

STUDIES IN

**PHILIPPIANS
PHILEMON
COLOSSIANS**

Prepared By

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LESSON #1: PHILIPPIANS, AN INTRODUCTION

From Acts 16:8-40, answer the following questions

1. What caused Paul to go to Philippi?
2. Where did he go on the Sabbath?
3. Who was converted as a result?
4. Why were Paul and Silas cast into prison?
5. What happened at midnight?
6. Who was converted as a result?
7. Observe the change of pronouns from “we” in Acts 16:11-12 to “they” in Acts 17:1. Think! Who had remained in Philippi when Paul and his companions left?

Facts To Be Observed From “Philippians”

1. Paul was in prison in Rome at time of writing.
2. He was nearing his trial before Caesar - 2:19,23.
3. Paul anticipates release from prison, but is not sure - 2:24.
4. The Philippians, “*sharing in Paul’s distress,*” had just sent abundant supplies to Paul by Epaphroditus - 4:10-18.
5. Epaphroditus, while on this mission, had become ill and almost died - 2:25-30.
6. Paul is now writing in response to their generosity, and is sending the letter by Epaphroditus who has recovered - 2:25.
7. The Philippian letter, therefore, is somewhat of a “Thank You” letter, written with joy and love and great emotion.

LESSON #2: PAUL'S ATTITUDE TOWARD PERSECUTION AND DEATH

Answer the following questions from Philippians 1:1-26

1. What two men join in the salutation?

To whom is the letter addressed?

2. For what specific thing did Paul express thanksgiving in verse 5?

3. What confidence did he express in verse 6?

Thought Question: Is Paul in this statement expressing confidence in God or in the Philippians (consider verses 6-7)?

4. Consider verses 9-11. Were the Philippians at a level of spiritual growth that would allow for self-satisfaction?

Discuss this.

5. Consider verses 12-14. In what way had Paul's imprisonment resulted in the furtherance of the gospel?

6. Did Paul approve of the motives of all who preached Christ according to verses 15-18? In what did he rejoice?

7. What was Paul's greatest desire, whether it came through his living or dying, according to verse 20?

8. Paul could say, "For me to live is _____, and to die is _____."
Thought Question: Suppose many in this world had to fill in that first blank, what do you think the word might be?

9. Explain Paul's mixed feelings as discussed in verses 23-24.

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10. What confidence did he express in verses 25-26?

11. Write a brief paragraph summarizing Paul's attitude toward persecution and death as pictured in this lesson.

LESSON #3: THE NEED FOR GREATER UNITY AND UNSELFISH SERVICE – PART 1

Answer the following questions from Philippians 1:27 - 2:11

1. Consider Phil. 1:27-28. What two things was Paul wanting to hear concerning their affairs?
2. What two things were the Philippians doing on behalf of Christ, according to 1:29-30?
3. Was Paul's joy in the Philippians complete (fulfilled), according to 2:1-2?
How could his joy in them become complete?
4. In what way could the Philippians avoid selfish ambition and conceit (strife and vainglory), according to 2:3-4?
5. Who serves as a perfect example of unselfish service, according to 2:5? "

Answer the following concerning Jesus

6. His position before His earthly birth - verse 6
7. The form He took for Himself - verse 7
8. His action while in that form - verse 8
9. His present position - verse 9
10. What is to be the response of all to this One who humbled Himself, but is now highly exalted, according to verses 10-11?
11. **Research Question:** Can you find scriptures that teach that God will exalt only those who will humble themselves?

Studies In Philippians, Philemon, and Colossians

12. Thinking back over this lesson, state the one major weakness of the Philippian church and what they needed to do to overcome that weakness.

LESSON #4: THE NEED FOR GREATER UNITY AND UNSELFISH SERVICE – PART 2

Answer the following questions from Philippians 2:12-30

1. Consider verses 12-13. **Thought Question:** In what way could a person “work out his own salvation”?

Who is working in him when he does so, according to verse 13?

2. Were the Philippians to do this only when Paul was present? What is said about this?
3. The actions of the Philippians were to be without what two things, according to verse 14?
4. What would be accomplished if they would act in such a way, according to verses 15-16?
5. What would bring Paul joy according to verse 17?
6. How is Timothy described in verses 19-23?

How soon would he be coming to Philippi?

7. What was Paul himself anticipating according to verse 24?
8. How is Epaphroditus described in verse 25?
9. What had happened to Epaphroditus, creating great concern for him?
10. Looking back over the entire second chapter, list the examples of unselfishness found in this chapter.

LESSON #5: THE TRUE BASIS OF THE CHRISTIAN'S REJOICING

Answer the following questions from Philippians 3:1 - 4:7

1. In what is the Christian to rejoice according to Phil. 3:1?

Can you think of some worldly achievements in which people rejoice?

