

Philippians – Lesson 1

Paul's Relationship with the Philippians

Verses to Remember

"I thank my God every time I remember you." (Phil 1:3 NIV)

"And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ — to the glory and praise of God." (Phil 1:9-11 NIV)

Acts 16: 6-10

1. Why would the Holy Spirit prevent Paul and Co. from preaching the gospel anywhere?

2. What happened that got Paul's attention to go to Macedonia?

3. When did Paul and Co. decide to react upon God's calling to go?

Acts 16: 11-15

1. Where did Paul and company settle while waiting for the Sabbath?

2. Why do you think they sought out those who were already gathering in prayer?

3. If Lydia was a worshiper of God, then why did she need to respond to Paul's message?

4. What did Paul's message encourage Lydia and her household to do?

5. Do you ever stay at someone else's house?

6. What type of people do you let stay at your house

7. What does this say about how Christian's relate to each other?

Acts 16: 16-40

1. What got Paul and Silas jailed in the first place?

2. What happened to Paul and Silas before they were thrown into the jail?

3. What happened to Paul and Silas once they were in prison?

4. With all that they had endured (a flogging like what Jesus may had endured, a beating from the crowd, placement in stocks in a dark, damp cell) how do you think they mustered the strength to praise God?

5. . How do you find strength to praise God during difficult times?

Philippians 1: 1-11

1. With what emotions did Paul write his letter to the Philippians?

2. How do you think the Philippians reacted when they read it?

3. Why was Paul's relationship with the Philippians so special, based on verse 7?

Homework:

- Memorize Philippians 1: 3 and Philippians 1:9-11.
- Commit to doing something this week that will help you love and live with your fellow Christians more fully.
- Make a list of people that are your "Philippians" and pray for them each day this week
- Commit to praying for other members of your class this week.

Philippians – Lesson 2

Seize the Day

Verses to remember

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

“Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in one spirit, contending as one man for the faith of the gospel without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you. This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved—and that by God. For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for him, since you are going through the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have.” (Phil 1:27-30 NIV)

Philippians 1: 12-14

1. Name two things that Paul points out as positive outcomes of his imprisonment.

2. Would Paul have been justified in "shutting down" and feeling sorry for himself?

3. Could God make a tragedy in your life into a platform for His glorification?

Workbook Activity

1) Describe the toughest thing that has ever happened in your life that hurt you, that imprisoned you.

2) How did that experience effect your emotions?

3) During the time that you were dealing with that terrible event, how did you feel about God?

Philippians 1: 15-18

1. What do you think Paul means when he says people are preaching the gospel out of bad motives?

2. How could such preaching really be an encouragement to him?

Philippians 1:19-30

1. What does Paul say will be the source of his deliverance?

2. Paul knows he has two options—he's going to live or he's going to be executed. What is his goal for each?

3. What do you think Paul means when he says "to live is Christ and to die is gain"?

4. Based on your current commitment level how would you handle being punished for your faith in Christ?

5. Why is Paul convinced that he will live through this imprisonment?

Homework:

- Memorize Philippians 1: 21 and Philippians 1:27-30.
- Look for different ways this week to "seize the day" for Jesus.
- Continue to pray for your "Philippians" from Lesson 1, and for other members of your class this week.