

# Philippians 1

## Verse 1

Read 2 Timothy 2:2. Who is your “Paul” (somebody who has or is discipling you) and who is your “Timothy” (somebody you are discipling)?

## Verse 2

In what ways have you received grace and peace recently? What keeps you from receiving grace and peace? What can you do to remove or change whatever keeps you from receiving?

## Verse 4

Who are you most thankful for and who do you remember with joy?

## Verse 4

When others think about you, what comes to their minds? Are you remembered with joy by them? Do your acts of kindness lift others up?

## Verse 5

In what ways were the recipients of this letter partners with Paul in spreading the gospel? (Provided practical help for Paul when he was in Philippi - Acts 16:15, financial support when he was in prison)

## Verse 5

All believers play a part in spreading the gospel by using the gifts, resources, time, talents, and energy that God has given them. How can you partner with others (your church, missionaries, etc.) to spread the gospel?

## Verse 6

Describe your growth journey as a Christian. How confident are you on a daily basis that God is currently at work in your life? What difference does the promise in verse 6 make for you today?

## Verse 9-10

What was Paul praying for the recipients of this letter? Have you ever prayed like this for somebody?

## Verse 9

Are you growing to love others more and growing in your knowledge (of Christ) and understanding (moral discernment)? What evidence is there (the “fruit of your salvation” in verse 11) of this growth in your life?

## Verse 12-14

Paul realized that his current circumstances weren't as important as what he did with them. What good came out of Paul's situation (being in prison) in these verses? What is a circumstance that you have that it could be easy to be discouraged? How can you demonstrate

your faith in that bad situation? What good things that you can celebrate can come out of that situation? How can your faith grow stronger in that situation?

#### **Verse 14**

When we speak fearlessly for Christ or live faithfully for him during difficult situations, we encourage others to do the same. Who can you encourage today by living fearlessly for Jesus?

#### **Verse 15-18**

What was the only thing that mattered to Paul in these verses? In what ways are you bothered by things that ultimately don't matter? What is core to your life and faith...what matters most?

#### **Verse 16**

Have you ever had difficulty accepting your station in life or do you resent where God has placed you? How can you serve God faithfully and joyfully where you are right now, even if its a place that feels like a prison?

#### **Verse 19-24**

What values get in the way of eternal values most often for you? What steps can you take to be able to fully embrace eternal values and see your life and the world around you from the perspective that Paul sees them in these verses?

#### **Verse 24**

Paul had a purpose for living that was bigger than himself. What is your purpose for living?

#### **Verse 27**

What does it look like to live as a citizen of Heaven?

#### **Verse 27**

Who are you "standing together" with, with one spirit and one purpose, and who are you "fighting together" with for the faith? What does that look like in a practical way in your life?

#### **Verse 28**

What "enemies" intimidate you?

#### **Verse 29**

Have you ever considered suffering a "privilege?" What are the benefits of suffering?

#### **Verse 30**

Do you naturally tend to struggle alone or do you seek out others? What does struggling together look like? Who in your life can share your struggles with you? Who do you know who needs somebody to struggle with and how can you step into that struggle with them?

## **Philippians 2**

### **Verse 2**

What are the effects on a community of believers when Philippians 2:2 is followed or ignored?

### **Verse 3**

Philippians 2:3 says to do nothing out of rivalry or conceit (ESV). Is this realistic?

### **Verse 3**

What does it mean to think of others as better than yourself (or to count others more significant than yourself)? What does it not mean?

### **Verse 3-4**

Philippi was a diverse city and the church in Philippi was a diverse church (see Acts 16) filled with people from different socio-economic backgrounds and nationalities. With so many different backgrounds unity must have been difficult to maintain. What topics, issues, or circumstances could cause disunity in our church (or even in our small group) today? How can each of us fight for unity?

### **Verse 5-11**

Summarize Philippians 2:5-11. What can you do to pursue having the same mind, or attitude, as Jesus? How are you doing with it? (“To change our desires to be more like Christ’s, we need the power of the indwelling Spirit, the influence of faithful Christians, obedience to God’s Word...not just exposure to it, and sacrificial service. Often it is in doing God’s will that we gain the desire to do it...4:8-9. Do what he wants and trust him to change your desires”)

### **Verse 12-13**

What do verses 12-13 reveal about your role and God’s role when it comes to your spiritual growth?

### **Verse 14**

Why are complaining and arguing so harmful?

### **Verse 29**

What kind of people should the church honor?

## **Philippians 3**

### **Verse 1**

When is it hardest for you to rejoice?

### **Verse 1**

What things do you do or have in place in your life to safeguard your faith?

### **Verse 5-6**

What credentials, accomplishments, or reputation have you relied on to be in “good standing” with God, or even to earn your salvation? Why is this such a strong temptation?

### **Verse 8**

How do you know Christ better?

### **Verse 8-9**

If somebody were to look at your calendar or follow you around for a day, would they think that knowing Christ more is the most important thing in your life?

### **Verse 11**

What does it mean to experience the resurrection of the dead? How does having confidence that you will experience the resurrection of the dead change the way you live?

### **Verse 7-11**

Paul said his goal was to know Christ, to be like Christ, and to be all Christ had in mind for him to be. What is distracting you or holding you back from pursuing the same goal?

### **Verse 17**

What kind of followers would new Christians become if they imitated you?

## Philippians 4

### Verse 2-3

Paul did not warn the Philippians church of any doctrinal errors, but he did address some relational problems. Do you need to be reconciled to someone today? What step can you take?

### Verse 4

What does a person look like who is rejoicing biblically?

### Verse 5

What do you think it means to be “considerate?” Who do you have the hardest time being considerate towards? Why?

### Verse 6-7

How does Paul’s instruction here contrast with many “self-help” ideologies today?

### Verse 8

What do you allow on a daily basis to be inputted into your mind? What inputs do you need to eliminate, reduce, or replace? How much do you practice focussing on what is good and pure?

### Verse 8

What does it look like in everyday life to fix your thoughts on what is true?

### Verse 9

How easy is it for you to listen to a sermon on Sunday and forget to put it into practice on Monday? Or to read the Bible and not live it out? Exposure to God’s Word is not enough. It must lead to obedience (see Matthew 7:24-27). What will you do this week to live out what you’ve learned from God’s Word?

### Verse 10-14

How would you rank your ability to get along happily (be content) in any circumstance you face? To what are you drawn when you feel empty inside? What do you think was the reason Paul could get along with so much joy, despite whatever circumstances he faced? (he could see life from God’s point of view) How can you do the same?

### Verse 13

How have we misused verse 13? What do you think this verse really means?

Summarize the teaching of the book of Philippians in one or two sentences. What life lessons will you take from this?