

Philippians



The Mind of Christ

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Lesson 1 Introduction and Background

Philippians is perhaps the most personal of all Paul's writings. It is indeed a personal letter written to a group that Paul respects, loves and has spent a good deal of time with. It has also been referred to as the "Book of Joy," because the theme is prevalent throughout the book and the word itself is used a number of times.

This lesson will provide a little background on the city of Philippi, the church that was established at Philippi, the writer of the Philippian letter as well as the possible date, time and location of the writing.

The City

- 1) In which province or section of Greece was Philippi located?

- 2) From reference books determine:
 - a) Its location

 - b) Its peculiar relation to Rome

- 3) What indication is there that few Jews lived in Philippi?

The Church

- 1) Acts 16:6-40
 - a) What caused Paul to go to Philippi?

 - b) Who were his first converts?

 - c) What offer was made to Paul and his companions immediately following this first baptism?

 - d) What miracle caused Paul and Silas to be imprisoned?

 - e) Who were converted as a result of Paul and Silas' imprisonment?

 - f) When asked to leave the city, what did Paul and Silas do before their departure?

 - g) Where did they go after leaving Philippi (Acts 17:1)?

- 2) Philippians 4:15-16
 - a) How many times did the Philippians send aid to Paul in Thessalonica?

 - b) At what other time did they assist him?

- 3) 2 Corinthians 8:1-5
 - a) What was the economic condition of the churches of Macedonia?
 - b) How is their affliction described?
 - c) Describe their giving for the poor saints in Judea.
 - d) How did Paul apparently feel about their giving?
 - e) What explains their liberality?

The Writer

- 1) Subsequent visits to Philippi (Acts 20:1-3)
 - a) After the uproar in Ephesus, Paul came to "Greece" and remained for how long?
 - b) *Note: This time was most likely spent in Philippi and was the occasion on which 2 Corinthians was written.*
 - c) Why did Paul return through Macedonia after his visit to Corinth?
 - d) To what place was he traveling when he returned through Macedonia?
- 2) Jerusalem to Rome
 - a) What happened to Paul in Jerusalem (Acts 21:32-33)?
 - b) How long did he remain a prisoner under Felix (Acts 21:32-33)?
 - c) Where was he finally taken for trial (Acts 27:1)?
- 3) Imprisonment in Rome
 - a) What were the conditions under which Paul was imprisoned?
 - b) How long had he been a prisoner in Rome when Acts was completed?

Conclusions:

- 1) It was almost certainly during this imprisonment in Rome that Paul wrote Philippians. This would make the place of the writing, Rome and the time, 63 or 64 A.D.
- 2) During this same imprisonment, Paul wrote Ephesians, Colossians and Philemon.
- 3) Read through the book. From this reading and from the introduction and any other references available, compile a list of all of those who were or could have been member of the Philippians church at some point.

Lesson 2 (Philippians 1:1-11) The Mind of Christ Regarding Brethren

Philippians 1:1-11 (New King James Version)

1. Paul and Timothy, bondservants of Jesus Christ, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:
2. Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
3. I thank my God upon every remembrance of you,
4. always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy,
5. for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now,
6. being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete *it* until the day of Jesus Christ;
7. just as it is right for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart, inasmuch as both in my chains and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers with me of grace.
8. For God is my witness, how greatly I long for you all with the affection of Jesus Christ.
9. And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment,
10. that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ,
11. being filled with the fruits of righteousness which *are* by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

In lesson 1 we learned that Paul wrote Philippians from prison in Rome in 63 or 64 A.D. A key verse that we need to remember is Philippians 2:5, "Have this mind in you which was also in Christ Jesus." In Philippians Paul reveals to us the attitudes which the mind of Christ produced in him.

The Author and His Companion

- 1) Paul
 - a) From lesson 1, what past connection did Paul have with the church at Philippi?
 - b) Read through the book and state what you would consider to be Paul's reason for writing this letter.
- 2) Timothy
 - a) What past association did Timothy have with Philippi?
 - b) From your reading of the book, what association was to be expected in the future?
- 3) "Servants of Jesus Christ"
 - a) How does this contrast with Paul's designation of himself to the Romans, Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, etc.?
 - b) Can you account for the difference?

