

Main Idea: Christians must live worthy of the gospel in humble service to God and to one another.

Context of Philippians

- **Author:** Paul
- **Audience:** The church in Philippi
- **Situation:** Paul writes to a church that he loves to encourage them to continue living faithfully.

Rely on the faithfulness of God for life. (1:6-21)

- He is faithful to make us grow. (1:6)
- He is faithful to advance His gospel. (1:12-13)
- He is faithful in every circumstance. (1:19-21)

Live worthy of the gospel together. (1:27-2:13)

- The mindset for gospel-worthy living (2:2-4)
- The model for gospel-worthy living (2:5-11)
- The might for gospel-worthy living (2:12-13)

Prize the treasure of knowing Christ. (3:3-16)

- Knowing Christ is better than any other thing we could boast. (3:7-8)
- Knowing Christ is a gift that we cannot earn. (3:9-11)
- Knowing Christ leads us to a life of enduring growth. (3:12-16)

Rest in humble contentment. (4:10-13)

- Contentment in every situation (4:11-12)
- Contentment through the strength of Jesus (4:13)

Main Idea: Christians must live worthy of the gospel in humble service to God and to one another.

Intro Question: Can you think of any great men or women who were known for their humility?

Teaching Part 1

Rely on the faithfulness of God for life. (1:6-21)

Read Philippians 1:19-26. What are Paul's priorities as he thinks about life and death? How are these different from yours?

- Paul is not focused on his well-being, his comfort, or even his survival. Paul prioritizes fruitful labor that points people to Christ for the glory of God. It does not matter to Paul what result that has in his life. He simply strives to be faithful in the ministry God has given him. How different might our lives look if we prioritized the growth of other people for the glory of God like Paul did?

Live worthy of the gospel together. (1:27-2:13)

How should the humility of Jesus change the way we interact with our brothers and sisters in Christ?

- We are called to have the mind of Christ. The mind of Christ was willing to descend in humility for the benefit of the interests of others. We should count others as more significant than ourselves and live for their good instead of our own.

Teaching Part 2

Prize the treasure of knowing Christ. (3:3-16)

Read Philippians 3:8-9. What does it mean that Paul counts all things as trash? What does this mean for our lives now?

- Before Paul was a Christian, he had many things to boast about. He gives a long list in verses 5-6 of the ways that he attempted to justify himself. But now, knowing Christ has surpassed them all. When he comes before the throne of God it will not cross his mind to present God with any thing he has earned on his own. The only thing of value that he will hold in the presence of God is that he knows Christ Jesus his Lord. So he does not boast in his own credentials. But he is content knowing that the greatest treasure he could have is knowing Christ.

Rest in humble contentment. (4:10-13)

Read Philippians 4:10-13. How is verse 13 sometimes taken out of context? How does it encourage you in its context?

- Philippians 4:13 is often used as a promise that anyone can achieve anything in life. It is especially used in sports as players attempt impressive feats of athleticism. Interestingly, those who wear this verse often fail while quoting it. The context of the verse describes a situation of suffering and struggle in the Christian life. Paul is not seeking to achieve some great accomplishment. He is simply trying to be faithful in the midst of persecution. This verse can be a cheap motivation for high school sports, or it can be a strong pillar of assurance for those who are suffering for their faith.

Answer to Remember: The letters of the New Testament are God's inspired instructions to His people about the gospel, the Christian life, and the Church.

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PHILIPPIANS

NT Overview

Teaching Resources

[Bible Project video: Philippians Overview](#)

[Capitol Hill Baptist Church Core Seminar: NT Overview](#)

[ESV Study Bible: Introduction to Philippians](#)

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