4-5)
2. Through prayer, allow the peace of God to guard your hearts from anxiety (6-7)

3. Meditate upon things worthy of virtue and praise, and follow Paul's example (8-9)

II. THANKSGIVING FOR THEIR GENEROSITY (10-23)

A. THEIR GIFT A SOURCE OF JOY TO PAUL (10-14)

1. Paul rejoiced when they were able to care for him again (10)
2. Not that he really had need (11-13)
 - a. For he had learned contentment (11-12)
 - b. For he had the strength of Christ (13)
3. But they have done well to share in his distress (14)

B. THEIR GIFT A SOURCE OF BLESSING FOR THEMSELVES (15-19)

1. A brief history of their giving to Paul (15-16)
2. Their giving abounds to their own account, viewed as an acceptable sacrifice to God (17-18)
3. God will supply all their needs according to His riches (19)

C. CONCLUDING REMARKS (20-23)

1. Praise to God (20)
2. Greetings from those with Paul, especially those of Caesar's household (21-22)
3. Final benediction of grace from the Lord Jesus Christ (23)

REVIEW QUESTIONS FOR THE CHAPTER

1) What are the main points of this chapter?

- Exhortations to unity, joy, and peace (1-9)
- Thanksgiving for their generosity (10-23)

2) How does Paul describe his brethren as he exhorts them to stand fast in the Lord? (1)

- My beloved and longed-for brethren
- My joy and crown

3) What two women does Paul implore to be of the same mind in the Lord? (2)

- Euodia and Syntyche

4) What is said about these two women? (3)

- They labored with Paul in the gospel
- Their names were in the Book of Life

5) In what are we to rejoice always? (4)

- In the Lord

6) Why are we to let our gentleness (or moderation) be known to all men? (5)

- The Lord is at hand

- 7) What is the antidote for anxiety? (6)**
 - Letting our requests be made known to God with an attitude of thanksgiving
- 8) What will the peace of God do in response to such thankful prayer? (7)**
 - Guard our hearts and minds through Christ Jesus
- 9) Upon what should one meditate? (8)**
 - Whatever things are true
 - Whatever things are noble
 - Whatever things are just
 - Whatever things are pure
 - Whatever things are lovely
 - Whatever things are of good report
 - Anything of virtue, anything that is praiseworthy
- 10) How can one ensure that the God of peace will be them? (9)**
 - Do the things learned, received, heard, and seen in Paul
- 11) What had served as a source of great joy for Paul? (10)**
 - The Philippians' care for him flourishing again
- 12) What had Paul learned? (11-12)**
 - To be content in whatever state he found himself
- 13) How was Paul able to do all things? (13)**
 - Through Christ who strengthens him
- 14) When had the church at Philippi helped Paul before? (15-16)**
 - When he departed from Macedonia
 - On at least two occasions when he was at Thessalonica
- 15) Why was Paul really pleased with their gift? (17)**
 - He knew that it added to their account
- 16) How did Paul view the gift they had sent by way of Epaphroditus? (18)**
 - A sweet-smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God
- 17) Who would provide help for the Philippians? (19)**
 - God, according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus
- 18) Who in particular sent greetings to the Philippians by way of Paul? (22)**
 - Those of Caesar's household
- 19) What was Paul's final prayer for his beloved Philippians? (23)**
 - The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all