The Recipients

- 1) "All the saints in Christ Jesus who are at Philippi"
 - a) What is the meaning of the word saint?

 - b) What are these same people called in 4:15 and what does it mean?

 - c) Can you see a relationship between these?

 - d) From Acts 16:14-15, 30-34, tell how they became and what they were.

 - e) Were these saints organized into a working organization?

- 2) "With the Bishops"
 - a) What other word could be used as a translation here (check the margin of your Bible)?

 - b) What responsibility does the designation suggest?

 - c) What men were called bishops of the church in Ephesus (compare Acts 20:17 and 28)?

 - d) What work are these men exhorted to do in 1 Peter 5:2?
 - i) What other designation would this imply?

 - e) What fact in verse 1 shows that the bishops in Philippi were not like modern denominational bishops?

- 3) "And Deacons"
 - a) What is the meaning of the word deacon?

 - b) The word minister in the following passages is the verb form of the word deacon. What kinds of activity do these verses suggest?
 - i) Matthew 4:11

 - ii) Matthew 8:15

 - iii) Matthew 20:28

 - iv) Matthew 25:44

 - v) Matthew 27:55

- vi) Luke 8:3
- c) *Note: Though all Christians minister, not all are deacons in an official sense as it was evidently used by Paul (see 1 Timothy 3:8-13).*

The Greeting

- 1) Grace
 - a) What is the meaning of the word grace?
 - b) *Note: This was a greeting which was common to the Greeks.*
- 2) Peace
 - a) What is the meaning of the word peace?
 - b) Do you know the Hebrew word for peace?
 - c) Suggest a possible significance in the order of these
- 3) Source of grace and peace
 - a) God
 - b) Christ

Before you look at the rest of the questions for the remainder of this lesson, read over the text again and write down what it says to you about Paul's attitude toward brethren at Philippi.

Remember that Paul has the mind of Christ (1 Corinthians 2:16), the same mind that we are to have (see Philippians 2:5). These verses reveal the attitude toward brethren which the mind of Christ produced in Paul. What improvements will His mind make in your own attitude?

Paul's Memories of the Brethren

- 1) What things stood out in Paul's memory of the Philippian brethren (vss. 3-7)?

Paul's Emotions as He Remembered Them

- 1) What words or phrases in verses 3-8 reveal Paul's feelings and emotions as he thought of the Philippians?

Paul's Reactions

- 1) From verses 3-9, list some of the things which Paul said he did when he remembered what he did and felt what he did about the Philippians.

Paul's Prayer

- 1) The Prayer
 - a) What did he pray might abound more and more?

 - b) In what two things did he wish it to abound?
 - i)
 - ii)
 - c) What might be the result if love abounded without the two qualities you listed above?

 - d) If these two qualities were increased, what did he say they would be able to do?

 - e) What two things did he want them to be?
 - i)
 - ii)
 - f) How long did he want him to be these two things?

 - g) With what did Paul wish for the Philippians to be filled?

 - h) Through whom is such fruit born?

 - i) Can you think of any statement or teaching of Jesus that would reinforce this?

 - j) To whose glory would all of this be and why?
- 2) Applications
 - a) What usually causes us to pray for congregations at a distance?

 - b) What do we most often pray for when we pray for them?

 - c) Why do you think our prayers for churches might be different from the kind of prayers Paul prayed?

Please continue reading Philippians each day or at least every other day, asking yourself whether your sentiments would have been the same as Paul's if you had been writing the letter.

Lesson 3 (Philippians 1:12-20) The Mind of Christ Regarding Adversity

Philippians 1:12-20
(New King James Version)

12. But I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel,
13. so that it has become evident to the whole palace guard, and to all the rest, that my chains are in Christ;
14. and most of the brethren in the Lord, having become confident by my chains, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.
15. Some indeed preach Christ even from envy and strife, and some also from goodwill:
16. The former preach Christ from selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my chains;
17. but the latter out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel.
18. What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is preached; and in this I rejoice, yes, and will rejoice.
19. For I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayer and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,
20. according to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death.

