

# Calvary Chapel Women's Study

## Lesson 1

### Philippians 1

1. The book of Philippians has been a source of comfort to untold numbers of believers down through the centuries. This book is filled with great and precious promises to assist you as you walk through the difficulties of life. Take a moment to look up the following promises from the book and share your thoughts.

- Phil 1:6
- Phil 1:21
- Phil 2:9-11
- Phil 3:8
- Phil 3:13-14
- Phil 3:20-21
- Phil 4:4
- Phil 4:6-7
- Phil 4:13

It may be helpful to keep in mind that this letter, along with Ephesians, Colossians, Philemon and 2 Timothy were all written from a prison cell. In other words all the comfort, strength and encouragement we receive from this letter came at great personal cost to Paul.

2. How does knowing that God used Paul in such a powerful way help you to rethink the current trials you are facing?

## Read Philippians 1:1-2

1. Paul wrote this letter with the assistance of Timothy. Read the following verses and share what you learn about Timothy.
  - Acts 16:1-2
  - 1 Corinthians 4:17
  - 1 Thessalonians 3:2
2. Define the following terms from Phil 1:1.
  - Bondservant
  - Saints
  - Bishops
  - Deacons

**For Discussion**

- A. Grace and peace have been called the Siamese Twins of the New Testament because they are often found together and always in that order. Define the terms grace and peace and share why you think grace is always listed before peace.

**Read Philippians 1:3-11**

1. In verse 3 Paul declares that he is thankful for the Philippians every time he thinks of them. How can that attitude help you get along better with others?
2. In verse 4 Paul shares that he prays for the church regularly. How can you apply his to your life?
3. In your own words define the phrase "fellowship in the Gospel."

**For Discussion**

- B. Phil 1:6 records one of the greatest promises in the New Testament. In your own words share what the promise is, then share how this promise is a source of comfort for you.
4. Take a more careful look at Phil 1:6, what is "the day of Jesus Christ"?
  5. In verse 7 Paul refers to his chains. What does that say regarding his physical condition while writing this letter?

**For Discussion**

C. What do you think Paul means by the phrase "the defense and confirmation of the gospel"?

How can you be a part of...

- The defense of the gospel?
  
- The confirmation of the gospel?

D. Why would Paul need an extra measure of grace while defending and confirming the gospel?

- In what areas of your life do you feel like you are in need of a greater measure of the grace of God?
6. In verse 8 Paul declares that he greatly longs for the Philippians. What do you think the phrase "with the affection of Christ" means?
  7. Philippians 1:9-11 records an actual prayer of Paul for the church. Read through this prayer and spend a few minutes praying for your church.
  8. Paul's prayer can be divided into 4 parts. Read each phrase and share what you think Paul is praying for.
    - "That your love may abound"
  
    - "That you may approve the things that are excellent"

- "That you may be sincere and without offense"
- "Being filled with the fruits of righteousness"

9. Let's do a little more digging into this prayer by defining the following terms.

- Abound
- What does it mean for love to abound?
- Approve
- How can we approve what is excellent?
- Sincere
- Fruits of righteousness

10. According to verse 11, where do the fruits of righteousness come from?

## Read Philippians 1:12-18

1. In verse 12 Paul speaks of the things that happened to him. Those things form the closing chapters of the book of Acts. Read Acts 28:16 and share what you learn.
2. Paul writes that his circumstances have resulted in the Gospel being furthered. According to verse 13-14 how was this accomplished?

3. In what way did Paul's imprisonment allow the Gospel to be furthered?

**For Discussion**

E. How are you allowing your current circumstances to result in the furtherance of the gospel?

- How have you allowed your circumstances to keep you from furthering the gospel?

F. According to verse 14 others were emboldened by the trials Paul endured. How does the fearless service of others encourage you to be more faithful in serving Jesus?

4. Paul presents a very interesting concept in verses 15-17. He states that there are people who preach Christ for selfish ambition. Give an example of a person that may have self as the driving force behind serving the Lord.

5. How could others preaching Christ add affliction to Paul's chains?

6. According to verse 18 how did Paul react to the news that Christ is being preached?

7. Why should we celebrate when the gospel is being declared?

8. Give a recent example of you sharing Christ with others.

## Read Philippians 1:19-26

1. What confidence does Paul express in verse 19?
2. What two forces does he attribute to his future deliverance from prison?

### **For Discussion**

- G. Take a moment to describe the power of the Spirit of God. What is He able to accomplish? Give at least 2 examples
- H. Take a moment to describe the power of prayer. What is it able to accomplish? Give at least 2 examples.
3. According to verse 20 what did Paul desire to do with his body?
4. How can you magnify God with your life?

