

The Journey of Joy

Losing All to Gain Christ, Part 1



Women's inductive study of Philippians
Faith Community Church

A WOMEN'S MINISTRY BIBLE STUDY
FAITH COMMUNITY CHURCH
- FALL 2025 -

JOURNEY *of* JOY

AN INDUCTIVE STUDY OF
PAUL'S EPISTLE TO THE PHILIPPIANS

PART 1

LOSING ALL TO GAIN CHRIST

BY
TIFFANY KILE

COVER ILLUSTRATION BY AMANDA HITECHEW

PHILIPPIANS
14 Week Women's Study

Table of Contents	1
As You Begin This Study	3
The Inductive Method of Bible Study	5
Introduction to The Epistle of Paul to the Philippians	7
The Book of Philippians	11
LESSON 1 Introduction into Philippi	17
LESSON 2 The Perfecting Promise of God	23
LESSON 3 Prayer for Abounding in Godliness	31
LESSON 4 The Providence of Progress in a Prison	39
LESSON 5 The Prevailing Preaching of Christ	45
LESSON 6 Christ is Magnified in Life and Death	51
LESSON 7 The Desire to Depart, Yet Remain	57
LESSON 8 Standing Firm in Unity	65
LESSON 9 The Gracious Gift to Suffer	73
LESSON 10 The Mark of Life in Christ	79
LESSON 11 The Willing Choice of Humility	87
LESSON 12 From Empty to Exalted	93
LESSON 13 God's Work for His Pleasure	99
LESSON 14 Refraining from Complaining	107
Songs of Worship	115

AS YOU BEGIN THIS BIBLE STUDY ...

Dear Sisters in Christ,

Over the years, I've often turned to the lost art of handwriting letters to my three daughters. There's something about putting pen to paper that allows me to express thoughts, concerns, and deep affections in ways I sometimes struggle to articulate face-to-face. I love letters. Both receiving and giving them feels like a sacred exchange—an expression of sincere care. There's comfort in being able to revisit someone's words again and again, hearing their heart and discovering what matters most to them.

In a similar way, God chose to preserve His truth through letters—written by men, inspired by the Holy Spirit. These letters were sent to individuals, to churches, to beloved communities of faith. Through them, we glimpse the heart of God. He used ordinary people, saved by grace, to communicate His divine message, His redemptive plan, and ultimately, Himself. That alone gives weight to every word.

Among these treasures is the book of Philippians—a letter overflowing with joy, strength, and spiritual riches. Each time I read it, I feel as though I'm peering into the personal journal of one of the greatest believers who ever lived. Yet even Paul, in all his spiritual maturity, makes it clear that his strength, endurance, and faith are not because of his own righteousness, but because of Christ's work in him. His entire identity, purpose, and joy were rooted in one thing: being in Christ.

Paul's affection for the Philippian believers is evident from the very beginning. But even more powerful is his call for them to think in a way that reflects their union with Christ—a mindset marked by joy, perseverance, humility, and trust. Though writing from a prison cell, Paul is not hindered. His chains cannot restrain the gospel, and his heart overflows with confidence in God's work—both in him and in them.

Throughout this letter, we witness the profound paradox of the Christian life: to lose is to gain, to suffer is to rejoice, and to die is to live. Paul writes as one who has known lack and abundance, weakness and strength, sorrow and surpassing joy. And still, his anthem remains: *"To live is Christ, and to die is gain."*

As we walk through this precious prison epistle together, may we discover the deep joy of belonging to Christ. May this letter not remain just ink on paper, but may its truths take root in our hearts. And may we rejoice in the reality that we are *in Him*—today, tomorrow, and for all eternity.

With love and expectancy,
Tiffany

Audio teachings for this study are available online at www.vacavillefaith.org/womens-ministry/

THE INDUCTIVE METHOD OF BIBLE STUDY

For this Bible study, we will follow the Inductive Method of Bible Study. It is a simple and effective step-by-step approach to interpreting and studying the Bible. The goal is to walk you through the steps of reading and interpreting Scripture with the intention of applying it to your life. We believe the Word of God transforms our minds and hearts and enables us to know and obey God's commands.

Below, you will see a detailed explanation of how this works. Each homework lesson will walk you through each one of these steps for the specific passage of Scripture we will be following. Your diligence in God's Word will yield a heart of worship and produce in you a hunger for righteousness that will satisfy your life in Christ.

This method consists of three main steps:

1. **Observation** answers the question: **"What does the text say?"**
2. **Interpretation** answers the question: **"What did the text mean to the original audience?"**
3. **Application** answers the question: **"How should the truth of this passage change me?"**

1. STEPS FOR OBSERVATION: "What does the text say?"

We are asking the question, "what does the text say?" This is the hardest part in my opinion, because it "feels" like it should be the easiest part. However, our tendency is to hurry through this first step and we can overlook pertinent information that God is giving us. Learning to ask questions of the passage of scripture can help us observe what is there.

OBSERVATION FOR A SPECIFIC TEXT:

1. Get a copy of the text you can mark up (we have provided this in the homework notebook).
2. Read the entire passage you are studying a few times.
3. Mark repeated words.
4. Underline any "themes" that are listed (e.g., "I will rejoice" or "in Christ").
5. Circle transition words (e.g., therefore, but, if, then, likewise, etc.).
6. Make note of any lists or questions that are asked in the text.
7. Make note of any comparisons or contrast (e.g., life and death; envy/strife and good will).
8. Make note of any commands (e.g., "do not grumble or complain").
9. Mark any words/phrases that you are unsure of their meaning (you will use a dictionary later to define).

The point is to **TAKE NOTICE OF WHAT THE TEXT ACTUALLY SAYS**. Don't assume that you know what it says.

TRUST THE PROCESS. This step is so critical in helping us understand the Word of God and in preparing us to go deeper in our understanding. It guides us into what direction of study we need to put our efforts in to rightly divide the Word of God.

2. STEPS FOR INTERPRETATION: “What did the text mean to the original audience?”

1. Read the passage in different versions (ESV, NKJV, NASB, etc.) to gain greater understanding.
2. Look up and read cross references for these verses (these are found in the study note section if you are using a study Bible, or in the center column of your Bible after the verse number). Use other verses in the Bible that address the same word, theme or topic that is in your text of Scripture. This can bring greater understanding to how God defines these words.
3. Look up the definition of a key word in a dictionary or in Strong’s Concordance, which will give you the original meaning of the word in its original language. I will list the number for specific words I list in the homework (e.g., G5463 “Rejoice”). Blueletterbible.org is a great online resource for these study tools.
4. After the other steps have been completed, THEN read trustworthy commentaries for greater explanation.

3. QUESTIONS FOR APPLICATION: “How should the truth of this passage change me?”

Once you understand what the text says and what it means, it is necessary that you apply it to your life. The following questions can help you with this process:

1. What does this passage want me to examine in my life?
2. How should this truth change me?
3. What steps can I actively take to apply this truth?

Additional questions to meditate on when you think on this passage:

- a) Is there a truth about God I need to remember in this passage?
- b) Is there a sin to flee in this passage?
- c) Is there a command to obey?
- d) Is there an action or attitude to emulate in this passage?
- e) Is there something I need to pray?
- f) What does this passage reveal about God and His character?
- g) How should the truth of who God is as revealed in this passage change the way I live?

Introduction to The Epistle of Paul to the
PHILIPPIANS
MacArthur Study Bible

Title

Philippians derives its name from the Greek city where the church to which it was addressed was located. Philippi was the first town in Macedonia where Paul established a church.

Author and Date

The unanimous testimony of the early church was that the Apostle Paul wrote Philippians. Nothing in the letter would have motivated a forger to write it.

The question of when Philippians was written cannot be separated from that of where it was written. The traditional view is that Philippians, along with the other Prison Epistles (Ephesians, Colossians, Philemon), was written during Paul's first imprisonment at Rome (ca. A.D. 60-62). The most natural understanding of the references to the "palace guard" (1:13) and the "saints...of Caesar's household" (4:22) is that Paul wrote from Rome, where the emperor lived. The similarities between the details of Paul's imprisonment given in Acts and in the Prison Epistles also argue that those epistles were written from Rome (e.g., Paul was guarded by soldiers, Acts 28:16; cf. 1:13,14; was permitted to receive visitors, Acts 28:30; cf 4:18; and had the opportunity to preach the gospel, Acts 28:31; cf. 1:12-14; Eph. 6:18-20; Col, 4:2-4).

Some have held that Paul wrote the Prison Epistles during his two-year imprisonment at Caesarea (Acts 24:27). But Paul's opportunities to receive visitors and proclaim the gospel were severely limited during that imprisonment (cf. Acts 23:35). The Prison Epistles express Paul's hope for a favorable verdict (1:25; 2:24; cf. Philem. 22). In Caesarea, however, Paul's only hope for release was either to bribe Felix (Acts 24:26), or agree to stand trial at Jerusalem under Festus (Acts 25:9). In the Prison Epistles, Paul expected the decision in his case to be final (1:20-23; 2:17,23). That could not have been true at Caesarea, since Paul could and did appeal his case to the emperor.

Another alternative has been that Paul wrote the Prison Epistles from Ephesus. But at Ephesus, like Caesarea, no final decision could be made in his case because of his right to appeal to the emperor. Also, Luke was with Paul when he wrote Colossians (Col. 4:14), but he apparently was not with the apostle at Ephesus. Acts 19, which records Paul's stay in Ephesus, is not in one of the "we sections" of Acts (see Introduction to Acts: Author and Date). The most telling argument against Ephesus as the point of origin for the Prison Epistles, however, is that there is no evidence that Paul was ever imprisoned at Ephesus.

In light of the serious difficulties faced by both the Caesarean and Ephesian views, there is no reason to reject the traditional view that Paul wrote the Prison Epistles—including Philippians—from Rome.

Paul's belief that his case would soon be decided (2:23,24) points to Philippians being written toward the close of the apostle's two-year Roman imprisonment (ca. A.D. 61).

Background and Setting

Originally known as Krenides ("The Little Fountains") because of the numerous nearby springs, Philippi ("city of Philip") received its name from Philip II of Macedon (the father of Alexander the Great).

Attracted by the nearby gold mines, Philip conquered the region in the fourth century B.C. In the second century B.C., Philippi became part of the Roman province of Macedonia. The city existed in relative obscurity for the next two centuries until one of the most famous events in Roman history brought it recognition and expansion. In 42 B.C., the forces of Antony and Octavian defeated those of Brutus and Cassius at the Battle of Philippi, thus ending the Roman Republic and ushering in the Empire. After the battle, Philippi became a Roman colony (cf. Acts 16:12), and many veterans of the Roman army settled there. As a colony, Philippi had autonomy from the provincial government and the same rights granted to cities in Italy, including the use of Roman law, exemption from some taxes, and Roman citizenship for its residents (Acts 16:21). Being a colony was also the source of much civic pride for the Philippians, who used Latin as their official language, adopted Roman customs, and modeled their city government after that of Italian cities. Acts and Philippians both reflect Philippi's status as a Roman colony. Paul's description of Christians as citizens of heaven (3:20) was appropriate, since the Philippians prided themselves on being citizens of Rome (cf. Acts 16:21). The Philippians may well have known some of the members of the palace guard (1:13) and Caesar's household (4:22). The church at Philippi, the first one founded by Paul in Europe, dates from the apostle's second missionary journey (Acts 16:12-40). Philippi evidently had a very small Jewish population. Because there were not enough men to form a synagogue (the requirement was for 10 Jewish men who were heads of a household), some devout women met outside the city at a place of prayer (Acts 16:13) alongside the Gangites River. Paul preached the gospel to them and Lydia, a wealthy merchant dealing in expensive purple dyed goods (Acts 16:14), became a believer (16:14,15). It is likely that the Philippian church initially met in her spacious home. Satanic opposition to the new church immediately arose in the person of a demon-possessed, fortune-telling slave girl (Acts 16:16,17). Not wanting even agreeable testimony from such an evil source, Paul cast the demon out of her (Acts 16:18). The apostle's act enraged the girl's masters, who could no longer sell her services as a fortune-teller (Acts 16:19). They hauled Paul and Silas before the city's magistrates (Acts 16:20) and inflamed the civic pride of the Philippians by claiming the two preachers were a threat to Roman customs (Acts 16:20,21). As a result, Paul and Silas were beaten and imprisoned (Acts 16:22-24). The two preachers were miraculously released from prison that night by an earthquake, which unnerved the jailer and opened his heart and that of his household to the gospel (Acts 16:25-34). The next day the magistrates, panicking when they learned they had illegally beaten and imprisoned two Roman citizens, begged Paul and Silas to leave Philippi. Paul apparently visited Philippi twice during his third missionary journey, once at the beginning (cf. 2 Cor. 8: 1-5), and again near the end (Acts 20:6). About 4 or 5 years after his last visit to Philippi, while a prisoner at Rome, Paul received a delegation from the Philippian church. The Philippians had generously supported Paul in the past (4:15,16), and had also contributed abundantly for the needy at Jerusalem (2 Cor. 8:1-4). Now, hearing of Paul's imprisonment, they sent another contribution to him (4:10), and along with it Epaphroditus to minister to Paul's needs. Unfortunately Epaphroditus suffered a near-fatal illness (2:26,27), either while en route to Rome, or after he arrived. Accordingly, Paul decided to send Epaphroditus back to Philippi (2:25,26) and wrote the letter to the Philippians to send back with him. Paul had several purposes in composing this epistle. First, he wanted to express in writing his thanks for the Philippians' gift (4:10-18). Second, he wanted the Philippians to know why he decided to return Epaphroditus to them, so they would not think his service to Paul had been unsatisfactory (2:25,26). Third, he wanted to inform them about his circumstances at Rome

(1:12-26). Fourth, he wrote to exhort them to unity (2:1,2; 4:2). Finally, he wrote to warn them against false teachers (3:1-4:1).