2. Who are the true circumcision, according to verse 3?
3. Consider verses 4-6. List seven things that Paul would have boasted of as proof of his righteousness before he became a Christian?
4. What was Paul's attitude toward those things at the time he wrote Philippians, according to verses 7-8?
5. **Summarizing** verses 8-11, state in one brief sentence the basis for Paul's claim of righteousness as a Christian.
6. Consider verses 12-14. What was Paul having to forget?
Toward what was he pressing?
Why was he having to continually do this?
7. If the Philippians were observing, they could see people walking spiritually in two opposite ways, according to verses 17-19. State these two ways.
8. Where is the Christian's citizenship (conversation), according to verses 20-21?

What will Jesus do for these citizens when He returns?

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9. What were Euodia and Syntyche implored (beseeched) to do in 4:2?

10. In what way are anxieties (cares) to be relieved, according to 4:6-7?

11. Looking back over this lesson, list some of the obstacles to our rejoicing in the Lord; then list some of the benefits that enable us to rejoice in the Lord.

LESSON #6: PAUL'S THANKSGIVING FOR THE PHILIPPIANS' GIFT

Answer the following questions from Philippians 4:8-23

1. List six types of things that Christians should think on, as given in verse 8.
2. **Thought Question:** Make a list of sins of the heart that Christians must avoid.
3. List four things the Philippians were to do if they wanted the God of peace to be with them, as given in verse 9.
4. What had caused Paul to rejoice, according to verse 10?
5. What had Paul learned, according to verses 11-12 (*Read both verses before answering.*)?
6. From whom had his strength come?
7. On what previous occasions had the church at Philippi helped Paul, according to verses 15-16 (*Read both verses before answering.*)?
8. **Research Question:** Examine all translations that you have access to. What do you find as alternate translations to the word "communicated" (King James) in verse 15?
9. Consider verse 18. What words are used to describe the abundance of gift sent by the Philippians?

By whom had they sent these things?

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10. How would God look upon the gift they had sent, according to verse 18?
11. Read again verses 10-20. **Think!** What was **not** so important to Paul regarding the gift they had sent?

What things were important?

12. What greetings are sent in the last three verses of this chapter?

LESSON #7: PHILEMON

Time and Place of Writing

Philemon was written from Rome toward the end of Paul's first imprisonment (Philemon 22). It was written at the same time as Ephesians and Colossians, all three letters being delivered by Tychicus along with Onesimus (Eph. 6:21; Col. 4:7-9; Philemon 10-12).

Facts Concerning the Man Philemon

Philemon is not mentioned elsewhere in the New Testament. He was a citizen of Colosse (Onesimus, Philemon's slave, is said to be one of the Colossians - Col. 4:9). We conclude from verse 19 of Philemon that he was converted by Paul. He was a faithful Christian, known for his faith and love toward both the Lord and the saints (verse 5). A church met in his house (verse 2). Paul's confidence in Philemon, both as a faithful friend and as an obedient servant of -the Lord, is expressed throughout the epistle.

Background of the Letter

Onesimus, Philemon's slave, had fled from Colossae, and had come to Rome. Paul had come in contact with him and converted him. Paul was sending Onesimus back to Philemon, and wrote this letter, urging Philemon to receive Onesimus, not only as a slave, but as a brother in Christ. This letter is different from other letters of Paul in that it is almost wholly of a private character.

Questions From Background Material and Philemon

1. Give evidence that Philemon was truly a dedicated and faithful Christian.
2. What is the purpose of Paul's letter to Philemon?
3. How does Paul's letter to Philemon differ from his other letters?
4. Read the letter. What statement do **you** think would have the greatest effect on Philemon in bringing him to receive Onesimus as he ought?
5. What other statements would have great effect?

Studies In Philippians, Philemon, and Colossians

6. What request did Paul make of Philemon in verse 22?

Thought Question: What conclusion can we reach from this request?

7. List several practical lessons that can be learned from Paul's letter to Philemon.

LESSON #8: COLOSSIANS: INTRODUCTION AND SALUTATION

Facts To Be Observed From “Colossians”

1. Colossians was written while Paul was a prisoner in Rome - Col. 4:10
2. We do not know who preached the gospel first in Colossae. Epaphras had been a teacher there, and possibly was the one who established the church in that city - Col. 1:6-8.
3. Colossae was the home of Philemon and his servant, Onesimus - Col. 4:9.
4. The letter was delivered by Tychicus and Onesimus - Col. 4:7-9.
5. The epistle to the Colossians indicates that the church was troubled by false teachers. Their teaching evidently included: (1) a disbelief in the deity and supremacy of Christ - 1:15-29; (2) human philosophy - 2:8; (3) the keeping of certain ordinances of the law of Moses - 2:10-17; (4) angel worship, boasts of visions, and abstinence from lawful foods - 2:18,23.

Answer the following questions from Colossians 1:1-8

1. What two men join in the salutation?

To whom is the letter addressed?
2. Refer back to Philippians 1:1. What two men joined in the salutation of that book?
3. What had Paul heard concerning the Colossians, according to verses 3-4?