### **For Discussion**

- I. Verse 21 is one of the most powerful statements in the New Testament. Share your thought on the connection between living for Christ and gaining in death.
5. If we replace Christ with anything else the end of verse 21 no longer holds true. Write 3 examples of replacing the word Christ with something else and finish the verse accordingly. For example, "for me to live is pleasure and to die is my biggest fear."

6. Paul was facing a real threat of death. At any moment he could have been executed or released. According to verse 22, what did he determine to do with the time he had remaining?
  
7. According to verse 23 how did Paul view death?

**For Discussion**

J. According to verses 24-25 Paul saw his life as one that was to be spent helping others to grow in Christ. List 4 ways that Paul sought to help others grow in Christ.

- List 4 ways that you are helping others grow in Christ.

8. In verse 26 what did Paul hope for in the future?

**Read Philippians 1:27-30**

1. Define the following words as they are used in Phil 1:27.
  - Conduct
  
  - Worthy
  
  - Gospel
  
  - Affairs



- Stand fast
- Striving

**For Discussion**

K. Verse 28 encouraged us not to be terrified of the adversaries of our faith. What part does fear play in keeping you from more effectively serving Christ?

- How can the truth found in 2Timothy 1:7 help you overcome fear?
2. According to verse 29 what has been granted to us as believers?
  3. Based upon what you know about suffering why would God desire it to be a part of the life of every believer?
  4. Trials are a general term used in scripture to speak of the difficulties we face in life. Look up the following verses and share what they teach us about the importance of trials in our lives.
    - James 1:2-3
    - James 1:12 (Temptation is the same Greek word sometimes translated trials)
    - 1Peter 1:6-7
    - Romans 5:3-4
    - 2Corinthians 4:17-18

5. Paul speaks of the Philippians experiencing the same conflict that he was facing.
  - What do you know about the difficulties Paul was facing?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - What does that teach you about some of the struggles the Philippian believers were enduring?

# What Happened To Me?

## *Philippians 1:12-14*

***“But I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel, so that it has become evident to the whole palace guard, and to all the rest, that my chains are in Christ; and most of the brethren in the Lord, having become confident by my chains, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.”***

As Paul is writing this letter to the church in Philippi, he is chained to a soldier and sitting in a Roman prison. He was incarcerated, not for making foolish decisions, choosing the wrong path, or getting in with the wrong crowd. His imprisonment was due to a rising hostility in the Roman world towards the message of the cross. We might say, Paul was facing difficulties outside of his control. Life is like that. Even when we decide to live pleasing to the Lord, we still face hardship, difficulty and opposition. It interests me what Paul has to say about the results of his hardship.

***“The things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel...”***

In the midst of the storm he was facing, Paul realized that while it was creating hardship for him, it was also creating opportunity for others to come to Christ, or grow in Christ. He wrote of how the palace guard had come to know that his chains were in Christ. Rather than whining in prison about how unfair life was, Paul used his circumstances as a chance to tell others about the forgiveness of sins found in Jesus. While it is always easier to speak of Jesus when we are experiencing the blessings of life, the message has an added impact when it is shared through the backdrop of suffering. What a thrilling experience it must have been for those guards, to meet a man who was in prison and was actually innocent. Instead of hearing him complain, and play the blame game, they listened intently as he shared about the love of Christ, and the way of salvation. In Chapter 4, he mentions that the gospel message even reached into Caesar’s household, and many were won to Christ.

***“. . .most of the brethren in the Lord, having become confident by my chains, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.”***

In addition to the spreading of the Gospel, Paul’s attitude during difficulty also had a great effect on believers. Those who were once timid and reserved, regarding their faith, found a new sense of boldness to share. A revival broke out in Philippi as one man mustered the courage to share with another about the unsearchable riches of Christ. The most effective evangelism is not through giant rallies, but through one person sharing the love of Christ with another. Evangelism has its greatest rewards when you and I will speak the Word, without fear, to our neighbors, friends, family and co-workers. As we muster the courage to invite them to church, or strike up a conversation with them about the Cross, we demonstrate our genuine interest in them.

Paul saw his circumstances as a backdrop, in which the message of the Cross would have an even greater impact upon those around him. How about you? What is your attitude in the midst of the things you are currently facing? Do you see them as the chains of Christ and use them as an opportunity to share the Gospel with others? There is a world in need of hearing the message of Christ, and we are His mouthpiece. Pray that Jesus would open new doors for you to share His love with others. Who knows what kind of revival might break out, as other believers are stirred to boldness, as a result of your step of faith.

Pastor Jim