Before you consider the questions below, read the verses suggested and describe in your own words what attitude the mind of Christ in Paul caused him to have toward adversity.

What applications do you see for your own day?

The Principle – Verse 12

1. Unpleasant things will happen to Christians
 - a. What things do you think Paul was referring to here?
 - b. What other things does he mention in 2 Corinthians 11:23-27?
 - c. What are some unpleasant things that can happen to us in the service of Christ?
2. Such things can advance the gospel.

- a. Did Paul complain about the things that happened to him? Did he seek sympathy?
- b. Explain Paul's attitude.

The Results Specified

- 1. Spreading Influence of Paul
 - a. How widely were Paul's bonds known?
 - b. What was known about them?
- 2. Increasing proclamation of the Gospel
 - a. Effect on "most of the brethren"
 - i. What affect did Paul's chains have on "most of the brethren"?
 - ii. What motivated them (vss. 15-16)?
 - b. Effect on a minority of brethren. List four characteristics of the preaching of some as an effect of Paul's chains:
 - i. "Proclaim Christ of _____ and _____"
 - ii. "Proclaim Christ of _____"
 - iii. "Not _____"
 - iv. Purpose:
 - c. Explain the reasoning of this latter group.

Paul's Reaction

- 1. Philippians 1:18
 - a. Present attitude:
 - b. Future Attitude:
- 2. Reason:
 - a. Why did he react in this manner?
 - b. Was Paul unconcerned about motives? Explain what he was saying.

Results Expected

1. Paul's salvation
 - a. What salvation does he mean; salvation of his body or of his soul? Give proof for your answer.

 - b. Through what two factors would this be accomplished?
 - i.
 - ii.
2. Paul's boldness
 - a. What was his hope and expectation?

 - b. What can cause a person to be "put to shame?"
3. Christ magnified in his body. Explain.

Discussion

Were the preachers who opposed Paul preaching truth or error? Suppose Paul had become involved in a bitter dispute, what effect would it have had?

Lesson 4 (Philippians 1:19-30) The Mind of Christ Regarding Life and Death

Philippians 1:19-30
(New King James Version)

19. For I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayer and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,
20. according to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death.
21. For to me, to live *is* Christ, and to die *is* gain.
22. But if *I* live on in the flesh, this *will mean* fruit from *my* labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell.
23. For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, *which is* far better.
24. Nevertheless to remain in the flesh *is* more needful for you.
25. And being confident of this, I know that I shall remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy of faith,
26. that your rejoicing for me may be more abundant in Jesus Christ by my coming to you again.
27. Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel,
28. and not in any way terrified by your adversaries, which is to them a proof of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that from God.
29. For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake,
30. having the same conflict which you saw in me and now hear *is* in me.

Intro

1. Read the verses and describe Paul's attitude toward:
 - a. Life
 - b. Death
2. Why do you think Paul wrote these things to the Philippians?

Paul's Goal

1. What did Paul wish to be accomplished in his body?
 - a. Had this been accomplished in the past? If so, suggest some ways.
 - b. What were two possible ways it might be accomplished in the future?

2. Advantages of life. List at least four advantages Paul seemed to see in living (vss. 21-26).
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
3. Advantages of dying.
 - a. Who would benefit most from his dying?

 - b. What would be the benefit?
4. Paul's expectation
 - a. What was Paul awaiting when he wrote?

 - b. What outcome did he expect and why?

Paul's Admonition for the Philippians

1. Their citizenship (conversation)
 - a. What was the political status of Philippi (see article on next page)?

 - b. Of what spiritual government were the Philippian Christians a colony?

 - c. By what were they called into this relationship (see 2 Thessalonians 2:13-14)?

 - d. What obligations did all of this carry?
2. Characteristics of Citizens of Heaven. List some characteristics implied in verse 27.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
3. Realities faced by citizens in a colony.
 - a. By what may citizens of a colony expect to be surrounded?

 - b. When people persecute citizens of the kingdom of Heaven, what does this reveal about them? What must these people expect in the future?

