

2022 Summer Sermon Series



Philippians

Finding the Unexpected Joy of Trusting Christ More and More

A Bible Study complementary to LifePointe's Summer Sermon Series

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**Booklet Scripture are ESV*

Introduction

You will receive the most benefit from these studies if you follow the steps in this process. Remember that our goal is NOT to know about God's Word. Our goal is to be transformed more like Christ in our lives. Think about this quote from Duvall and Hays, from *Grasping God's Word*, p. 233:

"When we truly grasp God's Word, we go beyond a series of steps to a dynamic interaction with the Spirit of God. We listen more intently than we listen even to our best friend. We throw off pride and laziness and study diligently and submissively, not because we love study for study's sake, but because we love God. Rather we enter into a heavenly conversation. As you study the Bible, remember to pray that the Spirit will work in your heart so that you will have ears to hear what he is saying."



How to Use this Study Guide

Try to set aside 30 minutes to an hour each week, maybe on Saturday morning, to reflect on the text for that week. We call this the Saturday Soak! This is a time to think clearly, so try to find a quiet place without interruptions or distractions.

- 1) Begin with prayer. Ask the Holy Spirit to illuminate your mind and heart so that you can grasp the Word of God. John 16:12-14 says, "I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is to yet to come. He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you."
- 2) Read the text carefully and thoughtfully. Don't read commentaries or other studies at this point. Re-read the text again, maybe in another translation. We use the ESV translation at LifePointe, but there are other good translations, like the NIV and NKJV.
- 3) Dig into the CONTENT of the text. For each sermon you will find a printed copy of the text for that week in the study guide. Use the copy to make notes, underline keywords, draw lines between similar ideas, and note contrasts and lists of things. Look at the sentences and pay attention to the nouns, verbs, and conjunctions. Look at the paragraph text as a whole. What is the flow of thought? Does the author show cause and effect or does he draw contrasts between opposites? Does the author give illustrations of something, or does he give a command or warning? Observe! Observe! Observe!
- 4) Find out about the CONTEXT of the text. What was the historical situation when the author wrote this letter? Who wrote it? To whom did he write it? What were their circumstances? You can consult notes in your study Bible, commentaries, and Bible dictionaries. You can consult the internet, but be very cautious because some sources are not reliable. Also, look at the place of this paragraph text within the book as a whole. What text comes before this text, and what come after it? How are they related?
- 5) After some prayerful reflection write down in 1-2 sentences a SUMMARY of what you think the author meant when he first wrote this text. What is the topic, and what does he say about it?
- 6) Listen to the sermon and take notes in the space provided.
- 7) Now, write out 1 or 2 big spiritual lessons or principles you have learned from the text. This is the spiritual truth that the text speaks to you with the illumination of the Holy Spirit. These lessons are timeless truths about God, about us his people, and about our relationship with God and others. They are to be applied to our lives in our current situation today.
- 8) Finally, think about how you can apply this spiritual truth to your life this week. Make it a part of your life right now!

"In our prayers, we talk to God. In our Bible study, God talks to us. We had better let God do most of the talking." Dwight L. Moody.



Philippians 1:1-2

1 Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus,

To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are at Philippi, with the overseers and deacons:

2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Acts 16:6-40

6 And they went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia. 7 And when they had come up to Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them. 8 So, passing by Mysia, they went down to Troas. 9 And a vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing there, urging him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." 10 And when Paul had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go on into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

11 So, setting sail from Troas, we made a direct voyage to Samothrace, and the following day to Neapolis, 12 and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city some days. 13 And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to the riverside, where we supposed there was a place of prayer, and we sat down and spoke to the women who had come together. 14 One who heard us was a woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple goods, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to pay attention to what was said by Paul. 15 And after she was baptized, and her household as well, she urged us, saying, "If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come to my house and stay." And she prevailed upon us.

16 As we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners much gain by fortune-telling. 17 She followed Paul and us, crying out, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation." 18 And this she kept doing for many days. Paul, having become greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour.

19 But when her owners saw that their hope of gain was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the rulers. 20 And when they had brought them to the magistrates, they said, "These men are Jews, and they are disturbing our city. 21 They advocate customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to accept or practice." 22 The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates tore the garments off them and gave orders to beat them with rods. 23 And when they had inflicted many blows upon them, they threw them into prison, ordering the jailer to keep them safely. 24 Having received this order, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.

