



### Philippians Group Discussion Guide Week 9

The guide follows the same format: three questions followed by prayer. My additional questions are in *italics*. Please especially make sure you consider the application questions I ask. Have a great study!

Read Philippians 4:10-23.

The same questions for studying the text are below. Here are a few questions to ask as you seek to understand and apply the passage.

- What are some themes prevalent in the whole letter that we see repeated in these closing verses?
- How do you struggle with contentment?
- What do verses 10-13 teach us about contentment? Why do we need Christ's strength not just to help us be content in bad times but in good times as well?
- How is verse 13 often misinterpreted and misapplied? What does it mean in its context?
- How does our relationship with Jesus Christ give us strength to be content in all circumstances?
- Why does Paul rejoice so much over the Philippian church?
- What does Paul mean by verse 17? How might this verse apply to our giving to support the work of the ministry?
- Describe the relationship of Paul and the Philippian church? How are they model for us regarding our relationships with other Christians?
- What does verse 19 mean? Elizabeth Elliott said of this verse: "God has promised to supply all our needs. What we don't have, we don't need now." How does this encourage you and challenge you? How does this approach to life help us find joy and contentment in our current situation?
- What have you learned in this study of Philippians? How have you been challenged? What has this book taught us about finding joy?

**What does the text say?** In this section we are seeking to make as many observations as we can. I encourage you to mark up the text above you (underline, circle, draw lines connecting verses/words, write short comments, etc).

- Summarize the context...what was said in the preceding verses? How does this fit within Paul's thought process?

- What are key words/phrases in the passage?
  - What are the repeated words/phrases? Why are they significant?
  - What are important connecting words and how do they help us understand Paul's point?
  - What themes or ideas are being emphasized?
  - What does this passage say about God? Man? Sin?
  - What questions do you have?

### **What does the text mean?**

- Describe Paul's main point in a sentence or couple sentences. What is the big/main idea?
- What are some of the subpoints? Summarize Paul's thought process and some of his supporting points.
- What other passages could be helpful in understanding this text better?

### **How do I/we apply this passage?**

- What are we to think/feel/do?
- What sins does this passage expose in you/us?

### **Pray**

- What is there to praise God for from this passage?
- What sin(s) is there to confess?
- What is there to ask God for?