 - c. When citizens accept persecution without being terrified, what does that signify? What example did they have of this?

4. Privileges of Citizens
 - a. List the privileges from verse 29
 - i.
 - ii.
 - b. How could this be called a privilege?

Conclusion

1. Could it be said of you that “to live is Christ?”

2. What encouragement should these last verses be to us in our surroundings today?

Lesson 5 (Philippians 2:1-11) The Mind of Christ

Philippians 2:1-11
(New King James Version)

1. Therefore if *there is* any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy,
2. fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, *being* of one accord, of one mind.
3. *Let nothing be done* through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself.
4. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.
5. Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,
6. who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God,
7. but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, *and* coming in the likeness of men.
8. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to *the point of* death, even the death of the cross.
9. Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name,
10. that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth,
11. and *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Intro

1. The word therefore in verse 1 points back to the previous chapter. According to the last verses of that chapter, what had the Philippians experienced in common with Paul?
2. In these verses he is urging the same attitude as his own toward these things.

Fulfillment of Paul's Joy

1. Paul's joy – What two things in chapter 1 did Paul say gave him joy or caused him to rejoice?
 - a.
 - b.
2. Paul mentions something else in chapter 2 in which he was glad and rejoiced – what was it?
3. Grounds for Paul's appeal – Verse 1 contains four "if's". What are they?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.

4. Things necessary to fulfill Paul's joy
 - a. Verses 2-4 tell what things would fulfill Paul's joy and make it complete. Think of one word which would summarize each of them:
 - i.
 - ii.
 - iii.
 - iv.
 - b. If they were to have "one mind" what was the one mind that they should all have?
 - c. What are some things one might do in church out of selfish ambition or conceit? Give an example from chapter 1.
 - d. Why should it really be easy for us to think of others as better than ourselves?
 - e. Does verse 4 mean that we should attend to everybody else's business rather than to our own? Explain.

The Great Example

1. Trace the steps of Christ's humiliation.
 - a. "Being in the form of _____"
 - b. "Emptied Himself taking the form of a _____"
 - c. "Being found in appearance (fashion) as a _____"
 - d. "He humbled Himself and became _____ to the point of _____"
 - e. "Even the _____ of the _____"
2. Was this voluntary or involuntary? Suggest some ways in which this illustrates what was enjoined in verses 2-4.
3. What was the reward for this action of Christ?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
4. General questions for discussion:
 - a. Do these verses say that Christ was equal to God?
 - b. Do you think there is any significance in the fact that Paul says "Christ Jesus" in verse 5 and "Jesus Christ" in verse 11?
 - c. What did Jesus give up to become a man? Of what did He "empty Himself"?
 - d. What is the name given to Him that is above every name? At what name will we all bow? Is this the name that you would expect? Explain.

Lesson 6 (Philippians 2:12-18) The Mind of Christ Regarding Obedience

Philippians 2:12-18
(New King James Version)

12. Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;
13. for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for *His* good pleasure.
14. Do all things without complaining and disputing,
15. that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,
16. holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.
17. Yes, and if I am being poured out *as a drink offering* on the sacrifice and service of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all.
18. For the same reason you also be glad and rejoice with me.

Intro

1. In verses 5-8 the mind of Christ is described. This description was introduced as an example of humility and unselfish service.
2. As described, the mind of Christ was also one of obedience. How far did He go with His obedience?
3. Some suggest that this tells how “He emptied Himself.” He accepted a position as a servant whose only will was to do the will of Him who sent Him (see Hebrews 5:8).
4. Having introduced the obedience of Christ, Paul now applies that lesson to the Philippians. Note the word therefore in verse 12.

The Fact of Obedience

1. What does Paul say they had always done? Do you think this was an acceptance of Paul’s authority or of God’s?
2. What does he urge them to do in his absence?
 - a. What does this suggest about their responsibility for their own salvation?
 - b. What emotional and physical involvements are appropriate to the magnitude of this responsibility?
 - c. What common religious errors do these words refute?
3. Why should Paul’s presence or absence have nothing to do with their obedience?