25 About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them, 26 and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken. And immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone's bonds were unfastened. 27 When the jailer woke and saw that the prison doors were open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped. 28 But Paul cried with a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." 29 And the jailer called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas. 30 Then he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" 31 And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." 32 And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. 33 And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds; and he was baptized at once, he and all his family. 34 Then he brought them up into his house and set food before them. And he rejoiced along with his entire household that he had believed in God.

35 But when it was day, the magistrates sent the police, saying, "Let those men go." 36 And the jailer reported these words to Paul, saying, "The magistrates have sent to let you go. Therefore come out now and go in peace." 37 But Paul said to them, "They have beaten us publicly, uncondemned, men who are Roman citizens, and have thrown us into prison; and do they now throw us out secretly? No! Let them come themselves and take us out." 38 The police reported these words to the magistrates, and they were afraid when they heard that they were Roman citizens. 39 So they came and apologized to them. And they took them out and asked them to leave the city. 40 So they went out of the prison and visited Lydia. And when they had seen the brothers, they encouraged them and departed.

Questions

- 1) Paul and Timothy founded the church at Philippi and they call themselves 'servants'. Paul addresses the members of the church at Philippi and calls them 'saints'. What do these terms tell us about the nature of the church?
- 2) The church at Philippi was begun with Lydia, a business woman in the city, a slave girl delivered from demons, and the Roman jail keeper for the city. Epaphroditus was also a member (2:25-30) and two other women, Euodia and Syntyche (4:2-3). The church is about 10 years old when Paul writes this letter to them. He also mentions the pastors and deacons in his greeting. How would you describe the make-up of this church? How did they manage to work together in spite of variety of people in the fellowship?
- 3) Paul greets this church blessing them with grace and peace (1:2) What does this greeting mean for Christians?
- 4) What else can you find out about Paul and his situation in prison and the situation of the Philippian church when this letter was written in about A.D. 62?

Notes

Philippians 1:3-11

³I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, ⁴always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, ⁵because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. ⁶And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. ⁷It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. ⁹And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, ¹⁰so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

Questions

- 1) Paul gives three reasons for his joy in praying for the Philippians. Can you find them in these verses?
 - A. He is thankful for their “partnership in the gospel”.
 - B. He is confident that God will “bring to completion” his work in them.
 - C. He feels deep affection for them because they are “partakers with me in grace”.
- 2) Why are these reasons for joy and thankfulness important? Is there a significant relationship between his confidence in God’s work in them and their partnership in the gospel?
- 3) Paul wrote this letter most probably from prison in Rome. Yet, he writes a letter of deep joy and gratitude to God for the Philippians. How is that possible, do you think?
- 4) Paul prays a specific prayer for the Philippian church in verses 9-11. Note what he prays for and what he does not pray for. Why is this an important prayer model for us today as we pray for each other?

Notes

Philippians 1:12-18

12 I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, 13 so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. 14 And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

15 Some indeed preach Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from good will. 16 The latter do it out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. 17 The former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely but thinking to afflict me in my imprisonment. 18 What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice.

Yes, and I will rejoice,

Questions

- 1) How did Paul's imprisonment advance the gospel? Through what means? How far did the Good News travel?
- 2) Paul states, "Some preach out of envy and rivalry, but others out of good will. The latter do so in love, knowing that am here for the defense of the gospel. The former preach Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing that they can stir up trouble for me while I am in chains. But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motive or true, Christ is preached. And because of this rejoice."
Why is Paul able to rejoice when some are preaching out of selfish ambition? What will they gain and what trouble do they hope to cause Paul? How is Paul able to continue to serve with joy?
- 3) Paul's preaching and teaching was in no way hindered by the chains he wore. He preached and taught the gospel with enthusiasm and rejoicing each time he spoke. How does Paul's action/reaction provide guidance for each of us when faced with hardship?

Notes

Philippians 1:18-26

¹⁸ What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice.

Yes, and I will rejoice,

¹⁹ for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance, ²⁰ as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. ²¹ For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. ²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. ²³ I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. ²⁴ But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. ²⁵ Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith,

Questions

- 1) Where was Paul when he wrote this letter?
- 2) He senses that his death may be coming very soon, but he is ready to die. What gives Paul this kind of confidence to face death?
- 3) Paul found deep significance and meaning for his life. How would you describe the basic foundational meaning of Paul's life? How would you describe the basic foundational meaning of your life? What do you live for?
- 4) Paul prays that Christ will be honored in his physical life, whether in life or death, (1:20). What does Paul think he can do to honor Christ in his life according to these verses? See especially verses 24-26. What are you doing right now in your life to bring honor to Christ so that you will not be ashamed when you meet him face to face?