Historical and Theological Themes

Since it is primarily a practical letter, Philippians contains little historical material (there are no OT quotes), apart from the momentous treatment of Paul's spiritual autobiography (3:4-7). There is, likewise, little direct theological instruction, also with one momentous exception. The magnificent passage describing Christ's humiliation and exaltation (2:5-11) contains some of the most profound and crucial teaching on the Lord Jesus Christ in all the Bible. The major theme of pursuing Christlikeness, as the most defining element of spiritual growth and the one passion of Paul in his own life, is presented in 3:12-14. In spite of Paul's imprisonment, the dominant tone of the letter is joyful (1:4,18,25,26; 2:2,16-18,28; 3:1,3; 4:1,4,10).

Interpretive Challenges

The major difficulty connected with Philippians is determining where it was written (see Author and Date). The text itself presents only one significant interpretive challenge: the identity of the "enemies of the cross" (see notes on 3:18,19).



Philippians 1

1 Paul and Timothy, slaves of Christ Jesus,

To all the [a]saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the overseers and deacons: **2** Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

3 I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, **4** always offering prayer with joy in my every prayer for you all, **5** because of your [b]fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now. **6** *For I am* confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus. **7** [c]For it is only right for me to think this way about you all, because I have you in my heart, since both in my chains and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are fellow partakers with me in this grace. **8** For God is my witness, how I long for you all with the [d]affection of Christ Jesus. **9** And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in full knowledge and all discernment, **10** so that you may [e]approve the things that are excellent, in order to be sincere and without fault [f]until the day of Christ, **11** having been filled with the fruit of righteousness which *comes* through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

12 Now I want you to know, brothers, that my circumstances have turned out for the greater progress of the gospel, **13** so that my chains in Christ have become well known throughout the whole [g]praetorian guard and to everyone else, **14** and that most of the [h]brothers, having become confident in the Lord because of my chains, have far more courage to speak the word of God without fear. **15** Some, to be sure, are preaching Christ even [i]from envy and strife, but some also [j]from good will; **16** the latter *do it* out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel; **17** the former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition [k]rather than from pure motives,

thinking to cause me affliction in my chains. **18** What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in this I rejoice.

Yes, and I will rejoice, **19** for I know that THIS WILL TURN OUT FOR MY SALVATION through your [u]prayers and the provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, **20** according to my earnest expectation and hope, that I will not be put to shame in anything, but *that* with all boldness, Christ will even now, as always, 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** [u]But if *I am* to live *on* in the flesh, this *will mean* fruitful labor for me; and I do not know what I will choose. **23** But I am hard-pressed [u]between the two, having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for *that* is very much better, **24** yet to remain on in the flesh is more necessary for your sake. **25** And convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy [u]in the faith, **26** so that your reason for boasting may abound in Christ Jesus in me, through my coming to you again.

27 Only [u]live your lives in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I will hear about your circumstances, that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one [u]mind contending together for the faith of the gospel, **28** in no way alarmed by *your* opponents—which is a sign of destruction for them, but of salvation for you, and that *too*, from God. **29** For to you it has been granted for Christ's sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake, **30** having the same struggle which you saw in me, and now hear *to be* in me.

Philippians 2

2 Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any [u]affection and compassion, **2** fulfill my joy, that you think the same *way*, by maintaining the same love, *being* united in spirit, thinking on one purpose, **3** doing nothing [u]from [u]selfish ambition or vain glory, but with humility of mind regarding one another as more important than yourselves, **4** not *merely* looking out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. **5** Have this *way of* thinking [u]in yourselves which was also in

Christ Jesus, **6** who, although existing in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing ^[ε]to be grasped, **7** but ^[ϰ]emptied Himself, by taking the form of a slave, by being made in the likeness of men. **8** Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death ^[ε]on a cross. **9** Therefore, God also highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, **10** so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, **11** and that EVERY TONGUE WILL CONFESS that Jesus Christ is ^[ϰ]LORD, to the glory of God the Father.

12 So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; **13** for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for *His* good pleasure.

14 Do all things without grumbling or disputing, **15** so that you will be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as ^[ϰ]lights in the world, **16** holding ^[ϰ]fast the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I will have reason to boast because I did not run in vain nor labor in vain. **17** But even if I am being poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I rejoice and share my joy with you all. **18** And you also, rejoice in the same way and share your joy with me.

19 But I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you shortly, so that I also may be in good spirits when I learn of your circumstances. **20** For I have no one *else* of kindred spirit who will genuinely be concerned about your circumstances. **21** For they all seek after their own interests, not those of Christ Jesus. **22** But you know of his proven worth, that he served with me in the furtherance of the gospel like a child *serving* his father. **23** Therefore I hope to send him immediately, as soon as I ^[ε]evaluate my own circumstances, **24** and I am confident in the Lord that I myself also will be coming shortly. **25** But I regarded it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother and fellow worker and fellow soldier, who is also your ^[ϰ]messenger and minister to my need; **26** because he was longing ^[ϰ]for you all and was distressed because you had heard that he was sick. **27** For indeed he was sick to the point of death, but God had mercy on him, and not on him only but also on me, so that I would not have sorrow upon sorrow. **28** Therefore I have sent him all the more eagerly so that when you see him again you may rejoice and I may be less concerned. **29** Receive him then in the Lord with all joy, and hold men

like him in high regard **30** because he came close to death ^[h]for the work of Christ, risking his life to fulfill ^[a]what was lacking in your service to me.

Philippians 3

3 Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things *again* is no trouble to me, and it is a safeguard for you.

2 Beware of the dogs! Beware of the evil workers! Beware of the ^[a]mutilation! **3** For we are the ^[b]circumcision, who worship ^[c]in the Spirit of God and boast in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh, **4** although I myself might have confidence even in the flesh. If anyone else has a mind to put confidence in the flesh, I far more: **5** circumcised the eighth day, of the nation 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 the righteousness which is in the Law, found blameless.

7 But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ. **8** More than that, I count all things to be loss because of the surpassing value of ^[d]knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, ^[e]for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ **9** and be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own which is from *the* Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which *is* from God upon faith, **10** that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and ^[f]the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death, **11** ^[g]in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

12 Not that I have already obtained *it* or have already become perfect, but I press on ^[h]so that I may lay hold of that ^[i]for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus. **13** Brothers, I do not consider myself as having laid hold of *it* yet, but one thing *I do*: forgetting what *lies* behind and reaching 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 us therefore, as many as are ^[j]perfect, think this way; and if in

anything you think differently, God will reveal that also to you. **16** However, *let us* keep [k]walking in step with the same *standard* to which we have attained.

17 Brothers, join in following my example, and look for those who walk according to the pattern you have in us. **18** For many walk—of whom I often told you, and now tell you even crying—as enemies of the cross of Christ, **19** whose end is destruction, whose god is *their* stomach and glory is in their shame, who set their thoughts on earthly things. **20** For our [u]citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, **21** who will transform [m]the body of our humble state into conformity with [u]the body of His glory, by His working through which He is able to even subject all things to Himself.

Philippians 4

4 Therefore my brothers, loved and longed for, my joy and crown, in this way stand firm in the Lord, my beloved.

2 I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to think the same way in the Lord. **3** Indeed, I ask you also, genuine companion, help these women who have contended together alongside of me in the gospel, with also 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 considerate *spirit* be known to all men. The Lord is [a]near. **6** Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and petition with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. **7** And the peace of God, which surpasses all [b]comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

8 Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is dignified, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is [c]lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, consider these things. **9** The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

10 But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at last you have revived thinking about me; indeed, you were thinking about me *before*, but you lacked opportunity. **11** Not that I speak [d]from want, for I learned to be [e]content in whatever circumstances I am. **12** I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in abundance; in any and all things I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. **13** I can do all things [d]through Him who strengthens me. **14** Nevertheless, you have done well to fellowship *with me* in my affliction.

15 And you yourselves also know, Philippians, that at the [g]first preaching of the gospel, after I left Macedonia, no church fellowshiped with me in the matter of giving and receiving but you alone. **16** For even in Thessalonica you sent *a gift* more than once for my needs. **17** Not that I seek the gift itself, but I seek the fruit which increases to your account. **18** But I have received everything in full and have an abundance; I have been filled, having received from Epaphroditus [h]what you have sent, [i]a fragrant aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God. **19** And my God will fulfill [j]all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus. **20** Now to our God and Father *be* the glory [k]forever and ever. Amen.

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

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

Lesson 1 Homework
Introduction into Philippi
Philippians 1:1-2

As we begin the book of Philippians, we need to understand key information that will give us context for our study of specific passages each week. Together, we will exposit the Scriptures, using the inductive method of study, with the goal of understanding the meaning of this book as God intended when He inspired the Apostle Paul to write it. We want to uncover the meaning of the biblical passages in their original context, so that we might comprehend the words of God and apply them to our lives, so that we will walk in obedience to His commands. Our desire as believers in the Lord Jesus Christ is to be transformed into His image and, through our lives, “proclaim the excellencies of Him who called us out of darkness and into His marvelous light” (1 Peter 2:9).

This week, in preparation for the teaching lesson, you will be reading the entire book of Philippians and observing what it says. Through the questions, you will be guided to look for pertinent information that will prepare you to get the most out of our study.

God, in His goodness, has entrusted us with this book to give us encouragement, hope, instruction, and biblical truths pertaining to life in Christ. You will be blessed by Paul’s heart toward his fellow believers, his co-laborers in the ministry and complete, unwavering confidence in the providential workings of God through His Son Jesus Christ. All of these truths will lead us to the inexpressible joy of following Christ in each and every circumstance we face in this life. May He be glorified as you commit to laboring in His Word to find truth that will refresh your soul.

PREPARING YOUR HEART:

As you begin this study, ask the Lord for help to be diligent in our study of His word. Go to Him and confess any laziness that has crept into your approach of knowing God’s Word. Repent of any lack of zeal to know Him, and then thank Him for the opportunity to be able to learn from the Apostle Paul what it means to live for Christ. End your time in prayer with praise for a Savior and Lord who has done what is necessary to make you His.

The following prayer is from the book *The Valley of Vision*. May you be able to pray this with a sincere heart as you prepare to study God’s Word.

*Author of all existence, source of all blessedness,
I adore thee for making me capable of knowing thee,
for giving me reason and conscience,
for leading me to desire thee;
I praise thee for the revelation of thyself in the gospel,
for thy heart as a dwelling place of pity,
for thy thoughts of peace towards me,
for thy patience and thy graciousness,
for the vastness of thy mercy.*

For the following questions, we will be using Philippians 1:1-2.

1 Paul and Timothy, slaves of Christ Jesus,

To all the [a]saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the overseers and deacons: **2**

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

OBSERVATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT SAY?

In this section, use the printed text of Philippians provided for you in this booklet for markings.

Read the Introduction of Philippians from the MacArthur Study Bible that is provided for you in this homework booklet. Highlight any important information that will help you as a reference when you study. Look for key themes and explanations that will help you at a quick glance.

Read the entire book of Philippians in one sitting. Use all four chapters to complete the following observations:

1. Highlight any word that names God or Christ in any form, in one specific color. (a) How many times is Christ mentioned?
2. Circle any phrase with the word “rejoice,” or any variation of this phrase.
3. Underline any phrase that has to do with “thinking” or “the mind.”
4. Who wrote this book?
5. Who is he writing to?
6. When was this book written? (Refer to included introduction material)
7. What is the overall tone that Paul gives throughout the book (e.g., correction, encouragement, etc.)?
8. What words are repeated in this book that show us what is important to Paul (e.g., Christ, etc.)?
9. In one sentence, summarize what you think the main idea of the book of Philippians is.

