

Philippians

March-June 2009
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I. Preliminary things

- A. We will use the NIV Bible
- B. Study with a concordance and/or the cross-references
- B. My goal is to better equip you to experience and develop more deeply
 - 1. God's and Paul's heart of joy, thanksgiving, fellowship, humility, and love.
 - 2. To have an incredible zeal and passion for God, His word, and each other. (Ps. 42:1-2; 119:97)
- C. Outline
 - 1. March 29 Introduction, 1:1-11
 - 2. April 19 1:12-30
 - 3. May 3 2:1-11
 - 4. May 10 2:12-30
 - 5. May 24 3:1-11
 - 6. May 31 3:12-4:1
 - 7. June 7 4:2-23

II. Introduction:

- A. Philippians: One of Paul's Prison Epistles which include Ephesians, Colossians, Philippians, and Philemon. Paul was in Prison in Rome when he wrote these letters.
- B. Philippians Was written about 61 AD
- C. Paul planted the church at Philippi about 51 AD
 - 1. Acts 16:11-40
 - 2. It was on his second missionary journey (see Bible map)
- D. Philippi was a Roman Colony in Macedonia, northeastern modern day Greece (see Bible map).
- E. Purpose: Primarily it was to thank the Philippians for their
 - 1. Constant support they had given him and their partnership with him in preaching the Gospel (1:3-5)
 - 2. The gifts they had sent him while in prison at Rome (4:10-14).
- F. Some good commentaries from easiest to most difficult level are the following
 - 1. D. A. Carson, *Basics for Believers: An Exposition on Philippians* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1996, Reprinted 2008).
 - 2. F. F. Bruce, *Philippians* (Hendrickson Publishers, 1989).
 - 3. Gordon D. Fee, *Paul's Letter to the Philippians* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1995).
 - 4. Moises Silva, *Philippians*, Second Edition (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2005).
 - 5. Peter O' Brian, *The Epistle to the Philippians* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1991).

III. Philippians 1:1-11

A. Terms and Heart in verses 1-2

1. Servants (douloi, slaves). Do you and I consider ourselves “slaves” of Jesus?
2. Christ Jesus (“Christ” is not a sir name. It means messiah Jesus)
3. Saints (hagioi). What do we think of when we hear the term “saint” today? What does Heb. 2:11 say? Sainthood is from God. All true baptized disciples are “saints.” Do you feel holy? Do you consider yourself a saint? What would it take to do so?
4. Overseers (episkopoi, overseers) and deacons (servants, diakonoi)
5. An extending of grace and peace to them (peace = eirene, Heb= shalom). Do you receive God’s grace and are you at peace every day? Do we extend grace and peace to each other?

B. Paul’s heart toward the Philippians vss. 3-8

1. I thank my God *every time I remember you*. Do we do this with each other, every time? What type of heart does that take?
2. “In ALL my prayers” I always pray for you with joy. Do we do this? Is it our heart?
3. Partnership=koinonia=fellowship=working together as a unit for the same goal. Secular realm = business venture pooling money and talent.
4. Gospel=good news. Are we partners with each other in the Gospel? How so? Are we involved with our talent and our money and heart? The Philippians were.
5. God the completer vs. 6. Are we “confident” of this in our lives and others?
6. “The day of Christ Jesus” = I Thes. 4:13-5:11; I Cor. 1:8. Are we ready to meet our maker (Mat. 24:42-51)
7. It is right for me to feel (“feel” =Greek=phroneo=think or have in mind)
8. What does it mean: “I have you in my heart”? Heart=kardia=heart, the inner self, mind, will, desire. Do we have each other in our hearts?
9. Share in God’s grace (vs. 7). Share=coparticipant (sugkoinonos)
10. “God can testify how I long for all of you” (epipotheo=long for, desire, yearn for)
11. “with the affection of Christ Jesus” (splanchna) Jesus had this, Matt. 9:36ff).

C. Paul’s prayer for the Philippians: vss. 9-11

1. Love (passionate loyalty) may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight (or judgment)
2. To discern (dokimazo=test, examine, discover, approve, demonstrate) what is best (diaphero=best, superior, worth more).
3. May be pure (eilikrines=pure, sincere, honest) and blameless (aproskomos=blameless, faultless, inoffensive) until the day of Christ
4. Be filled with the fruit of righteousness through Jesus to God’s glory It comes “through” Jesus Christ (this means we must surrender to let him live through us). Are we surrendered to Jesus to let Him through?