From whom had he heard this, according to verses 7-8?
4. What was the cause of Paul’s thanksgiving and prayers for the Colossians, according to verse 5?
5. How far had the word of the truth of the gospel spread as Paul wrote these words?

With what results? see verses 5-6
6. From whom had the Colossians heard this wonderful truth?

LESSON #9: JESUS CHRIST, THE FULLNESS OF GOD

Answer the following questions from Colossians 1:9-29

1. Read Paul's prayer for the Colossians, recorded in verses 9-11. Was Paul more concerned for their spiritual welfare or for their physical welfare?

Give the reason for your answer.

2. Of what have Christians become partakers, according to verse 12?

Who has qualified them (made them meet) to do so?

3. From what have Christians been delivered, according to verse 13?

Into what?

4. What do they have in Christ, according to verse 14?

5. Verses 15-19 contain a marvelous description of the greatness of Jesus Christ. Write a short paragraph concerning Jesus as you see Him **in these verses**.

6. What is the meaning of the word "reconcile"?

How has reconciliation taken place, according to verses 20-22?

7. Consider verse 23. What is necessary if one is to be presented holy, unblameable, and unproveable in God's sight?

8. What was Paul willing to do for the sake of the church, according to verse 24?

9. What did Paul say of the mystery in verses 25-26?

Studies In Philippians, Philemon, and Colossians

10. What was Paul's goal in preaching, warning, and teaching, according to verse 28?

11. **Thought Question:** This lesson emphasizes how great and exalted Jesus Christ is. What should be our response to One so great?

LESSON #10: YOU ARE COMPLETE IN HIM

Paul's emphasis in this part of his letter was to show the Colossians that they were complete spiritually in Christ, and that they were to resist the additional requirements that false teachers desired to place upon them.

Answer the following questions from Colossians, chapter 2

1. What was to be found in Christ, according to verses 3, and 9-10?
2. Why was Paul telling the Colossians these things, according to verse 4?
3. How were they to walk in Him, according to verses 6-7?
4. Through what means could they easily have been spoiled (taken captive), according to verse 8?
5. Consider carefully verses 11-12. What is put off in the circumcision experienced by Christians?

Who performs this circumcision?

When does this take place, according to verse 12?
6. In what things should no man be judged, according to verse 16?

Why, according to verse 14?
7. To what other false ideas were the Colossians being exposed, according to verse 18?
8. What specific ordinances (regulations) were certain ones trying to bind on them, according to verses 21-22?

LESSON #11: “IF YE THEN BE RAISED WITH CHRIST” - PART 1

Answer the following questions from Colossians 3:1-17

1. This section of Colossians begins with “If then you were raised with Christ.” Refer back to Col. 2:12. At what point is one “raised with Christ”?
2. What is to be the focus of people who have been raised with Christ, according to verses 1-2?
3. Give two reasons why this should be their focus, according to verses 3-4.
4. Define covetousness.

Thought Question: Verse 5 states that “covetousness is idolatry.” Explain this statement.

5. Read verses 5-9. If you had to write a theme paper discussing these verses, what title would you give the paper?
6. According to **whose** image has the new man been renewed, according to verse 10 (*Refer back to 1:16 before answering.*)?
7. What distinctions are removed in Christ, according to verse 11?
8. **Thought Question:** Discuss the fact that “putting on” the qualities mentioned in verse 12-14 will help us to “put off” the sins mentioned in verses 5-9.
9. List some things that are to rule and dwell in our hearts as given in verses 15-16.

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10. By what means are we to teach and admonish one another, according to verse 16?

11. Consider verse 17. What is to be true of all that we do in word or deed?

LESSON #12: “IF YE THEN BE RAISED WITH CHRIST” - PART 2

Answer the following questions from Colossians 3:18 - 4:18

1. Briefly state instructions to the following classes of people:
 - a. Wives -

 - b. Husbands -

 - c. Children -

 - d. Fathers -

2. Consider carefully Col. 3:22 - 4:1. What primary concern were both masters and servants to have in their dealings with one another?

3. For what did Paul ask the Colossians to pray in 4:2-4?

4. **Thought Question:** What had already occurred in Paul’s time as a prisoner, showing God’s power to open doors in such circumstances?

5. What were to be actions toward those who are outside (without), according to verses 5-6?

To whom does Paul have reference when he speaks of those “outside”?

Studies In Philippians, Philemon, and Colossians

6. What two men was Paul sending to the Colossians?

What does he say of Onesimus?

Who was Onesimus, according to the letter to Philemon?

7. Philemon and Onesimus were likely in the audience when this letter was read. Discuss the impact that the teaching of 3:12-14 and 3:22 - 4:1 would have had on them.

8. Name six men who sent greetings to the Colossians.

9. What exchange of letters was to take place according to verse 16?

10. **Research Question:** In what other book is Archippus mentioned?

What instructions were given to him in Col. 4:17?