10. Write out three verses that stood out to you and piqued your interest to know what they meant.

Now, in observation of Philippians 1:1-2, please answer the following:

11. What are Paul and Timothy identified as in verse 1?

12. (a) How does it describe the recipients of Paul's letter? (b) Where are they located?

13. Who does Paul include as who he is writing to in verse 1?

14. (a) How does he greet them in verse 2? (b) What does he desire to be extended to them?

15. (a) Who does this come from? (b) What titles does he use in verse 2?

INTERPRETATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT MEAN?

In this section, you will be asked to look up words in their original language for greater understanding. You will need to use a *Strong's Concordance* for some of these questions. You can Google it or use blueletterbible.org as an online resource for all the study tools you may need.

1. Look up G5375 for Philippi. Where is this located in the world?

2. Google "map of Philippi in biblical times" to see where this church was located and to understand the context of the spread of the gospel and the impact of ministry that Paul is addressing in this letter.

3. For context on how the church began in Philippi, read Acts 16:9-15 and 16:25-34.

4. Look up the following words. How is each one defined in the *Outline of Biblical Usage*?
(a) G1401 "bond servant"

(b) G40 “saints”

(c) G5485 “grace”

(d) G1515 “peace”

(e) How does this help you understand what Paul is writing? (f) How do these definitions shape the letter we will be studying?

APPLICATION: HOW SHOULD THIS CHANGE ME?

1. How does your understanding of the background of the Bible and how it was written influence your view of Scripture?

2. (a) Do you value the words that God has preserved for you in His Word? (b) How do you show that in your handling of Scripture? (c) Do you set aside time for it, or do you take it for granted? (d) Do you obey it or ignore it?

3. What do you hope to learn in this bible study?

4. (a) Does your life reflect that you understand to live is Christ and to die is gain? (b) How can this be shown in your life?

[illegible]

[illegible]

Lesson 2 Homework
The Perfecting Promise of God
Philippians 1:3-6

Most people find satisfaction and joy in completing a task. There is a sense of accomplishment when the hard work is done and the goal is achieved, but the truth is, another task is always looming, waiting to be done and taking the space of the current satisfaction that is quickly dissipating. In our spiritual lives we are often conflicted, because we know it is the finished work of Christ that accomplishes our salvation and yet, since we have not fully transformed into the image of Christ, the full completion of our redemption is not yet realized—a fact that can leave us discouraged as we go through the difficult circumstances of this life. Paul knows this reality firsthand, and as he begins this letter to those in Christ, he speaks with great assurance, thankfulness and joy as he remembers them and the sweet fellowship of the gospel that they have in common. He reminds them that the full work of redemption that is promised will come to fruition because of what God has ordained.

This week, we will begin to see the heart of the letter that Paul writes, unfolding in pure and unconfined joy as he gives them insight into his prayers for them. May we as believers and partakers in this saving gospel also be encouraged in our weariness in this life with the reminder that God will accomplish the most needful thing in His people through His Son, Jesus Christ. That alone is reason for rejoicing!

PREPARING YOUR HEART:

As you begin your homework, please take time to thank God in prayer for all the provisions He has made to bring you to fellowship with Him in salvation and in fellowship with others in the body of Christ. Pray for specific people that God has used to encourage you in the faith.

The following prayer is from the book *The Valley of Vision*. May you be able to pray this with a sincere heart as you prepare to study God's Word.

*What shall I give thee for all thy benefits?
I am in a strait betwixt two, knowing not what to do;
I long to make some return, but have nothing to offer,
and can only rejoice that thou doest all,
that none in heaven or on earth shares thy honour;
I can of myself do nothing to glorify thy blessed name,
but I can through grace cheerfully surrender soul and body to thee,
I know that thou art the author and finisher of faith,
that the whole work of redemption is thine alone,
that every good work or thought found in me
is the effect of thy power and grace,
that thy sole motive in working in me to will and to do
is for thy good pleasure.*

Read the entire first chapter of Philippians. Try reading it in two different translations. We will be using Philippians 1:3-6 to answer the homework questions.

3 I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, **4** always offering prayer with joy in my every prayer for you all, **5** because of your [b]fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now. **6** *For I am* confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.

OBSERVATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT SAY?

In this section, use the printed text of Philippians provided for you in this booklet for markings.

For verses 3-6 please make these observations:

1. Who is Paul giving thanks to?
2. What is the context of why he is giving thanks?
3. How often is he offering prayers for them?
4. What is his countenance as he prays for them?
5. Why is he praying for them in verse 5?
6. What is Paul confident about in verse 6?
7. Who began the work?
8. Where was this good work done?
9. What will be done with this work?

10. When does this take place?

List any questions you would ask of this text to gain information.

INTERPRETATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT MEAN?

In this section, you will be asked to look up words in their original language for greater understanding. You will need to use a *Strong's Concordance* for some of these questions. You can Google it or use blueletterbible.org as an online resource for all the study tools you may need.

1. Look up G2168 for the phrase "I thank." (a) What is the definition under *Outline of Biblical Usage*? (b) What part of speech is this particular word (e.g., noun, verb, adjective)? (c) What does this imply?

2. Read the following verses to see how Paul used prayer to thank God for specific things on behalf of believers. Write what he thanks God for by each verse:

(a) Romans 1:8

(b) Romans 1:9

(c) Romans 6:17

(d) 1 Corinthians 1:4

3. Paul remembered specific things about the believers he prayed for. Read the following verses and write down what brought them to mind for Paul:

(a) Ephesians 1:15

(b) Colossians 1:3-4

(c) 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3

(d) 2 Thessalonians 1:3

(e) Philemon 1:4-5

4. What example does this give us for how our prayers should be focused when praying for others?

5. In verse 6, Paul makes a bold statement that the work that God began in the believer would be completed. (a) What is the “work He began in you?” (b) How will it be completed?

6. (a) According to Ephesians 1:13-14, what promise do we receive? (b) How does this help you understand what Paul says about God completing the work He began?

7. (a) In Hebrews 12:2 what does it say that Jesus is for the believer? (b) Does that give you confidence that He will not let your faith fail?

8. Read Romans 8:28-39. What does this passage tell us about the special love that God has for His children?

9. Read John 6:37-40. What does this Scripture tell us about everyone the Father gives to the Son?

10. What is the day of Christ Jesus?

APPLICATION: HOW SHOULD THIS CHANGE ME?

1. (a) Are you a thankful person? (b) Is this characteristic evident in your life and your prayers?
2. Do you pray for others on the basis that you have fellowship based on the gospel?
3. (a) Do you pray for others with a spirit of joy? (b) What can you do to change your prayer life to emulate Paul's example?
4. (a) Are you as confident as Paul that God will complete the work of salvation in you? (b) Do you doubt that He will finish what He began in saving you until the end?

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Lesson 3 Homework
A Prayer for Abounding in Godliness
Philippians 1:7-11

Last week, we looked at the glorious truth that the work of salvation that God began in us would come to complete fullness and fruition in the life of a believer. We are secure with Him because of His work—not ours. This week, we continue to see the heart of Paul being poured out in his affection for the Philippian believers. All of this heartfelt love is in the midst of his prison chains and yet, despite his isolation and restriction, he is unconstrained in his joyful thoughts about the saints in this church. He sees them as co-laborers in the gospel work, and his heart is bound to them as “fellow partakers” in grace.

However, Paul’s words are not mere sentiment or flattery, but rather an overflow into deep spiritual petitions on their behalf for true godliness—godliness that would continue to abound still more and more. The fact that we have the recorded words of what he prays on the behalf of those who are in Christ is such a wonderful example of the purpose of the Christian life. It serves as a roadmap to know how we should live so that we might be found without fault before Christ, because He fills us with His righteousness—all for His praise and glory. May we as women who long for joy in this life find it in the gracious and ever-present fulfillment of Christ’s desire and provision for our growth in godliness.

PREPARING YOUR HEART:

As you begin your homework in Philippians 1 this week, ask the Lord to give you insight so that you will be able to understand what you are studying and make specific applications to your life. Spend time each day thanking God that Christ has made it possible for you to know Him through His Word. Think of someone in your life that you can pray for in this way as Paul does for the Philippian saints.

The following prayer is from the book *The Valley of Vision*.

*Help me to see how good thy will is in all,
and even when it crosses mine
teach me to be pleased with it.
Grant me to feel thee in fire, and food and every providence,
and to see that thy many gifts and creatures
are but thy hands and fingers taking hold of me.
Thou bottomless fountain of all good,
I give myself to thee out of love,
for all I have or own is thine,
my goods, family, church, self,
to do with as thou wilt,
to honour thyself by me, and by all mine.
If it be consistent with thy eternal counsels,
the purpose of thy grace,
and the great ends of thy glory,
then bestow upon me the blessings of thy comforts;
If not, let me resign myself to thy wiser determinations.*

Read the entire chapter of Philippians 1. We will be using verses 7-11 to answer the homework questions.

7 ^[e]For it is only right for me to think this way about you all, because I have you in my heart, since both in my chains and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are fellow partakers with me in this grace. 8 For God is my witness, how I long for you all with the ^[d]affection of Christ Jesus. 9 And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in full knowledge and all discernment, 10 so that you may ^[e]approve the things that are excellent, in order to be sincere and without fault ^[f]until the day of Christ, 11 having been filled with the fruit of righteousness which *comes* through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

OBSERVATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT SAY?

In this section, use the printed text of Philippians provided for you in this booklet for markings.

1. In verse 7, what way of thinking is Paul referring to?
2. What set of circumstances in Paul's life are revealed in this verse?
3. How does Paul describe these believers he is writing to?
4. In verse 8, what is God a witness to?
5. How does he describe his affection for them?
6. (a) What request is he asking God to provide for these believers? (b) How does he want this to be shown in their life?
7. (a) In verse 10, what does he say is the purpose for this prayer? (b) How does he want them to be found on the day of Christ?

8. How does he say this will be accomplished in verse 11?
9. (a) Who provides this? (b) What is the aim of this being done?
10. What questions should you ask in order to find the meaning of this verse? Write them out.

INTERPRETATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT MEAN?

In this section, you will be asked to look up words in their original language for greater understanding. You will need to use a *Strong's Concordance* for some of these questions. You can Google it or use blueletterbible.org as an online resource for all the study tools you may need.

1. Paul draws upon the picture of God being a witness to his affection for them. Look up the following verses to gain a greater understanding of what Paul is conveying to them.

(a) Romans 1:9

(b) 2 Corinthians 1:23

(c) 1 Thessalonians 2:5;10

(d) What did Paul mean?

2. Have you ever considered God as a witness to your words or behavior?

3. In verses 9-11, make a list of all the things that Paul prays for them.

4. Look up the following words:

(a) G1922 "knowledge"

(b) G144 “discernment”

(c) What is the difference, and why are both so greatly needed for the Christian?

5. Discernment flows out of knowing the Word of God. Look up the following verses:

(a) 1 Corinthians 2:14

(b) Hosea 14:9

(c) Proverbs 3:21-24

(d) How important is discernment?

(e) What can you learn from these verses about what it produces in your life?

6. What does this type of love, grounded in knowledge and discernment, produce? (verse 10)

7. What is the ultimate goal for the life of the believer who has the answer to this prayer? (verse 11)

8. Read Romans 3:10-18. (a) In stark contrast to what Paul is praying for the believers, what does this passage say is the reality for those who do not have Christ? (b) Make a list of the descriptive ways Paul describes the unsaved person.

9. The “fruit of righteousness” is only possible for those who are in Christ. Read John 15:1-6 as a portrait of where this righteousness comes from. Put into your own words how you are able to be “filled with fruit of righteousness.”

10. (a) Read Galatians 5:19-21 and list the things that will thwart the fruit of righteousness from flourishing in your life. (b) Now, read verses 22-25; What are the fruits of righteousness that are produced in the believer? (c) Who is the one we must “live by and walk in step with?”

APPLICATION: HOW SHOULD THIS CHANGE ME?

1. (a) Are you faithful in prayer for others? (b) Do you pray for the most important things of the soul for those who are in Christ?

2. How can you change your prayer life to lift other Christians up to the Lord in the ways that have eternal value?

3. (a) Do you know of someone in your life who prays for you in this way? (b) If so, write them a card of thanksgiving for their faithfulness on your behalf.

4. (a) Are you growing in your love for God and others? (b) What can you do to ground yourself in the knowledge and discernment of God today?

5. (a) Are you practicing discernment in your life? (b) Is there anything in your life that you need to repent of where you have not shown discernment and it has kept you from being “without fault” before the Lord? (c) If so, go to Him now in prayer.