Notes

Philippians 1:27-30

²⁷ Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸ and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God. ²⁹ For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, ³⁰ engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Questions

- 1) Paul is calling the people of the church of Philippi to a number of things that are 'worthy of the gospel' in verses 1:27-30. List them below.
- 2) In verse 1:30 when Paul writes of the conflict that he still has, what is he referring to?
- 3) In verse 1:29 Paul says that the Philippians have been called to believe in Christ, but also suffer for him. Are all Christians 'called' to suffer for Christ? What does it mean, according to these verses, to suffer for Christ?
- 4) In 1 or 2 sentences summarize the main idea of this paragraph (Philippians 1:27-30). What is the spiritual truth we can understand from this text?

Notes

Philippians 2:1-4

² So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, ² complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Questions

- 1) How does Paul describe Christian humility?
- 2) How should those in Christ demonstrate unity? How does humility promote unity in the body of Christ?
- 3) Who is Paul addressing in this letter? What is their demographic? (See Acts 16:6-40). What issues do you think this group of people might face to maintain unity in the body?
- 4) What is the spiritual principle we can draw from this paragraph that should set the standard for our own conduct in the church?

Notes

Philippians 2:5-11

⁵Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Questions

- 1) This is one of the great 'hymns of Christ' in the New Testament. It describes the 'humility' of Christ. Make a list of the steps of Christ's humility in leaving his glory in heaven and coming to earth to die as a criminal for our sins.
- 2) There are several key words in this paragraph. Can you give a definition of the following?
 - a. Equality with God is not to be 'grasped.'
 - b. 'made himself nothing' he emptied himself.
 - c. 'being found in human form'.
 - d. 'becoming obedient to the point of death.'
- 3) In your own words, why did God exalt Jesus Christ?
- 4) The main point of these verses is not to tell us about Christ and his work. According to verse 5, what is the main point that Paul wants to make in this paragraph?

Notes

Philippians 2:12-18

¹² Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but 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 work for his good pleasure.

¹⁴ Do all things without grumbling or disputing, ¹⁵ that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, ¹⁶ holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. ¹⁷ Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. ¹⁸ Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.

Questions

- 1) What does Paul mean when he tells the believers in Philippi to work out their salvation? Does salvation depend on our work?
- 2) How does Paul encourage us in verse 13?
- 3) What does Paul mean by the phrase 'with fear and trembling' in verse 12?
- 4) How are verses 12 and 13 pivotal to chapters 1 and 2?
- 5) What is the result of our obedience to Christ?
- 6) Why are verses 12 and 13 so important to living our life of faith in Jesus?

Notes

Philippians 2:19-30

¹⁹ I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, so that I too may be cheered by news of you. ²⁰ For I have no one like him, who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare. ²¹ For they all seek their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. ²² But you know Timothy's proven worth, how as a son with a father he has served with me in the gospel. ²³ I hope therefore to send him just as soon as I see how it will go with me, ²⁴ and I trust in the Lord that shortly I myself will come also. ²⁵ I have thought it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus my brother and fellow worker and fellow soldier, and your messenger and minister to my need, ²⁶ for he has been longing for you all and has been distressed because you heard that he was ill. ²⁷ Indeed he was ill, near to death. But God had mercy on him, and not only on him but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow. ²⁸ I am the more eager to send him, therefore, that you may rejoice at seeing him again, and that I may be less anxious. ²⁹ So receive him in the Lord with all joy, and honor such men, ³⁰ for he nearly died for the work of Christ, risking his life to complete what was lacking in your service to me.

Questions

- 1) Who were Timothy and Epaphroditus? Look them up in a study Bible or online.
- 2) What was the connection between these two men to Paul and to the Philippian church?
- 3) What kind of words does Paul use to describe the character of these 2 men?
- 4) What kind of leaders should we honor in our church? See verse 29.
- 5) What characteristics do you see in these two men that you could emulate in our own service to the church?

Notes

Philippians 3:1-11

³ Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you is no trouble to me and is safe for you.

² Look out for the dogs, look out for the evildoers, look out for those who mutilate the flesh. ³ For we are the circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh— ⁴ though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also. If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. ⁷ But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith— ¹⁰ that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Questions

- 1) Paul talks about 'confidence in the flesh'. What does he mean by that phrase? See verses 4-6. What are the dangers of trusting in our own efforts?
- 2) What exactly does Paul think is the highest goal of life in Christ? Verses 8-9.
- 3) What does it mean to 'gain Christ', 'to be found in him', 'to know him'? How do you describe your relationship with Christ?
- 4) How would you feel if you had a wonderful life (good health, plenty of money, nice home, great job, good marriage and family, good reputation, time for great vacations, good church), but you did not have a deep intimate fellowship with Christ? How much would that bother you?