4. How does God motivate us “to will and to do”?
5. Does verse 13 suggest that man is not responsible for his own salvation?
Harmonize your response with verse 12.
6. For what reason does God work in us?

The Manner of Acceptable Obedience

1. Negatively:
 - a. What would be suggested by murmuring obedience?
 - b. List some other scriptures that indicate how God feels about murmuring.
 - c. What would disputing indicate (this probably means disputing with God)?
2. Positively:
 - a. What three characteristics should we seek as children of God?
 - i.
 - ii.
 - iii.

Result of Obedience

1. “In the midst of a crooked and perverse generation”
 - a. He will be _____
 - b. Does this refer to the church as a whole or to the individual? How do you know?
 - c. How do we achieve this according to verse 16?
2. To Paul
 - a. What would this achievement cause Paul to do?
 - b. When?

Paul’s Joyful Contribution

1. What was he willing to be? (Read Exodus 29:38-46; Numbers 15:1-16 and Numbers 28:7-29 and tell what a drink offering was and its purpose.)
2. What attitude did Paul have toward this?
3. What attitude did he want the Philippians to have about his being “poured out”?

Lesson 7 (Philippians 2:17-30) The Mind of Christ Toward Self

Philippians 2:17-30
(New King James Version)

17. Yes, and if I am being poured out *as a drink offering* on the sacrifice and service of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all.
18. For the same reason you also be glad and rejoice with me.
19. But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you shortly, that I also may be encouraged when I know your state.
20. For I have no one like-minded, who will sincerely care for your state.
21. For all seek their own, not the things which are of Christ Jesus.
22. But you know his proven character, that as a son with *his* father he served with me in the gospel.
23. Therefore I hope to send him at once, as soon as I see how it goes with me.
24. But I trust in the Lord that I myself shall also come shortly.
25. Yet I considered it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother, fellow worker, and fellow soldier, but your messenger and the one who ministered to my need;
26. since he was longing for you all, and was distressed because you had heard that he was sick.
27. For indeed he was sick almost unto death; but God had mercy on him, and not only on him but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow.
28. Therefore I sent him the more eagerly, that when you see him again you may rejoice, and I may be less sorrowful.
29. Receive him therefore in the Lord with all gladness, and hold such men in esteem;
30. because for the work of Christ he came close to death, not regarding his life, to supply what was lacking in your service toward me.

Intro

1. Philippians 2:5-8 describes the unselfishness of Christ and instructs us to have His mind.
2. In Philippians 2:17-30 we see the attitude toward self which was produced in three men who had the mind of Christ.
3. As we study this lesson, each of us should be asking if the mind of Christ has produced such an attitude in us. If not, do we truly have “the mind of Christ”?

Paul

1. What did Paul think might happen to him?
2. How did he describe it in 2 Timothy 4:6?
3. What relation did all of this have to the Gentiles (see Ephesians 3:1, Romans 15:15-16)?
4. How did he feel about the possibility of being offered in this manner?

5. What attitude did he want the Philippians to have about it?

Timothy

1. What benefit did Paul hope to receive from sending Timothy to Philippi?
 - a. How does this illustrate Philippians 2:4?
2. How was Timothy different from others whom Paul might have sent?
 - a. A question to ask ourselves – Would Paul have sent me?
3. Think carefully about verses 20-22. Timothy was more concerned about at least three others more than himself. Who are they?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
4. How did Timothy illustrate the instructions in Philippians 2:
 - a. Verse 2 –
 - b. Verse 3 –
 - c. Verse 4 –
5. When did Paul expect to send Timothy?
6. What did Paul hope to do soon?

Epaphroditus

1. What was Epaphroditus to Paul?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
2. What was Epaphroditus to the Philippians?
3. Why had Epaphroditus come from Philippi to Paul in Rome (see verse 25 and 4:8)?
4. What problem had Epaphroditus had while he was with Paul (27)? How serious was it?