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Lesson 4 Homework
The Providence of Progress in a Prison
Philippians 1:12-14

While most of us have not spent time in prison, there are certain things that come into our lives that make us feel as though we are prisoners bound by unwanted chains of circumstance. It is when we find ourselves in such places of utter confinement from the usual comforts in this life that we are forced to focus our attention on the freedoms that no one can invade—our mind, our thoughts, our words, and our attitudes. There is a temptation to be influenced by our circumstances, but for those who are in Christ, we are not only able but *responsible* to entrust our mind, will and hearts to God in all of the providential affairs of our lives.

Paul certainly did not deserve to be put in prison. His “crime” was proclaiming the gospel. And yet, we find a type of elation and encouragement in his letter to these believers that is almost giddy with the excitement of how God is using his imprisonment to accomplish the goal of his ministry—spreading the gospel message that Jesus is the Christ, and in Him is the only way of salvation. This week, we will look at the progression of the gospel as a fruit of Paul’s mistreatment and limitation of ministering in ways that, to us, would seem the best and most effective plan for evangelism. May this be a good reminder to us that God’s ways of accomplishing His purposes are best fulfilled in His perfect providence.

PREPARING YOUR HEART:

As you prepare your heart to understand God’s Word this week, spend time looking back at the providence of God in your life. Humble yourself before Him in thankful prayer that His plans to have the gospel reach you were fulfilled. Praise Him for His provision.

The following prayer is from the book *The Valley of Vision*. May you be able to pray this with a sincere heart as you prepare to study God’s Word.

*Oh God, whose will conquers all:
There is no comfort in anything
apart from enjoying thee
and being engaged in thy service;
Thou art All in all, and all enjoyments are what to me
thou makest them, and no more.
I am well pleased with thy will, whatever it is,
or should be in all respects,
And if thou bidst me decide for myself in any affair,
I would choose to refer all to thee,
for thou art infinitely wise and cannot do amiss
as I am in danger of doing.
I rejoice to think that all things are at thy disposal,
and it delights me to leave them there.
Then prayer turns wholly into praise,
and all I can do is to adore and bless thee.*

This week, take the time to read the entire book of Philippians, so you can experience what the believers in Philippi received in context. We will be using Philippians 1:12-14 to answer the homework questions.

12 Now I want you to know, brothers, that my circumstances have turned out for the greater progress of the gospel, **13** so that my chains in Christ have become well known throughout the whole [g]praetorian guard and to everyone else, **14** and that most of the [h]brothers, having become confident in the Lord because of my chains, have far more courage to speak the word of God without fear.

OBSERVATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT SAY?

In this section, use the printed text of Philippians provided for you in this booklet for markings.

1. What did Paul want them to know about his circumstances?
2. In verse 13, how does he describe his imprisonment?
3. To whom has the gospel become known?
4. In verse 14, what has this done to the Christians close to Paul?
5. (a) What action has this produced in them? (b) In what manner are they able to do this?
6. Write down any questions that you need answered from these verses. In the next step of interpretation, look up the answers to the questions you listed. Scripture can become clear by using other Scriptures to find the answer. Begin to use this skill in your bible study time.

INTERPRETATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT MEAN?

In this section, you will be asked to look up words in their original language for greater understanding. You will need to use a *Strong's Concordance* for some of these questions. You can Google it or use blueletterbible.org as an online resource for all the study tools you may need.

1. In verse 12, what is the main thing that Paul wants them to know about his circumstances?
2. (a) What is revealed to them about his perspective on his circumstances? (b) Why would he think this is important for them to know in this letter?
3. Look up G4232 for “praetorian guard” and read the *Outline of Biblical Usage*. Under the *Dictionary Aids* section, click “View Entry” next to *Vine's Expository Dictionary*, and in the pop-up window, click “View Entry in Context.” How does this give your greater understanding of the reach of the gospel that Paul was experiencing because he was in prison?
4. Isaiah 55:8-9 says, “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,” declares Yahweh. “For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts.” In your own words, how does this relate to our verses this week?
5. Look up the following Scriptures and list what God has recorded for us in His Word through the saints about His perspective on fulfilling His ways:
 - (a) Genesis 50:20
 - (b) Daniel 4:35
 - (c) Isaiah 46:8-10
 - (d) Job 42:2
 - (e) 2 Corinthians 4:15-18
 - (f) Ephesians 1:11

6. Look up G5111 for “courage.” (a) Take notice of what part of speech it is. (b) Write down the definitions of how it is used in the bible.

7. (a) How can biblical courage help us in the task of evangelism? (b) How can it be used to encourage other Christians?

APPLICATION: HOW SHOULD THIS CHANGE ME?

1. Do you see your trials and limitations in life as a fertile ground for the gospel to be proclaimed?

2. Have you faithfully used your hardship to further the gospel?

3. Is there an instance you can recall where God used your weakness and inability to do what you want to encourage others in their faith?

4. (a) Do you lack biblical courage? (b) Are you willing to trust God with your fears to obey Him and be useful in serving others?

5. (a) What is one way you can change your thinking about the providence of God in all your circumstances? (b) Will you change?

6. (a) Are you encouraged by Paul’s example in our passage this week? (b) Are you convicted? Spend time in prayer asking for help and praising Him for both reactions.

[illegible]

[illegible]

Lesson 5 Homework
The Prevailing Preaching of Christ
Philippians 1:15-18a

There are very few things that have the power or the far-reaching ability to override and withstand each and every circumstance that this life has to offer. Two powerful entities are at work at all times—the slavery of sin and the preaching of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Both pervasive and persuasive, but only one will prevail in the end. We have become accustomed to thinking that the most effective means of presenting the gospel comes from a pulpit at the front of a church with a certain style of communication and the purest of motives. These are certainly elements that God uses, but here in our passage, Paul dismantles this method and reminds us and the believers in Philippi that his only aim is that Christ would be preached. He would prefer to have preaching done with pure motives, but he knows that nothing can supersede the power of the gospel, and that knowledge causes him to not only resist discouragement, but to actually rejoice!

May we be encouraged to put our efforts into praise, and rest in the truth that the saving message of the gospel will prevail and bring many to saving knowledge of Jesus Christ—and for this, we rejoice with the apostle Paul.

PREPARING YOUR HEART:

This week as we approach the Scriptures, ask the Lord to strengthen those who are in ministry here and abroad to preach the gospel of Christ in all circumstances. Ask Him for a conviction and courage to faithfully proclaim the message of Christ to those in your life.

The following prayer is from the book *The Valley of Vision*. May you be able to pray this with a sincere heart as you prepare to study God's Word.

*Thou hast moved my conscience to know how
the guilty can be pardoned,
the unholy sanctified,
the poor enriched.
May I be always amongst those who not only hear but know thee,
who walk with and rejoice in thee,
who take thee at thy word and find life there.
Keep me always longing
for a present salvation in Holy Spirit comforts and rejoicings,
for spiritual graces and blessings,
for help to value my duties as well as my privileges.*

Read Philippians 1:12-21. We will be using verses 15-18a to answer the homework questions.

15 Some, to be sure, are preaching Christ even ☐ from envy and strife, but some also ☐ from good will; **16** the latter *do it* out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel; **17** the former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition ☐ rather than from pure motives, thinking to cause me affliction in my chains. **18** What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in this I rejoice. Yes, and I will rejoice,

OBSERVATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT SAY?

In this section, use the printed text of Philippians provided for you in this booklet for markings.

1. What is the subject that Paul is addressing in verse 15?
2. What are the two types of motives he has listed?
3. In verse 16, what does he say is the motive for those who preach out of good will?
4. What do they see in Paul that motivates them to preach in this manner?
5. (a) What is the motive of those who preach from envy and strife? (b) What seems to fuel their envy and strife, according to Paul? (verse 17)
6. What do these preachers hope to do to Paul?
7. (a) What is Paul's conclusion in the matter? (b) What is his response?
8. What questions do you have about this passage that you need to understand in order to apply this passage to your life?

INTERPRETATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT MEAN?

In this section, you will be asked to look up words in their original language for greater understanding. You will need to use a *Strong's Concordance* for some of these questions. You can Google it or use blueletterbible.org as an online resource for all the study tools you may need.

1. Look up G2784 for “preaching.” (a) How do the definitions listed under *Outline of Biblical Usage* give you context to what preaching was like during biblical times? (b) How might this give us perspective to what Paul is saying?

2. Look up G2054 for “strife.” (a) How might these definitions give us clarity on the type of motive Paul is referring to? (b) How might preaching under this pretense be done?

3. Look up G2749 for “appointed.” Based on what this word means, how does this reflect Paul’s understanding of his current circumstances related to his call to preach the gospel?

4. Read the following Scriptures to see Paul’s perspective and conviction in relation to preaching Christ:
 - (a) 1 Corinthians 9:16-17

 - (b) Galatians 2:7-8

 - (c) 2 Timothy 1:11-12

5. To give us context on why some were envious of Paul and desired to cause strife, read 1 Corinthians 3:1-23. (a) Based on this text, where can these ungodly attitudes creep in? (b) How can we safeguard ourselves against this kind of sin?

6. Look up G2052 for “ambition.” What element does ambition add when it is a part of ministry?

7. Read 2 Corinthians 4:7. (a) Where does the power to save come from? (b) How might we be tempted to forget this? (c) Give an example.

8. The power of the gospel is repeated throughout the New Testament. Look up the following verses and record Paul's own words to remind yourself of this power:

(a) 1 Corinthians 1:18

(b) 1 Corinthians 2:1-6

(c) Romans 1:16

APPLICATION: HOW SHOULD THIS CHANGE ME?

1. Do you have a heart for people to hear the gospel of Christ preached?

2. (a) Do you rejoice when you hear the gospel message? (b) Do you rejoice even if no one responds or receives it?

3. Are you content that the gospel is being preached, even if it is not how you are comfortable with it?

4. (a) Do you ever have a spirit of envy or strife? (b) Is it a hidden motive that you pretend not to have?

5. Do you support those who labor in the ministry and uphold them in prayer that their preaching of Christ might be effective?

[illegible]

[illegible]

Lesson 6 Homework
Christ is Magnified in Life and Death
Philippians 1:18b-21

Over the past few weeks, we have been studying how Paul has poured out his heart to the “fellow partakers” he is writing to, and we have witnessed his utter confidence and joy in God the Father and in Christ. He has outlined some difficult situations that would appear as hindrances to him personally and in his ministry to preach the gospel to the world. However, in the midst of chains and personal strife directed at him, he is conveying a steadfast confidence in God’s desire and ability to finish the work of salvation in His children and continue to spread the gospel to many regions.

This week, we will see that, though there have been many threats and deterrents to his ministry, nothing has been able to quench Paul’s joy. In fact, it has seemed to strengthen it. And while imprisonment and others seeking to hurt his ministry have been pressing in on him, we now see Paul’s struggle between his impending death and the ongoing struggles of living life in the flesh as two more reasons he might be tempted to give in to despair. And yet, as he walks the Philippian believers through the pros and cons of both choices, it is his conclusion that has become one of the most beloved and truest statements in all of Scripture: “to live is Christ and to die is gain.”

We will see a resolve to submit to the sovereignty of God and His providential timing, rather than the details of this life that he cannot control. This is such a great reminder to us as we go through the same quandaries in this life that can overwhelm us and rob us of the joy that only comes in Christ. May we find that same bedrock security in knowing Christ and trusting Him to magnify Himself in us, whether we live or die.

PREPARING YOUR HEART:

As you begin your study this week, spend time in prayer submitting to the will of God. Ask Him for help to relinquish all the details of your life to His sovereign care. Pray for insight into what these passages mean and practical ways that you can apply these truths in your life.

The following prayer is from the book *The Valley of Vision*. May you be able to pray this with a sincere heart as you prepare to study God’s Word.

*Much of my guilt arises from my religious privileges,
my low estimation of them,
my failure to use them to my advantage,
But I am not careless of thy favour or regardless of thy glory;
Impress me deeply with a sense of thine omnipresence,
that thou art about my path, my ways, my lying down, my end.*

Read Philippians 1 and 2. We will be using Philippians 1:18b-21 to answer the homework questions.

18 What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in this I rejoice. Yes, and I will rejoice, **19** for I know that THIS WILL TURN OUT FOR MY SALVATION through your prayers and the provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, **20** according to my earnest expectation and hope, that I will not be put to shame in anything, but *that* with all boldness, Christ will even now, as always, be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death. **21** For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

OBSERVATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT SAY?

In this section, use the printed text of Philippians provided for you in this booklet for markings.

1. What does Paul repeat at the end of verse 18?
2. What does he proclaim to KNOW? (verse 19)
3. Through what two things will his deliverance come?
4. In verse 20, according to what two things does Paul cling to not be put to shame?
5. (a) What does he say Christ will do? (b) In what two circumstances will that be done?
6. What is Paul's conclusion in verse 21?

INTERPRETATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT MEAN?

1. Paul declares in the book of Romans that “God causes all things to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to His purposes.” How is this confidence in God reflected in verse 19 of our text?

2. In this same verse, Paul says he will be delivered. What is stated in verse 20 that gives us an indication of what kind of deliverance he is referring to?

3. Look up and write out the following definitions:

(a) G603 for “eager expectation”

(b) G1680 for “hope”

(c) How can these two things steady our faith when trials come?

(d) What kind of impact should this have on our ability to have joy in trials?

4. Look up the following verses that highlight biblical hope. List the reasons these verses give for us to have hope:

(a) Romans 8:24

(b) Romans 15:4,13

(c) 1 Peter 1:3; 1:21

(d) 1 John 3:3

5. Terms like life and death seem very simple in their meaning. Look up G2198 for “life.” Based on the biblical usages listed, how does that give you a deeper sense of what it is to “Live is Christ?”
6. How would you put into words what it means “to live is Christ”?
7. In verse 21, what is Paul trying to say to his readers and to us?
8. For some understanding of Paul’s struggle between life and death, read Colossians 1:24-29. How does this convey his genuine struggle?
9. What questions can you ask of this text so that you can understand what it means and apply it? Write them down and look for the answers in Scripture.

APPLICATION: HOW SHOULD THIS CHANGE ME?

1. (a) How do you face the struggles of this life? (b) What is your first response when things seem to combat the plans you have? (c) Are Paul’s responses different than yours?
2. (a) How could you plan to react in a more godly way to difficult circumstances? (b) What is one thing you could implement into your daily habits to prepare for the next time you are confronted with hardship?
3. What does it mean for you “to live is Christ and to die is gain?”
4. (a) How can you encourage another sister in Christ to endure hardship in light of living for Christ? (b) Follow up with who the Holy Spirit brings to mind.

[illegible]

[illegible]

Lesson 7 Homework
The Desire to Depart, Yet Remain
Philippians 1:22-26

Nothing resonates more to a woman than trying to decide what the best decision is between two choices. Indecision is such a burden for some people. My mother-in-law is paralyzed at the thought of being unsure which choice is best and fearful that she might be making a decision that she will later regret.

Paul has just made a profound statement about the reality of life in Christ, and now he begins to lay out a systemized argument for which is better, life or death. In Paul's predicament, the song lyrics that run through my mind, "Should I stay or should I go ..." appear to be appropriate. And yet, while Paul allows his thoughts to be known to us, he isn't anxious or perplexed about the outcome. He carefully lays out the realities of both, while ultimately resting in the fact that it is God who decides and, ultimately, is convinced that he will remain because he can be useful in progressing the Philippian's faith.

What a sober-minded conclusion in light of one choice resulting in being with Christ. We really do see a clarity of mind and purpose that he understood about his own life in relation to union with Christ. He is illustrating for all believers what it looks like "to live is Christ and to die is gain." He does not hold his own rights or desires above the will of God and what is best for the salvation and sanctification of souls.

This week, may we glean from the mindset of Paul, who forfeited his own desires to fulfill the desires of His Savior, knowing that the encouragement and growth of other believers was more important at that time than departing from this world. May we follow Paul's example and live in selfless love to others through Christ.

PREPARING YOUR HEART:

The following prayer is from the book *The Valley of Vision*. May you be able to pray this with a sincere heart as you prepare to study God's Word.

*Lord, High and Holy, Meek and Lowly, Thou hast brought me to the valley of vision,
where I live in the depths but see Thee in the heights; hemmed in by mountains of sin I behold
Thy glory. Let me learn by paradox, that the way down is the way up,
that to be low is to be high, that the broken heart is the healed heart,
that the contrite spirit is the rejoicing spirit, that the repenting soul is the victorious soul,
that to have nothing is to possess all, that to bear the cross is to wear the crown,
that to give is to receive, that the valley is the place of vision. Amen.*

Read Philippians chapters 1-2 so that you might see the flow of these two chapters. We will be using Philippians 1:22-26 to answer the homework questions.

22 ^[m]But if *I am* to live *on* in the flesh, this *will mean* fruitful labor for me; and I do not know what I will choose. **23** But I am hard-pressed ^[a]between the two, having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for *that* is very much better, **24** yet to remain on in the flesh is more necessary for your sake. **25** And convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy ^[a]in the faith, **26** so that your reason for boasting may abound in Christ Jesus in me, through my coming to you again.

OBSERVATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT SAY?

In this section, use the printed text of Philippians provided for you in this booklet for markings.

1. How does Paul begin his examination of what to do? (verse 22)
2. (a) What is the result if he continues to live in the physical world? (b) What is his evaluation of this result?
3. In verse 23, what two choices is Paul comparing (this is revealed in verse 21)?
4. (a) What is his desire? (b) What is his evaluation of this desire?
5. In verse 24, what is his conclusion from this comparison?
6. In verse 25, what does he now know to be the right choice?

7. What will his “remaining and continuing” do for the believers in Philippi?
8. What is the reason for boasting given in verse 26?
9. What does he imply will happen at the end of verse 26?
10. What other observations can you make from this passage that would help you in your understanding? Write them down and use them as you search the scriptures for answers.

INTERPRETATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT MEAN?

1. Paul mentions “fruitful labor” as an outpouring of remaining in this life. Look up and write out the definitions for the following:
 - (a) G2590 for “fruitful”
 - (b) G2041 for “labor”
 - (c) What would this look like lived out?
2. Read the following Scriptures and take note of what conviction and mindset one must have to desire to remain committed in service to others during their life here on earth.
 - (a) 2 Corinthians 5:14-15
 - (b) Philippians 3:7-11; 14
 - (c) How would you describe this godly desire?

3. In verse 24, Paul gives the benefit of his staying in this life as “necessary for your sake.” This is a common theme for Paul. Look up the following Scriptures and write down what he is doing “for their sake.”

(a) Colossians 1:24

(b) 1 Thessalonians 1:5-7

(c) 1 Corinthians 4:6

(d) 2 Corinthians 2:10-11

4. One of the privileges of the Christian life is to have joy even in the midst of trial. Paul uses the phrase “joy of faith” as one of the reasons he will remain here on earth. Read the following Scriptures that give us direction on how this joy is to be lived out. What is the primary situation that is addressed in these verses where joy or rejoicing is to be expressed?

(a) Matthew 5:10-12

(b) Romans 5:3-5

(c) 1 Peter 4:12-16

5. Boasting is defined as “excessively proud and self-satisfied talk about one’s achievements, possessions or abilities.” Look up the following verses and examine your life in light of what God’s Word says.

(a) Jeremiah 9:23-24

(b) Romans 4:2

(c) Ephesians 2:8-9

(d) 1 Corinthians 1:31; 5:6

(e) 2 Corinthians 11:30

(f) Galatians 6:14

APPLICATION: HOW SHOULD THIS CHANGE ME?

1. As you consider the mindset of Paul as he evaluates life and death, how can you change your thoughts about how you view your own life and death?
2. (a) Do you have a perspective that is focused on your own desires or those of Christ? (b) What would it look like in your life to submit your desires to His will?
3. Is there anyone that God has placed in your life as an “apostle Paul” figure who has helped you grow in your faith as a result of their investment in you?
4. Think of a time when you made a choice in your life that was solely based on the progress of someone else’s faith in Christ. (a) What was the situation? (b) If you have never thought about your life in this way, commit to praying that God would make you aware of how you can do this (this would involve a denial of something in your life so that you might assist someone else in the things of Christ).
5. Is there any area in your life that you are “boasting in” or “taking credit for” that needs to be confessed?

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Lesson 8 Homework
Standing Firm in Unity
Philippians 1:27-28

There is a unique gift in knowing when your time on earth is coming to an end. That seems like a strange statement, but I have found that those who are given a timeframe for their mortality receive a clarity of mind and an opportunity to “get things in order” in a way that allows important actions and words to be fulfilled.

In our study last week, we looked at the thought process Paul had as he considered what his life and death meant in light of his love for Christ, love for the saints and faithfulness to his calling to preach the gospel and encourage the faith of true disciples. As we look at Paul’s life after his conversion, we see that his zeal that once persecuted Christians is even stronger in his passion to follow Christ and love the saints. As he now rests in the confidence that Christ desires for him to stay and help believers progress in their faith, the exhortation Paul now gives them is one of holiness and unity. He is clear in his message that they are to live a life that reflects the gospel of Christ. What has been done in them through salvation is to be a living testimony that emulates the new life they have been given. This kind of holiness will be validated and authenticated by their unity among one another in standing firm in one spirit.

May we be very attentive to this admonition that is vital to every life of a believer and manifested in the church, where Christ must be most on display. The work of salvation and the transformation of believers into the image of Christ is visibly seen through true and joyful unity—especially in the midst of trial and hardship. We bear responsibility in this testimony, as we are partakers in the fellowship Paul describes. May we pray for the diligence to stand firm in holiness and one spirit, and thus fulfill the call to live in a manner worthy of the gospel.

PREPARING YOUR HEART:

As you begin your homework this week, spend time in prayer for your pursuit of personal holiness. Pray that the Spirit of God would make you sensitive to sin and eager to obey God’s Word. Pray for the other believers in your own church body, that they would be unified in one spirit and live in a manner worthy of the gospel.

The following prayer is from the book *The Valley of Vision*. May you be able to pray this with a sincere heart as you prepare to study God’s Word.

*Teach me to believe that all degrees of mercy arise
from several degrees of prayer,
that when faith is begun it is imperfect and must grow,
as chapped ground opens wider and wider until rain comes.
So shall I wait thy will, pray for it to be done,
and by thy grace become fully obedient.*

This week, take time to read the entire book of Philippians. We will be using Philippians 1:27-28 to answer the homework questions.

27 Only ^[p]live your lives in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I will hear about your circumstances, that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one ^[q]mind contending together for the faith of the gospel, **28** in no way alarmed by *your* opponents—which is a sign of destruction for them, but of salvation for you, and that *too*, from God.

OBSERVATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT SAY?

In this section, use the printed text of Philippians provided for you in this booklet for markings.

1. (a) What word describes the “manner” in which Paul is saying we should live? (b) Does that imply there is an option?

2. What does it say about how we are to live our lives?

3. (a) What does he say is the reason for this exhortation? (b) How does this affect him? (verse 27)

4. What is the response that he is looking for in relation to their circumstances?

5. What two things are included in this call to unity?

6. What is the thing most affected? (end of verse 27)

7. What is the response to your opponents?
8. What is the sign for them?
9. What is unity a sign of for believers?
10. Who is it from?
11. What questions do you need to ask of this text in order to understand what it means?

INTERPRETATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT MEAN?

1. Look back at Philippians 1:15-17 and ahead to 3:18-19. What are we told about those not living in a way that reflects the gospel of Christ?
2. How would you define “living a life in a manner worthy of Christ?” Write down specific things that would be included in a life lived for Christ.
3. Look up G4176 for “conduct yourselves.” What is the main idea that you get when you look at this meaning in the original language?
4. Look up G516 for “manner worthy.” How does the definition “suitably” shape your understanding of how you can live for Christ? Be specific.

5. Now look up G2098 for “gospel.” This word is used nine times in this letter, and is vital to our understanding of how we should live as Christians. Put into your own words what this word means, based on the definitions given.

6. Now look up G4739 for “stand firm.” (a) What is the main idea of this definition? (b) How is this important to the way we live as one who is worthy of the gospel? (c) What parts of the gospel message are reflected in this term?

7. From these two verses in our passage, verses 27-28, what four things does Paul include as specific ways we can “live in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ?”

8. This is not the only time Paul gives this exhortation to believers. Read the following Scriptures to see how Paul communicates how to live in this manner.

(a) Ephesians 4:1-3

(b) Colossians 1:9-12

(c) 1 Thessalonians 2:10-12; 4:1

(d) List the fruit that is produced by this kind of living.

9. How might a “worthy life” reflect the gospel message to an unsaved person?

10. (a) Why is Christian unity important? (b) What are the dangers of disunity?

11. (a) When there is strife in the church among its people, what do you do to bring about healing and restoration in those moments? (b) How does this passage encourage you to care about any disunity in the body?

APPLICATION: HOW SHOULD THIS CHANGE ME?

1. Have you been living in a way that reflects you are a believer in Christ?

2. If other Christians were to emulate your life in speech, use of time, use of gifts and resources, and your thought life, would they be able to say that they were conducting their life in accordance to the gospel of Christ?

3. (a) Is there something in your life that is clearly contradictory to the gospel message? (b) Are you willing to forsake it and live differently, now that you understand this passage?

