



THE WORD

PHILIPPIANS

“THEN YOU WILL SHINE AMONG THEM
LIKE STARS IN THE SKY, AS YOU
HOLD FIRMLY TO THE WORD OF LIFE”

PHILIPPIANS 2:15B-16A

Table of Contents

Week 1: Introduction to Philippians

Week 2: Philippians Chapter 1

Week 3: Philippians Chapter 2

Week 4: Philippians Chapter 3

Week 5: Philippians Chapter 4

Introduction

CONTEXT

W1

Who?

- The author of this letter is the apostle Paul. However, it is addressed from both Paul and his partner in ministry, Timothy.
- The audience in who Paul is writing to is the believers in the church of Philippi.

What?

- Around this time period of this letter being written, a lot is happening in Paul's ministry. Paul makes his first trip to Philippi somewhere between 50-52 AD. His second trip, which led to more success in sharing the gospel, was between 53-57 AD. In 59-60 AD Paul takes his trip to Rome which ultimately lands him under house arrest from 60-62 AD. Just two years later a fire will destroy Rome. Rome's infamous Emperor Nero accused Christians for the fire which results in Paul being martyred and many others Christians soon meeting the same demise.

When?

- Paul founded the church of Philippi somewhere around 50-52 AD. However, this letter is believed to have been written sometime between 60 and 62 AD.

Where?

- Paul wrote this letter while he is in prison. Historians believe the location of his imprisonment was likely Rome but could have been Ephesus.
- Philippi was a Roman colony located on a major trade road through Macedonia.

Why?

- Paul wrote this letter for a multitude of reasons. First, he writes it for the sake of encouraging those in the church of Philippi while also informing them of his current circumstances. Secondly, he writes to them for the sake of reminding them of the life that they have in Christ and the example that Jesus set for them. Thirdly, he writes to them so that they may take heart in knowing that he will be sending to them both Epaphroditus and Timothy for support. Finally, he writes a warning to them about the dangers of considering the law over their faith in Christ. He gives thanks to them for their support and gifting's in the Lord, and closes out his letter in the grace of Christ Jesus. All of this points towards the theme of ultimately having contentment.

Discuss:

- Why does context matter?
- What knowledge of Philippians do you already have?

Introduction

THEMES

W1

Explore the section headings

Read the section headings throughout the book of Philippians in your Bible. Compare different section headings in different translations. **Did you know these were not part of the original text?** They are added by translators later to organize the text for the readers. The section headings divide the Bible to make it easier for readers to study and understand. What do you notice about the headings in Philippians? Based on the headings, what sections are you most excited to read? What sections are you least excited to read?

Read these passages:

Circle familiar passages

- Philippians 1:6
- Philippians 1:9-10
- Philippians 1:21
- Philippians 2:3-4
- Philippians 2:14-16
- Philippians 3:12-14
- Philippians 3:17-18
- Philippians 4:4-6
- Philippians 4:11-12

What do you hope to learn about as we dive deeper into Philippians in this study?

A major theme of Philippians is contentment. Would you consider yourself a person who is typically content? What disturbs your contentment?

Discuss:

- What does the word contentment really mean from a Biblical understanding?
- Out of the context that has been given, what is something that stands out or that you did not previously know?

THE WORD

PHILIPPIANS 1:1-30



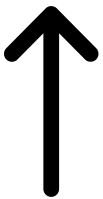
What does this passage say? List as many observations about the text as you can.

Consider: What did this passage mean to its original audience?



What does this passage tell us about God?

Finish the sentence: God is.....



Discuss:

- How does Paul's circumstances change how you read this passage?
- Is your love for others overflowing? (Referencing verse 9)
- Are you actively growing in your knowledge and understanding of your relationship with Jesus?



What does this passage tell us about man?

↓

What, if anything, does this passage demand of me?

→

How does this passage change the way I relate to other people?

↔

Discuss

- What does this teach us about encouragement?



How does today's passage prompt me to pray? 

Prayer Requests

THE WORD

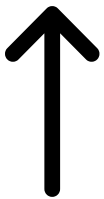
PHILIPPIANS 2:1-30



What does this passage say? List as many observations about the text as you can.

Consider: What did this passage mean to its original audience? ←

What does this passage tell us about God?



Finish the sentence: God is.....

Discuss:

- How does Philippians 2:3-5 challenge the way you conduct yourself?
- Referring to verse 15, do you think this verse reflects your heart at its core?



What does this passage tell us about man?

↓

What, if anything, does this passage demand of me?

→

How does this passage change the way I relate to other people?

↔

Discuss

- What does Philippians 2:5-11 tell us about Jesus?
- How does the reminder Paul gives of the way Christ lived challenge your lifestyle?
(Referencing verses 5-11)



How does today's passage prompt me to pray? 

Prayer Requests

THE WORD

PHILIPPIANS 3:1-21

W4



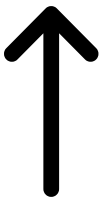
What does this passage say? List as many observations about the text as you can.

Consider: What did this passage mean to its original audience?



What does this passage tell us about God?

Finish the sentence: God is.....



Discuss:

- In verse 8, Paul counts everything worthless that is not his relationship with Jesus Christ. What things are you holding higher than this relationship and what makes them of more importance than your relationship with Christ?



What does this passage tell us about man?

↓

What, if anything, does this passage demand of me?

→

How does this passage change the way I relate to other people?

↔

Discuss

- Referring to verses 12-14, how can we press on in our race that the Lord has called us to run?



How does today's passage prompt me to pray? 

Prayer Requests

THE WORD

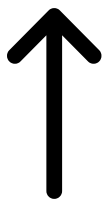
PHILIPPIANS 4:1-23



What does this passage say? List as many observations about the text as you can.

Consider: What did this passage mean to its original audience? ←

What does this passage tell us about God?



Finish the sentence: God is.....

Discuss:

- What are some things in your life that you spend a lot of time worrying about? (Referencing verses 6.)
- What thoughts are you allowing to take your focus? (Referencing verses 8-9)



What does this passage tell us about man?

↓

What, if anything, does this passage demand of me?

→

How does this passage change the way I relate to other people?

↔

Discuss

- In what ways can you rejoice in everything that you do and at the same time be considerate in your actions? (Referencing verses 4-5)



How does today's passage prompt me to pray? 

Prayer Requests