5. What seemed to concern Epaphroditus most about his problem (26)?
6. How did God mercifully protect Paul from “sorrow upon sorrow”?
7. Why did Paul not exercise “healing power”?
8. How would sending Epaphroditus to the Philippians cause Paul to be less sorrowful?
9. Verse 30 mentions four different persons or groups – name them.
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
10. Which of the four groups listed above was Epaphroditus least concerned about?
11. What attitude did Paul say the church should have toward such men?

Lesson 8 (Philippians 3:1-14) The Mind of Christ Regarding Righteousness

Philippians 3:1-14
(New King James Version)

1. Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. For me to write the same things to you *is* not tedious, but for you *it is* safe.
2. Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the mutilation!
3. For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh,
4. though I also might have confidence in the flesh. If anyone else thinks he may have confidence in the flesh, I more so:
5. circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, *of* the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of the Hebrews; concerning the law, a Pharisee;
6. concerning zeal, persecuting the church; concerning the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.
7. But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ.
8. Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ
9. and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which *is* from the law, but that which *is* through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith;
10. that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,
11. if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.
12. Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.
13. Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing *I do*, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead,
14. I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Intro

1. The first part of 3:1 seems disconnected from the remainder of this text, but it serves as a kind of topic sentence for the section. Read verses 1-14; then explain the significance of the statement: “Rejoice in the Lord” in this context.
2. Do you think Paul wrote more than he intended to write following the word “finally”?

False Concepts of Righteousness (3:1-6)

1. Do you think Paul was a negative kind of preacher who enjoyed warning against “false teachers”? Explain why writing such warnings was not **irksome** or tedious for him.

2. Paul uses the word “beware” three times. Of what are we to beware?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
3. Were these three different threats or different descriptions of the same threat?
4. Identify the false teaching about which Paul warns (Acts 15:1 may help).
5. What are the characteristics of the true circumcision?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
6. Where do the characteristics of true circumcision exist?
7. Before Paul became a Christian, what things would he have boasted of as proof of his righteousness?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
 - e.
 - f.
 - g.
 - h.
8. With what sect was Paul aligned in his views of the law?
9. What were the Pharisees most concerned about in keeping the law (see Matthew 23:5, 23, 25-28)?
10. On what did they depend for their claim to righteousness (Romans 10:3-4)?
11. What did Jesus say was necessary to enter the kingdom of Heaven (Matthew 5:20)?
What did He mean by this?

True Basis of Righteousness (3:7-14)

1. As a Christian, what was Paul’s attitude toward those things on which he formerly depended?
 - a. Verse 7 –
 - b. Verse 8 –
2. Paul lists about seven things that he was striving for:
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
 - e.
 - f.
 - g.

3. From whom did the righteousness come upon which he depended as a Christian?
4. On what condition is righteousness obtained?
5. In view of the context, does this suggest a “relaxed, laid-back” attitude toward being saved: “Let God do it all”?
6. Did Paul consider himself perfected? Did he have salvation so secure that it could not be lost? Prove your answer.
7. What things does Paul reveal about the call which he accepted (verse 14)?
8. From other passages, find other characteristics of this call.

Lesson 9 (Philippians 3:15-21) The Mind of Christ Regarding Maturity

Philippians 3:15-21
(New King James Version)

15. Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind; and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you.
16. Nevertheless, to *the degree* that we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us be of the same mind.
17. Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern.
18. For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, *that they are* the enemies of the cross of Christ:
19. whose end *is* destruction, whose god *is their* belly, and *whose glory is* in their shame—who set their mind on earthly things.
20. For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,
21. who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

Intro

1. Understanding verses 15 and 16 demand an understanding of verses 12-14.
2. What three things does Paul say he had not accomplished?
 - a. Verse 12 –
 - b. Verse 12 –
 - c. Verse 13 –
3. What three things did Paul say he was doing?
 - a. Verse 12 –
 - b. Verse 13 –
 - c. Verse 14 –

Attitude of the Mature (3:15-16)

1. There is a problem in some translations. In verse 12, Paul says he was not yet made perfect. Yet, in verse 15 some translations say, “Let us, therefore, as many as be perfect...” The word in verse 15 should probably be translated “mature”. (See 1 Corinthians 14:20 and Hebrews 5:14 where the same word is used).
2. Did Paul expect all in Philippi to be mature? Can we expect that now?
3. If Paul wished all who were mature to be likeminded with him, what attitude would they have (see verses 12-14)?
4. What did Paul want all to do, regardless of the degree of maturity or attainment?
5. How would this affect the unity of the congregation?