4. (a) How have you been impacted or influenced by someone else who has lived their life in this God-honoring way? (b) What appealed to you about their life? (c) What convicted you?

5. Are you willing to change your life to honor God?

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Lesson 9 Homework
The Gracious Gift to Suffer
Philippians 1:29-30

It is a privilege to suffer. This fact is made clear throughout Scripture. As believers, we must submit our entire being to the authority of God's Word. It is a guide and a comfort to those who not only believe, but obey. It is unconscionable to think that the suffering that Christ had to endure to accomplish and secure our salvation would not be a part of the life that He ransomed with His own. To have a biblical perspective on how to lead a life that is worthy of the gospel, we must not overlook the illustration of Christ's life—an example afflicted with persecution, hardship and suffering. To live in the world that He did and not face the same opposition and rejection would be inconsistent with emulating His life as a testimony of what the gospel accomplished in the sinner.

To truly fellowship with the Savior Jesus Christ is to be in complete union with Him and to joyfully accept and faithfully endure all suffering as a means of exalting Jesus as Lord.

PREPARING YOUR HEART:

As you begin your homework in Philippians this week, ask the Lord to give you insight so that you will be able to understand what you are studying and make specific applications to your life. Spend time each day thanking God that Christ has made it possible for you to be part of the kingdom of God. Ask God to show you ways you struggle with living according to this world in your attitudes and actions. As He begins to show you any areas in which you may have sin, confess and repent of them and ask God to help you live in Scriptural obedience to Him.

The following prayer is from the book *The Valley of Vision*. May you be able to pray this with a sincere heart as you prepare to study God's Word.

*MY GOD,
Thou hast helped me to see,
that whatever good be in honour and rejoicing,
how good is he who gives them, and can withdraw them;
that blessedness does not lie so much
in receiving good from and in thee, but
in holding forth thy glory and virtue;
that nothing is good but thee,
that I am near good when I am near thee,
that to be like thee is a glorious thing:
This is my magnet, my attraction.
Thou art all my good in times of peace,
my only support in days of trouble,
my one sufficiency when life shall end.*

This week, take time to read the entire book of Philippians. We will be using Philippians 1:29-30 to answer the homework questions.

29 For to you it has been granted for Christ's sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake, **30** having the same struggle which you saw in me, and now hear *to be* in me.

OBSERVATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT SAY?

In this section, use the printed text of Philippians provided for you in this booklet for markings.

1. Who is Paul addressing?
2. What is the verb phrase that Paul uses?
3. What is the reason something has been granted to them?
4. What two things have been granted?
5. What specific suffering is listed?
6. What does Paul say about his struggle?

INTERPRETATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT MEAN?

1. As we begin to look at this passage from the perspective of suffering, look up G5483 for "has been granted" and write down the definitions that show you the positive manner implied by this word.
2. Look up G4100 for "believe." This is a gift that has been granted through the Holy Spirit. Write down the definition in your own words to reflect your understanding of what it means to believe in Christ.

3. Now, look up G3958 for “to suffer.” (a) How does the Bible define it? (b) How many times is it used in the New Testament? (c) How might suffering be a gift?

4. Look up the following verses and make note how suffering was viewed for the sake of Christ by His followers:

(a) John 15:18-20

(b) Acts 5:41

(c) Acts 14:22

(d) 1 Peter 4:13

(e) Romans 8:17-18

5. To understand the context of verse 30, read Acts 16:16-40. What is the situation Paul is referring to and how does it relate to him now?

6. Read 1 Thessalonians 3:1-3. (a) What encouragement was given by Timothy in response to strife and suffering for the sake of Christ? (b) In verse 3 what is the mindset that believers should have about afflictions?

7. Jesus suffered many things throughout His life and, ultimately, in His death. Look up the following verses and make a note of how He suffered:

(a) Isaiah 53:3, 7

(b) Matthew 27:28-29

(c) Matthew 69-75

8. Scripture gives us great foresight into the promise of suffering as believers. Read the following verses. Choose one you can memorize as a reminder of God's plan when you face suffering for Christ.

(a) 2 Timothy 2:3

(b) John 16:33

(c) 1 Peter 2:21

(d) 1 Peter 4:13

(e) 2 Corinthians 1:5

APPLICATION: HOW SHOULD THIS CHANGE ME?

1. Have you ever thanked God for the gift of suffering while you were experiencing it?
2. How does knowing that suffering for His sake is a gift from God affect your view of God?
3. What is the best way to encourage another believer in Christ in the midst of their suffering?
4. (a) How has your life been shaped by suffering? (b) Can you see God's hand in it? (c) Do you believe He "granted it to you?"

[illegible]

[illegible]

Lesson 10 Homework
The Mark of Life in Christ
Philippians 2:1-4

One of the greatest threats to unity is selfishness. Where there is a lack of love due to an exaltation of one's rights, you will find strife and enmity. In our flesh, we can become very skilled at masking our self-centeredness, but as believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, we are to be vastly different in our dealings with others. One of the marks of the believer that sets us apart from this world is having a spirit of humility.

We are embarking upon one of my favorite chapters of the Bible. It exalts Christ in such a uniquely glorious way that sets it apart from other passages. Much like the disciples who walked with Christ thought His reign as king would be as a triumphant ruler over the Jews, we might think that Christ is most gloriously on display as seen in the Transfiguration, the resurrection, or even His accession into Heaven. But we now know through the rest of Scripture that God's plan for Him was one of lowliness and humility—not dominance and physical victory.

In our passage this week, we will see that Paul's greatest admonition to believers is that they be united in the selfless attitude of humility. He has just ended his charge to live for Christ and to do so in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, and that both belief and suffering are gifts from God. Because of that, the only right response is to achieve godly living by embracing the mindset that your own interests are subservient to those of others. This week, we will begin to see that true humility is most fitting for the one who has received life in Christ. May this mindset mark our lives and proclaim Him.

PREPARING YOUR HEART:

The following prayer is from the book *The Valley of Vision*. May you be able to pray this with a sincere heart as you prepare to study God's Word.

Humble my heart before Thee, and replenish it with Thy choicest gifts. As water rests not on barren hill summits, but flows down to fertilize lowest vales, so make me the lowest of the lowly, that my spiritual riches may exceedingly abound. When I leave duties undone, may condemning thought strip me of pride, deepen in me devotion to Thy service, and quicken me to more watchful care. When I am tempted to think highly of myself, grant me to see the wily power of my spiritual enemy; Help me to stand with wary eye on the watchtower of faith, and to cling with determined grasp to my humble Lord; If I fall let me hide myself in my Redeemer's righteousness, and when I escape, may I ascribe all deliverance to Thy grace. Amen

This week, take time to read Philippians chapters 1-2. As we begin chapter 2, take time to mark up the chapter in your booklet and look for repeated words and phrases.

When you have finished, write a two sentence summary of what the chapter is about.

We will be using Philippians 2:1-4 to answer the homework questions.

1 Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any ^[a]affection and compassion, **2** fulfill my joy, that you think the same *way*, by maintaining the same love, *being* united in spirit, thinking on one purpose, **3** doing nothing ^[b]from ^[c]selfish ambition or vain glory, but with humility of mind regarding one another as more important than yourselves, **4** not *merely* looking out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.

OBSERVATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT SAY?

In this section, use the printed text of Philippians provided for you in this booklet for markings.

1. (a) How does Paul begin verse 1? (b) What is he referring to in the first word?
2. What four things does Paul ask them if they possess? (verse 1)
3. If these things are true of them, what does he call them to do?
4. How are they to fulfill his joy?

5. What four things does he list to accomplish this?
6. What is the contrast to selfish ambition or vain glory?
7. How is “humility of mind” described? (verse 3)
8. How is this practically applied? (verse 4)
9. (a) What observations can you make that are not already listed? (b) What questions can you ask of the text that need to be answered for greater understanding? Write them down.

INTERPRETATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT MEAN?

1. The fact that Paul has to address the issue of humility of mind in this letter implies they were in danger of disunity in some way. (a) How is this relevant in churches today? (b) What might some of these dangers of disunity be in the modern church?
2. Paul lists four things the believer has received in knowing Christ. For greater understanding of Paul’s evaluation of what they have received in Christ, look up the following Greek words and write out their definitions:
 - (a) G3874 “encouragement” in Christ
 - (b) G3890 “consolation” of love (agape)
 - (c) G2842 “fellowship” of the Spirit
 - (d) G4698 “affection”

(e) G3628 “compassion”

3. How does Christ bring encouragement to the life of a believer?

4. Paul identifies G2052 “selfishness” and G2754 “empty conceit” as the enemies of humility. Look up both words to see the different facets of this idea. How should this make us more aware of our inward attitudes that can lead us to be selfish and prideful?

5. Read John 17:1; 11-26. In His prayer to the Father as He is about to be crucified, we see Jesus’ petition for unity among the children of God. (a) Write down what Jesus asks the Father for in relation to unity. (b) How does this help you understand the importance of unity among the body of Christ?

6. How does Jesus describe the unity between Him and His Father in this prayer?

7. (a) What insight does that give you about the relationship between the Father and the Son? (b) How should that affect your view of God?

8. (a) How much is selfishness a mindset? (b) How do you have a “humility of mind?”

APPLICATION: HOW SHOULD THIS CHANGE ME?

1. (a) Have you received the four things Paul mentions in Philippians 2:1? (b) Are you aware that God gave them to you and you did not earn them? (c) Are you willing to extend those things to others as an offering to God?

2. (a) Are you a selfish person? (b) If you were to ask your family, how would they reply?
3. Do you see it as a sin to put or think of yourself as above or better than others?
4. (a) Do you put others' needs above your own? (b) If so, what is the motivation that makes you selfless?
5. (a) If you are married, what changes can you make in your relationship to be less selfish?
(b) Do you struggle with conceit (selfish ambition or vain glory)? (c) How can you identify that in your life? (d) If you do, are you willing to humble yourself before God and others by realizing you have nothing to boast about?

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Lesson 11 Homework
The Willing Choice of Humility
Philippians 2:5-8

The “way of thinking” seems to be a reoccurring phrase that Paul uses throughout this precious letter. It should be no surprise to us that Paul knows the key to their continued growth and sanctification rests on what they THINK. We are no different. As A.W. Tozer famously said, “What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.” I think the apostle Paul had the same conviction and knew it firsthand, because His view of Christ shaped his life and ministry and he longed for those he loved to have that same mindset. And so, he begins our passage this week with these words, “Have this way of thinking in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus.” Our ears should perk up at this statement, and our hearts should lean in as we long to know how to think as Christ did, for that must be the answer to living as Paul has already been pleading with us to live. For to think as Christ can only lead to obedience in the same manner that Christ obeyed.

This week, we will begin to see the path of true humility that began with an emptying that led to our sufficient salvation and His exaltation. We will see the descent into poverty of what was rightfully His, and the depths of humiliation that He subjected Himself to while He was still the powerful and almighty God. As we witness His willing servanthood to the will of the Father, may we humble our hearts to follow this example when it comes to the unity of the body and the exaltation of Christ in His church.

PREPARING YOUR HEART:

This week as you begin your homework, go before the Lord in prayer and pray through Psalm 131 as you quiet your soul and humble yourself before Him. The following prayer is from the book *The Valley of Vision*.

*While I confess my guilt, help me to feel it deeply,
with self-abhorrence and self-despair, yet
to remember there is hope in thee,
and to see the Lamb that takes away sin.
Through him may I return to thee,
listen to thee, trust in thee,
delight in thy law, obey thee,
be upheld by thee.
Preserve my understanding from error,
my affections from love of idols,
my lips from speaking guile,
my conduct from stain of vice,
my character from appearance of evil,
that I may be harmless, blameless, rebukeless,
exemplary, useful, light-giving,
prudent, zealous for thy glory
and the good of my fellow-men.*

Read Philippians 2:1-11 for context. We will be using Philippians 2:5-8 to answer the homework questions.

5 Have this *way of thinking* [a]in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, **6** who, although existing in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing [e]to be grasped, **7** but [f]emptied Himself, by taking the form of a slave, by being made in the likeness of men. **8** Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death [g]on a cross.

OBSERVATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT SAY?

In this section, use the printed text of Philippians provided for you in this booklet for markings.

1. What command does Paul give in verse 5?
2. (a) How does he describe Christ's mindset? (b) How did He think?
3. What did Jesus do as a result of His thinking?
4. What two specific things did He do?
5. What did His humility lead to?
6. To what degree did He obey?

INTERPRETATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT MEAN?

This section of Scripture has deep theological truths that, when understood, can really give us a wonderful understanding of the ways Christ humbled Himself in order to save sinners. Verse 7 says He “emptied Himself, by taking the form of a slave, by being made in the likeness of man.”