Notes

Philippians 3:12—4:1

¹² Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³ Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you. ¹⁶ Only let us hold true to what we have attained.

¹⁷ Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸ For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹ Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. ²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

4 Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved.

Questions

- 1) What is Paul specifically encouraging the reader to press on towards (or take hold of)?
- 2) What does Paul mean by the prize and 'upward call of God' in verse 14?
- 3) How do Paul's description of 'citizens of heaven' in verses 20-21 contrast with the 'enemies of the cross' in verse 19?
- 4) In verses 12-13 and 16, Paul refers to 'this' and 'it'. What do these refer to? (consider several verses leading up to this).
- 5) Based on what we've read in Philippians so far, what is Paul referring to by 'what lies behind'? (see verse 4-8). Why does he want to leave these things behind or forget them?
- 6) In this paragraph, what are the key elements of Paul's example? How does his example help us press on toward Christ?

Notes

Philippians 4:2—9

2 I entreat Euodia and I entreat Syntyche to agree in the Lord. 3 Yes, I ask you also, true companion, help these women, who have labored side by side with me in the gospel together with Clement 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 reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; 6 do not be anxious about anything, 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 your minds in Christ Jesus.

8 Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. 9 What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

Questions

- 1) What does verse 5 say about God? How does that change the way you understand verse 6?
- 2) What does Paul instruct his readers NOT to do in verse 6? What does he instruct them TO DO in verse 6? What will the result be if we follow these instructions?
- 3) What does Paul tell us to think about in verse 8? How might this follow logically from what we know was going on in the church from verse 2?
- 4) In order to better understand what Paul is instructing, give an antonym (opposite) for 2 of the items that Paul tells us to think about in verse 8.
Think about _____ instead of _____.
Think about _____ instead of _____.
- 5) In verses 203, what seems to be going on between the 2 women? What does Paul tell them to do?
- 6) What title is given to God in verse 9 and how do we experience this aspect of the presence of God?

Notes

Philippians 4:10—13

¹⁰I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me. You were indeed concerned for me, but you had no opportunity. ¹¹Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. ¹²I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. ¹³I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

Questions

- 1) What does it mean to be content? Is this the same as joy or rejoicing in the Lord in verse 4:4?
- 2) Paul said he 'learned the secret' of being content. How do you 'learn' to be content in all circumstances?
- 3) Verse 13 is a promise that is often applied to athletes and other competitions. Given the context of this promise, how do you think this verse should be applied today in our lives?

Notes

Philippians 4:14—23

¹⁴ Yet it was kind of you to share my trouble. ¹⁵ And you Philippians yourselves know that in the beginning of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church entered into partnership with me in giving and receiving, except you only. ¹⁶ Even in Thessalonica you sent me help for my needs once and again. ¹⁷ Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that increases to your credit. ¹⁸ I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. ¹⁹ And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. ²⁰ To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.

²¹ Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The brothers who are with me greet you. ²² All the saints greet you, especially those of Caesar's household.

²³ The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

Questions

- 1) Paul had a special relationship with the Philippian church (see verse 1:5 and 4:16). Was there something different about the church at Philippi that caused them to financially support Paul?
- 2) Paul did not generally accept gifts from the churches he established and visited. Why would he have accepted gifts from the Philippians?
- 3) Paul did not see the Philippians' gift because he had all he needed, and more (4:17-18). (Note that Paul was a prisoner in Rome, and he had no support except what the terms of his imprisonment allowed). How does this statement relate to 4:10-13 in which Paul describes how he has learned to be content in all circumstances?
- 4) Paul considers the gifts from the Philippians as (1) an investment that will further Paul's ministry and enhance their spiritual partnership in the gospel, and (2) a sacrificial gift to God that with benefits accruing to Philippians. How do you view your gifts to the church and other Christian ministries and outreaches?
- 5) Contrast verses 18 and 19. You met MY needs, but GOD will meet you needs. You met my ONE need, but God will ALL your needs. You gave up of your POVERTY, but God will supply your needs out of his RICHES IN GLORY.
- 6) Verse 4:20 states: "To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen." What does that say about our relationship with God? Think about what it means to BOTH our God and our Father.

Notes



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