Examples for the Mature (3:17-19)

1. Why could Paul be confident in urging that they follow his example?
2. Who were the others who were to be noted and followed?
3. Name some who may have been included in this number who were known to the Philippians.
4. What are the characteristics of those who are designated “enemies of the cross”?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.
5. Do you think these “enemies of the cross” were in the church or out of the church? Justify your answer.
6. One translation of the third clause in verse 19 is “who glory in those things of which they should be ashamed.” Name those shameful things that many people glory in today.
7. Think of the most admired men and women among Christians of our day, both young and old. Which description do they most often fit, that of verse 17 or that of verse 19?

Hope of the Mature

1. The King James translation says, “Our conversation is in Heaven...” What word is used in other translations? The Greek word here is *politeuma*, and is related to our word for political or metropolitan.
2. From a previous lesson, how were the Philippians especially qualified to appreciate such a statement?
3. What word describes our present body?
4. Into what will Christ transform it when He comes again?
5. What verse in 1 Corinthians 15:35-49 most closely parallels Philippians 3:21?
6. By what power will this transformation be accomplished?
7. What is the logical present day life of one whose hope is set upon this transformation (see 1 John 3:2-3)?

Lesson 10 (Philippians 4:1-9) The Mind of Christ Regarding Peace

Philippians 4:1-9
(New King James Version)

1. Therefore, my beloved and longed-for brethren, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, beloved.
2. I implore Euodia and I implore Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord.
3. And I urge you also, true companion, help these women who labored with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names *are* in the Book of Life.
4. Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!
5. Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord *is* at hand.
6. Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God;
7. and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.
8. Finally, brethren, 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, if *there is* any virtue and if *there is* anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.
9. The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.

Intro

1. Verse 1 of chapter 4 is more closely connected with chapter 3.
2. What fact in chapter 3 suggests that brethren should “stand fast in the Lord”?

3. What four expressions does Paul use to suggest his deep feelings for the Philippians?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
 - d.

Peace Among Christians

1. Responsibility for self – verse 2
 - a. Name two women who were having problems.
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - b. Were these bad women?

 - c. What was the solution to their problem?

 - d. To what extent is this the solution whenever two Christians have disagreements and tension?

2. Responsibility for others – verse 3
 - a. What had the women of verse 3 done which entitles them to special help?
 - b. Who was asked to help them?
 - c. What eternal benefit could Paul’s fellow-laborers expect?

Peace Within

1. Rejoice – verse 4
 - a. How many times in this epistle does Paul exhort the Philippians to rejoice?
 - b. How many times in this one verse?
 - c. What would the temporal circumstances of Paul or of the Philippians encourage rejoicing? Explain.
 - d. In what could they rejoice?
2. “Let your gentleness be known” – verse 5
 - a. Check some other translations and suggest the meaning of this exhortation.
 - b. What injustices had led to Paul’s imprisonment?
 - c. What circumstances in our own society test our moderation or forbearance?
 - d. In what confidence is such moderation possible? What does this mean?
3. “Be anxious for nothing” – verse 6
 - a. What kind of things do we worry about?
 - b. How did Paul’s problems compare with these?
 - c. What does Paul offer as an alternative to worry?
 - d. What two things are to be included in prayer?
 - i.
 - ii.

4. "Peace of God" – verse 7
 - a. Why is it that the peace which a Christian enjoys is not understood by the world?

 - b. If we do not possess such peace, where should we look for the cause?

5. Nature and source of peace – verses 8-9
 - a. Where does true peace exist?

 - b. List eight qualities which should characterize our thoughts:
 - i.
 - ii.
 - iii.
 - iv.
 - v.
 - vi.
 - vii.
 - viii.
 - c. In what four ways could the Philippians benefit from their relationship with Paul?
 - i.
 - ii.
 - iii.
 - iv.
 - d. Whom must we have with us if we are to have peace?

Lesson 11 (Philippians 4:10-19) The Mind of Christ Regarding Contentment

Philippians 4:10-19
(New King James Version)

10. But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at last your care for me has flourished again; though you surely did care, but you lacked opportunity.
11. Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content:
12. I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.
13. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.
14. Nevertheless you have done well that you shared in my distress.
15. Now you Philippians know also that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church shared with me concerning giving and receiving but you only.
16. For even in Thessalonica you sent *aid* once and again for my necessities.
17. Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that abounds to your account.
18. Indeed I have all and abound. I am full, having received from Epaphroditus the things *sent* from you, a sweet-smelling aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well pleasing to God.
19. And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Intro

1. Philippians 4:10-20 contains an indication of the occasion for the writing of the epistle – what was it?
2. These verses explain, too, the warm feeling which Paul had for these brethren and the qualities of Paul which must have stirred in them the high regard they had for him.

What the Philippians Had Done For Paul

1. Philippians 1:5 referred to their fellowship with Paul in the gospel “from the first day.” What was done the first day which would constitute “fellowship in the gospel”?
2. From Acts 16-17 determine where Paul went from Philippi.
3. According to Philippians 4, what did they do for him there?
4. What distinguished this church when Paul was departing from Macedonia?
5. What had they done for Paul in Rome?

6. How did God view the gifts which they sent to Paul?
7. What reward did Paul say they could expect?
8. Paul was in prison two years before coming to Rome. Did the Philippians help him during that time? Explain.

Paul's Attitude Toward Material Things

1. What opposite extremes had Paul experienced according to verse 12?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
2. What was his attitude in whatever state he was?
3. Was this attitude natural for him? Prove your answer.
4. What is necessary in order for a person to learn this quality?
 - a. Could the experiences listed in question # 1 have been his teacher?
 - b. How can this help us with unpleasant experiences which come our way?
5. How did Paul have the strength to do all that he did?
6. What pleased Paul most about the gifts that came from the Philippians?
7. What encouragement can we receive from this (question # 6) to assist those who preach the gospel elsewhere?
8. To whom did Paul say glory should be given?

Some Questions for Thought

1. How did the Philippians send their gifts to Paul (check one)?
 - Through a Missionary Society
 - Directly to him
 - Through a "sponsoring church" which served as his overseeing eldership
2. Was the Philippian church a "sponsoring church" through which other churches sent to Paul? Prove your answer.

3. Which of the three methods in question # 1 would promote the warmest feelings of fellowship in...
 - a. Paul
 - i. Why?
 - b. The Philippians
 - i. Why?

Lesson 12 (Philippians 4:21-23) Conclusion

Philippians 4:21-23
(New King James Version)

21. Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The brethren who are with me greet you.
22. All the saints greet you, but especially those who are of Caesar's household.
23. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.

Closing the Letter

1. In many of Paul's letters individuals are greeted (e.g. Romans 16). Can you suggest a possible reason why Paul did not do so in the Philippian letter?
2. Who do you think would be included in "those who are of Caesar's household"?
 - a. What may explain their conversion?
 - b. What difficulties do you think they would face?
3. With what blessing does Paul close the letter?

Emphasis on Christ

1. In some of your readings of the book, mark each reference to Jesus, to Christ, or to the Lord.
2. List some things which are mentioned in the book as related to Christ.

Emphasis on Rejoicing

1. Count the number of times you find some form of the words...
 - a. Rejoice
 - b. Joy
 - c. gladness
2. List some things in which Paul said he was glad or rejoiced or would rejoice in the future.
3. List some things in which Paul said the Philippians rejoiced, should rejoice or would rejoice or be glad in, etc.
4. List the things that you rejoice in.

5. Does your list from # 4 – look anything like the lists from #s 2 and 3?
6. If you were poor, persecuted, rejected by friends and family, etc. – could you still rejoice in the things that you listed in # 4?

Conclusion

1. List two of the most valuable lessons you have personally received from the study of Philippians.
 - a.
 - b.
2. Do you see any particularly significant lesson in this book for this congregation?

Lesson 13 Review