1. Read the following verses to gain a sense of what it meant that Christ Jesus was “being in the form of God.”

(a) John 1:1; 3-4, 14; 8:58

(b) Colossians 1:15-17

(c) Hebrews 1:3

2. Look up G2758 for “emptied.” Read the *Outline of Biblical Usage*. How is this a fitting word for the posture of humility that Christ exemplified?

3. How is this an example for us to follow in the context of being like Christ in relation to others?

4. Paul describes Jesus taking the form of a slave. G1401 gives us a biblical definition of what Paul is picturing. (a) Based on this, how should we view Jesus’ act of coming to the earth as a human being? (b) How is this an example to us of how to be humble?

5. (a) How did Jesus make Himself of no reputation? (b) What privileges did He set aside to come as a man?

John 17:5

Matthew 26:39

John 5:30

John 1:45-49

II Corinthians 8:9

Matthew 27:45-46

6. (a) What does it mean to you that Christ would give up all of this for you? (b) What is your response to Him?

7. (a) What part does humility play in our salvation? (b) Can you be saved without humility?

8. What part does humility play in our sanctification?

APPLICATION: HOW SHOULD THIS CHANGE ME?

1. Does it matter to you that Christ had to give up so much to come to earth?

2. Have you taken for granted what it really cost Christ to become a human being?

3. Does understanding this passage help you understand the cost of your salvation?

4. What is most precious to you in how He humbled Himself?

5. Are you willing to humble yourself of your rights so that you can serve others?

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

[illegible]

Lesson 12 Homework
From Empty to Exalted
Philippians 2:9-11

We could never hope to understand the full mind of God, and yet we are given such a window into the beginnings of what was accomplished on the cross. It is so important for us to think deeply about the plan of salvation. From before the world was created, it was the will of God the Father that the Son would take on human flesh, live a perfect life and pay the penalty of sin for those who would believe in Him. The resurrection of Christ from the dead solidified our redemption by breaking the power of sin and having victory over death. What a gift it is for us to have the act of Christ willingly submitting Himself to the will of His Father by offering up His obedience through the emptying of all of His rights and entrusting Himself to the fulfillment of reconciling sinners to Himself.

While most of us will not have to emulate the act of humility that Christ did by being obedient unto death, we will be required to follow His example of submission to Him and to others as we entrust ourselves to God. We must be willing to give up our rights that He may be exalted in our obedience to Him.

This week, we see the submission of Christ come to fulfillment when God, as a response to His submission, exalts Christ and gives Him the name that is above every name. What might have seemed like a defeat for the Son of God ends in a glorious submission of every knee and every tongue in every place possible declaring Him as Lord—and it is all done for the glory of God. May we bow the knee and confess His name now in this life, and bring great glory to Him as we long to be under His exalted name for all eternity. What a glorious expression of our gratitude for His humility that saved our lost souls.

PREPARING YOUR HEART:

As you prepare to do your homework this week, would you take time to commit yourself to full submission to His will? Pray for guidance as you read and study God's Word. May He open your eyes and heart to any area of your life that is not humble before Him, and then give you the grace to confess it and repent so that you might find joy and restoration in Him.

The following prayer is from the book *The Valley of Vision*. May you be able to pray this with a sincere heart as you prepare to study God's Word.

*O FOUNTAIN OF ALL GOOD,
Destroy in me every lofty thought, Break pride to pieces and scatter it to the winds,
Annihilate each clinging shred of self-righteousness, Implant in me true lowliness of spirit,
Abase me to self-loathing and self-abhorrence, Open in me a fount of penitential tears,
Break me, then bind me up;
Thus will my heart be a prepared dwelling for my God;
Then can the Father take up his abode in me,
Then can the blessed Jesus come with healing in his touch,
Then can the Holy Spirit descend in sanctifying grace;
O Holy Trinity, three Persons and one God, inhabit me, a temple consecrated to thy glory.*

Read Philippians 2. We will be using verses 9-11 to answer the homework questions.

9 Therefore, God also highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, **10** so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, **11** and that EVERY TONGUE WILL CONFESS that Jesus Christ is hLORD, to the glory of God the Father.

OBSERVATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT SAY?

In this section, use the printed text of Philippians provided for you in this booklet for markings.

1. What specifically is Paul referring to when he begins with “therefore?”
2. What did God do for Christ in verse 9?
3. (a) What did God give Christ? (b) How is it described?
4. (a) Why did God do this? (b) What will it result in?
5. Where are those who will do this?
6. What will be confessed?
7. What will be the reason this is done?
8. Find two other observations you can make in this passage that have not already been made.

INTERPRETATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT MEAN?

1. This passage speaks of Christ's exaltation. Read the following passages and make note of how He is exalted.

(a) Acts 2:32-33

(b) Acts 5:30-31

(c) Ephesians 1:20-21

(d) Hebrews 7:25-26

2. Read Revelation 5:6-14 to see a future exaltation of Christ as Lord. (a) What does this tell you about His position? (b) How does this describe Christ's true nature?

3. (a) How should this knowledge of the exalted Christ change our worship of Him? (b) How should it change our view of Him in everyday life?

4. Look up G2962 for "Lord." What does this definition mean in His role in our life?

5. (a) What does it mean for Christ to be Lord of your life? (b) How does this fit with Paul's earlier statements "to live is Christ and to die is gain" and to "live in a manner worthy of the gospel of Jesus Christ?"

APPLICATION: HOW SHOULD THIS CHANGE ME?

1. What can you change in your life to exalt Christ more?

2. Do you love Him for what He has done for you?

3. (a) Is Jesus your Lord? (b) Is He the master of your life and the authority for your decisions?

4. Do you long to see Him and bow before Him in worship and confess His name?

5. Do you confess His name regularly to those around you?

[illegible]

[illegible]

Lesson 13 Homework
God's Work for His Pleasure
Philippians 2:12-13

I remember when I first was exposed to the wonderful and incomprehensible truth that Christ did all the work for my salvation and that I had absolutely nothing to offer but my sin. In our human nature, our instinct is to participate or contribute to it in order to gain something. But, the work of Christ in salvation is contrary to that way of thinking. Still, I also remember being conflicted by the understanding that, once I had received Christ's forgiveness and righteousness, the working out of my salvation was now something of great diligence on my part. It was a responsibility—not to earn salvation, but it was a proper response to what Christ had done. It also gave validation to the fact that I was a new creation that had been transformed. I was saved for a purpose, and that purpose was not so that I could live however I wanted—I was made holy before God to bring Him pleasure, honor and glory.

Sometimes we are unsure of what to do if we have not put in the hard work to accomplish something. However, in the work of salvation, we are repeatedly reminded and instructed throughout Scripture that we are to labor in all diligence. We are to grow in the knowledge of God and live in such a way that battles sin and develops greater holiness that emulates the image of Christ. That is not accomplished by inactivity or lack of engagement but rather, in reverent fear, we are called to obey His Word. This is exactly what Paul is addressing in our two verses this week. Scripture makes it clear that the Christian life involves both God's sovereignty and human response. As we study this, may we submit under this truth and praise Him that His work will be done in us and it will be for His pleasure and according to His will.

PREPARING YOUR HEART:

As you begin to study God's Word, pray Psalm 119:18, "Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law." Spend time thanking Him for all of the wonderful truth that He has shown you so far in your study of the book of Philippians. Give Him praise for saving your soul from His wrath for sin and giving you the right to be holy. Pray for courage and commitment to obey His Word fully as a worshipful response to His love.

The following prayer is from the book *The Valley of Vision*. May you be able to pray this with a sincere heart as you prepare to study God's Word.

*Infinite is thy might, boundless thy love,
limitless thy grace, glorious thy saving name.
Let angels sing for sinners repenting, prodigals restored,
backsliders reclaimed, Satan's captives released,
blind eyes opened, broken hearts bound up,
the despondent cheered, the self-righteous stripped,
the formalist driven from a refuge of lies,
the ignorant enlightened,
and saints built up in their holy faith.
I ask great things of a great God.*

Read Philippians chapters 1-2. We will be using chapter 2, verses 12-13 to answer the homework questions.

12 So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; **13** for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for *His* good pleasure.

OBSERVATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT SAY?

In this section, use the printed text of Philippians provided for you in this booklet for markings.

1. What two words show you that Paul is going to give them instruction in response to what he has just written in verses 5-11?
2. How does he address these believers?
3. How does he describe their obedience in specific terms?
4. What command does he give them?
5. In what manner are they to do it?
6. Who does the work in you?
7. What is the purpose for doing this work in you?
8. After observing these verses, what questions do you need to ask the text in order to understand it? Write them down and look through Scripture to find the answer.

INTERPRETATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT MEAN?

1. What role does obedience play in the life of a believer? (a) Look up G5219 for “obeyed” and write down the definition. (b) Is this how you respond to God’s Word when you hear it or read it? (c) Why or why not?

2. How is obedience tied to working out our salvation?

3. We do not have the power to save ourselves, that is all a work of Christ. However, once we are saved, what part do we play in our sanctification or holiness? What is our responsibility?

4. What is one way we can “work out our salvation?” Look up the following verses to see how we are to “work” in this way:

(a) Romans 6:8-13

(b) 1 Corinthians 9:24-27

(c) 2 Corinthians 6:1

(d) 2 Corinthians 7:1

5. Paul is specific on the manner with which we are to work out our salvation, “with fear and trembling.” Look up these two words, G5401 “fear,” and G5156 “trembling.” What idea do you draw from these definitions on how we are to approach our sanctification?

6. We are told throughout the New Testament that we are to be diligent in our pursuit of holiness and work for the Lord. Our efforts are not in vain. Read the following passages and make note of what we are told in relation to this:

(a) Proverbs 10:16; 13:4

(b) Galatians 6:7-9

(c) Hebrews 6:10-11

(d) 2 Peter 1:5-10

(e) Luke 13:23-24

APPLICATION: HOW SHOULD THIS CHANGE ME?

1. (a) When was the last time you read something in Scripture and fully obeyed it? (b) What was the situation and how did you actually respond in obedience?

2. What keeps you from obeying God's commands (e.g., ignorance, laziness, apathy, rebellion)?

3. (a) Do you have a holy fear of God? (b) Have you become too familiar with God and lost a sense of awe, fear and respect as you approach Him?

4. How does this kind of biblical fear and trembling give God glory?

5. (a) Are you actively "working out your salvation?" (b) Is there any confession and repentance that needs to be done in response to your understanding of this passage? (c) If so, stop now and do it. Please do not put it off.

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Lesson 14 Homework
Refraining from Complaining
Philippians 2:14-18

Do you have vivid memories of your parents giving you clear instructions—so clear there was no room for misunderstanding? These usually began with the words, “Do not ...” There was no wiggle room, no need for clarification. And if you chose to do the opposite, even partially, you knew it was deliberate disobedience.

Today’s passage opens with one of those unmistakably clear commands. You might wonder why the Apostle Paul felt the need to include such a brief but pointed instruction to this beloved group of believers. But the truth is, there’s not a single person alive for whom this reminder isn’t timely: “Do all things without grumbling or disputing.”

Imagine the transformation in our homes, our churches, and our communities if we simply obeyed this one command. If we removed grumbling and arguing from our hearts and habits, we would experience noticeable growth in the Lord. This week, we’ll explore not only Paul’s admonition, but also the deeper purpose behind it—the spiritual impact on our lives as believers and the powerful testimony it offers to a world darkened by selfishness and pride.

Paul doesn’t stop at behavior modification; he calls us to something far greater: a life poured out for Christ. And he reminds us that such labor is never in vain. Joy and rejoicing overflow from hearts that are steadfast in following Christ’s example—humble, obedient, and worthy of the gospel.

May we commit our ways to Him, and may our lives be used mightily for His glory.

PREPARING YOUR HEART:

As you begin your homework this week, ask God to prepare your heart to receive any correction that He makes you aware of. Consider the consequences of the sin of complaining and disputing, and ask for a tender conscience to His Spirit in leading you through this passage. Thank Him for the opportunity He gives you to know how to obey Him.

The following prayer is from the book *The Valley of Vision*. May you be able to pray this with a sincere heart as you prepare to study God’s Word.

*Day and night are thine,
heaven and earth declare thy glory;
but I, a creature of thy power and bounty,
have sinned against thee by resisting
the dictates of conscience,
the demands of thy law,
the calls of thy gospel;
yet I live under the dispensation of a given hope.
Deliver me from worldly dispositions,
for I am born from above and bound for glory.
May I view and long after holiness*

As we end our semester in part one of our Philippians study, read the entire book of Philippians so that you can see the flow of what you have learned and what we will look forward to as we continue this book next semester. We will be using verses 14-18 to answer the homework questions.

14 Do all things without grumbling or disputing, **15** so that you will be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish 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 in the day of Christ I will have reason to boast because I did not run in vain nor labor in vain. **17** But even if I am being poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I rejoice and share my joy with you all. **18** And you also, rejoice in the same way and share your joy with me.

OBSERVATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT SAY?

In this section, use the printed text of Philippians provided for you in this booklet for markings.

1. What is the command Paul gives believers?
2. What are the two specific things we are not to participate in?
3. Does he put a limitation on “what things” this command pertains to?
4. What does he say is the purpose for refraining from these things?
5. How are the children of God described in verse 15 if they obey this?
6. What does it say the children of God are in the midst of?
7. What image does Paul give as to what we are in the world?

8. What are we to be doing?
9. What does he say about himself in verse 16, what is his concern?
10. When will this be revealed as to how he labored?
11. (a) What is the contrast he gives in verse 17? (b) What is the image he gives of this?
12. What two things did he do for their faith?
13. What is his overall attitude at the end of verse 18?
14. What does he desire for them?

INTERPRETATION: WHAT DOES THE TEXT MEAN?

1. The command Paul gives is to refrain from complaining, but what is the greater purpose he is pointing to?
2. Look up the two words, G1112 for “grumbling” and G1261 for “disputing,” that Paul uses to instruct believers. After looking at these definitions, what is the overall attitude and action that is encompassed by these two words?
3. (a) Does this give you an understanding of why this is so dangerous to our spiritual life? (b) How could this affect us? Be specific.

4. Read Exodus 16:7-8. (a) What does this tell you about how God views grumbling? (b) What is the real offense in this sin?

5. Grumbling affects all areas of our lives. Read these accounts of situations where grumbling was noted and included in scripture:

(a) Mark 14:3-5

(b) James 5:9

(c) 1 Peter 4:9

6. Now look up the effects of disputing in these Scriptures. What does it tell us?

(a) Proverbs 13:10

(b) Proverbs 15:17-18

(c) Acts 15:2; 7; 39

(d) Mark 9:33-34

7. (a) How does grumbling and disputing among believers affect our holiness? (b) Could this be a sin of the heart and not always outwardly seen? (c) Does this make it any less offensive to God?

8. What is the responsibility we bear for our blamelessness and innocence before God? Explain our part in our sanctification.

APPLICATION: HOW SHOULD THIS CHANGE ME?

1. (a) Have you been guilty of being a complainer? (b) Have you seen the effects of this sin in your life? (c) How?

2. (a) Are you a person who gives into disputes and quarreling? (b) How do you justify this behavior in your life?

3. (a) Have you obeyed this command and seen the fruit of obedience in your life? (b) How has that changed you?

4. (a) Do you take your responsibility to shine as a bright light in a dark world seriously? (b) Do you believe your behavior impacts that? (c) If so, is there something you could do to change this?

[illegible]

This image shows a full page of blank handwriting practice paper. It features approximately 28 evenly spaced horizontal grey lines across the entire page, providing a guide for letter height and placement. The background is plain white, and there are no margins or additional markings present.

[illegible]

SONGS
of
WORSHIP

All I Have Is Christ

Hallelujah! All I have is Christ
Hallelujah! Jesus is my life

I once was lost in darkest night
Yet thought I knew the way
The sin that promised joy and life
Had led me to the grave
I had no hope that You would own
A rebel to Your will
And if You had not loved me first
I would refuse You still

But as I ran my hell-bound race
Indifferent to the cost
You looked upon my helpless state
And led me to the cross
And I beheld God's love displayed
You suffered in my place
You bore the wrath reserved for me
Now all I know is grace

Chorus
Hallelujah! All I have is Christ
Hallelujah! Jesus is my life
[Repeat]

Now, Lord, I would be Yours alone
And live so all might see
The strength to follow Your commands
Could never come from me
O Father, use my ransomed life
In any way You choose
And let my song forever be [Chorus]

All Sufficient Merit

All sufficient merit shining like the sun
A fortune I inherit by no work I have done
My righteousness I forfeit at my Savior's cross
Where all sufficient merit did what I could not

In love He condescended eternal now in time
A life without a blemish the Maker made to die
The law could never save us our lawlessness had won
Until the pure and spotless Lamb had finally come

Chorus:

It is done it is finished
No more debt I owe
Paid in full all sufficient
Merit now my own

I lay down my garments any empty boast
Good works now all corrupted by the sinful host
Dressed in my Lord Jesus a crimson Robe made white
No more fear of judgment His righteousness is mine [Chorus]

All sufficient merit firm in life and death
The joy of my salvation shall be my final breath
When I stand accepted before the throne of God
I'll gaze upon my Jesus and thank Him for the cross
Yes I'll thank You for the cross [Chorus]

It is done it is finished
No more debt I owe
Paid in full all sufficient
Merit now my own
Merit now my own
Merit now my own

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

Joyful, joyful, we adore You,
God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before You,
Opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
Drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day!

All Your works with joy surround You,
Earth and heav'n reflect Your rays,
Stars and angels sing around You,
Center of unbroken praise;
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
Flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain
Praising You eternally!

Always giving and forgiving,
Ever blessing, ever blest,
Well-spring of the joy of living,
Ocean-depth of happy rest!

Loving Father, Christ our Brother,
Let Your light upon us shine;
Teach us how to love each other,
Lift us to the joy divine.

Mortals, join the mighty chorus,
Which the morning stars began;
God's own love is reigning o'er us,
Joining people hand in hand.

Ever singing, march we onward,
Victors in the midst of strife;
Joyful music leads us sunward
In the triumph song of life.

His Mercy Is More

What love could remember no wrongs we have done
Omniscient, all knowing, He counts not their sum
 Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore
 Our sins they are many, His mercy is more
What patience would wait as we constantly roam
 What Father, so tender, is calling us home
 He welcomes the weakest, the vilest, the poor
 Our sins they are many, His mercy is more

 Praise the Lord, His mercy is more
 Stronger than darkness, new every morn
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more
 Praise the Lord, His mercy is more
 Stronger than darkness, new every morn
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more

 What riches of kindness He lavished on us
His blood was the payment, His life was the cost
 We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford
 Our sins they are many, His mercy is more

 Praise the Lord, His mercy is more
 Stronger than darkness, new every morn
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more
 Praise the Lord, His mercy is more
 Stronger than darkness, new every morn
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more
Our sins they are many, His mercy is more

I Surrender All

All to Jesus I surrender,
All to Him I freely give;
I will ever love and trust Him,
In His presence daily live.

Refrain:

I surrender all, I surrender all;
All to Thee, my blessed Savior,
I surrender all.

All to Jesus I surrender,
Make me, Savior, wholly Thine;
Let me feel Thy Holy Spirit,
Truly know that Thou art mine. [Refrain]

All to Jesus I surrender,
Lord, I give myself to Thee;
Fill me with Thy love and power,
Let Thy blessing fall on me. [Refrain]

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

“Great is Thy faithfulness,” O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.

Chorus:

“Great is Thy faithfulness!” “Great
is Thy faithfulness!”
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided—
“Great is Thy faithfulness,” Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love. [Chorus]

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! [Chorus]

Yet Not I But Through Christ In Me

What gift of grace is Jesus, my Redeemer
There is no more for Heaven now to give
He is my joy, my righteousness, and freedom
My steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace

To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus
For my life is wholly bound to His
Oh, how strange and divine, I can sing, "All is mine"
Yet not I, but through Christ in me

The night is dark, but I am not forsaken
For by my side, the Savior, He will stay
I labor on in weakness and rejoicing
For in my need, His power is displayed

To this I hold, my Shepherd will defend me
Through the deepest valley, He will lead
Oh, the night has been won, and I shall overcome
Yet not I, but through Christ in me

No fate I dread, I know I am forgiven
The future's sure, the price, it has been paid
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon
And He was raised to overthrow the grave

To this I hold, my sin has been defeated
Jesus, now and ever is my plea
Oh, the chains are released, I can sing, "I am free"
Yet not I, but through Christ in me

With every breath, I long to follow Jesus
For He has said that He will bring me home
And day by day, I know He will renew me
Until I stand with joy before the throne

To this I hold, my hope is only Jesus
All the glory evermore to Him
When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat
"Yet not I, but through Christ in me" [Repeat]

When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat
"Yet not I, but through Christ in me"
"Yet not I, but through Christ in me"
"Yet not I, but through Christ in me"

Jesus Thank You

The mystery of the cross I cannot comprehend
The agonies of Calvary
You the perfect Holy One, crushed Your Son
Who drank the bitter cup reserved for me

Chorus:

Your blood has washed away my sin
Jesus, thank You
The Father's wrath completely satisfied
Jesus, thank You
Once Your enemy, now seated at Your table
Jesus, thank You

By Your perfect sacrifice I've been brought near
Your enemy You've made Your friend
Pouring out the riches of Your glorious grace
Your mercy and Your kindness know no end

[Chorus]

Bridge:

Lover of my soul
I want to live for You [Repeat x 3]

[Chorus]

Once Your enemy, now seated at Your table
Jesus, thank You

It Is Well

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,
It is well, it is well with my soul.

Refrain:

It is well with my soul,
It is well, it is well with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate,
And hath shed His own blood for my soul. [Refrain]

My sin—oh, the bliss of this glorious thought!—
My sin, not in part but the whole,
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more,
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! [Refrain]

And Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll;
The trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend,
Even so, it is well with my soul. [Refrain]

At Calvary

Years I spent in vanity and pride
Caring not my Lord was crucified
Knowing not it was for me He died

At Calvary

By God's word at last my sin I learned
Then I trembled at the law I'd spurned
Until my guilty soul imploring turned
To Calvary

[Chorus]

There Your mercy and Your grace was free
There Your pardon multiplied to me
There my burdened soul found liberty

At Calvary

Now I've given Jesus everything
Now I gladly know Him as my king
Now my raptured soul can only sing
Of Calvary

[Chorus]

There Your mercy and Your grace was free
There Your pardon multiplied to me
There my burdened soul found liberty

At Calvary

Calvary

How Deep The Father's Love For Us

How deep the Father's love for us,
How vast beyond all measure!
That He should give His only Son,
To make a wretch His treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss!
The Father turns His face away;
As wounds which marred the Chosen One
Bring many sons to glory.

Behold the man upon a cross:
My sin upon His shoulders;
Ashamed I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished;
His dying breath has brought me life:
I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything:
No gifts, no power, no wisdom;
But I will boast in Jesus Christ:
His death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer;
But this I know with all my heart:
His wounds have paid my ransom.

Why should I gain from his reward?
I cannot give an answer;
But this I know with all my heart:
His wounds have paid my ransom.

In Christ Alone

In Christ alone, my hope is found
He is my light, my strength, my song
This Cornerstone, this solid ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love, what depths of peace
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease
My Comforter, my All in All
Here in the love of Christ I stand

In Christ alone, who took on flesh
Fullness of God in helpless babe
This gift of love and righteousness
Scorned by the ones He came to save
'Til on that cross as Jesus died
The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid
Here in the death of Christ I live, I live

There in the ground His body lay
Light of the world by darkness slain
Then bursting forth in glorious Day
Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me
For I am His and He is mine
Bought with the precious blood of Christ

No guilt in life, no fear in death
This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath
Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell, no scheme of man
Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand

Man Of Sorrows

Man of sorrows Lamb of God
By His own betrayed
The sin of man and wrath of God
Has been on Jesus laid

Silent as He stood accused
Beaten mocked and scorned
Bowing to the Father's will
He took a crown of thorns

Chorus:

Oh that rugged cross my salvation
Where Your love poured out over me
Now my soul cries out hallelujah
Praise and honour unto Thee

Sent of heaven God's own Son
To purchase and redeem
And reconcile the very ones
Who nailed Him to that tree [Chorus]

Now my debt is paid
It is paid in full
By the precious blood
That my Jesus spilled
Now the curse of sin
Has no hold on me
Whom the Son sets free
Oh is free indeed
Now my debt is paid
It is paid in full
By the precious blood
That my Jesus spilled
Now the curse of sin
Has no hold on me
Whom the Son sets free
Oh is free indeed
[Chorus]

See the stone is rolled away
Behold the empty tomb
Hallelujah God be praised
He's risen from the grave
[Chorus]

Praise and honour unto Thee
Praise and honour unto Thee

Amazing Grace

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils and snares,
I have already come;
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me,
His Word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be,
As long as life endures.

Yea, when this flesh and heart shall fail,
And mortal life shall cease,
I shall possess, within the veil,
A life of joy and peace.

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow,
The sun forbear to shine;
But God, who called me here below,
Will be forever mine.

When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun.