

July 1 - September 9, 2012

Paul's Letter to the

Philippians

Discovering Joy



**The Victorious
Christian Experience**

PHILIPPIANS

Lesson #1

(Acts 16:6-12)

The Introduction to the City and People of Philippi The Founding of the “Church at Philippi”

Introduction: If you learn the book of Philippians – you can live a life of joy. (**Phil 2:17-18**)
As Paul wrote this letter to the saints at Philippians – HE WAS IN PRISON.
He wrote to them with joy. (Phil 4:1)
Paul learned that from Christ. (John 16:21 & John 15:11)

I. The City of Philippi

- A. Philippi was a “city of Macedonia.” (Acts 16:9)
 - 1. It was a city of great wealth; gold and silver.
 - 2. It was the “cross-roads” between Europe and Asia.
 - 3. It was a city of many false and ungodly religions.
- B. The book opens by an introduction of the Authors, Paul and Timothy.
 - 1. Paul met Timothy at Derbe. (Acts 16:1)
 - 2. Timothy was Paul’s “son in the faith.”
- C. Paul suffered and was “left for dead” in the city of Philippi.
His visit and suffering resulted in a “Great Harvest.”
- D. Paul, as far as we know, was the first man to preach the Gospel in Philippi. (Acts 16:10)
We will see that in the “Stops and Starts” of the Spirit.
- E. Possibly Paul met and became friends with Luke in Troas before departing to Philippi.
We will see that later in the lesson.

II. The “Stops & Starts” of the Holy Spirit (Acts 16:6-7)

- A. **LEARN THIS:** The Holy Spirit orders **our steps**, and also, **our stops**.
 - 1. It is possible to “serve God, out of the will and place of God.”
But, MISS out of the will of God and Miss God’s “divine plan for your life.”
 - 2. Important that we be in the “divinely appointed place.” (Acts 16:7)
We do not “get to choose” our place of service.
 - 3. God will always give us guidance – if we seek it.
 - 4. MORE REWARDING to witness to one in God’s plan,
 - a. Than to preach to 1000 out of God’s plan. (**Philip**) (**Acts 8:29**)
 - b. The Spirit “led the church.” (Acts 13:1-3) – Look at the results.
 - c. The GREAT success illustrates the importance of “**being in God’s place.**”
 - 1. **Joseph** – “**I am in the place of God...**” (**Genesis 50:19**)

- d. We see “God’s plan on Paul’s life.
 - 1. WATCH for God’s stops!
 - 2. Paul and Barnabas were DIRECTED by the Holy Spirit.

III. The Vision for a City in Great Need (Acts 16:9-10)

- A. The man may have been “Luke.”
The Bible does not say – leave it there.
- B. Paul “heard” a cry for help.
 - 1. The lost have “no power to save themselves”
 - a. With all the technology the world has.
 - b. **They need what Christians have to offer.**
- C. They heard – and departed immediately. (“we” includes Luke – the author of Acts)
- D. Memphis is “crying” – “come over and help us...”
The “man” in Verse 9 has no limits – **he is not named – includes world.**
- E. Their “cry” constitutes “**my**” Macedonia Call! – “**Your**” Macedonia Call!
 - 1. We are “called” Christians.
 - a. We are to be “a divine imitator.”
 - b. Christ would have answered that cry for help.
 - c. Every true Christian should “answer the cry for help.”
 - 2. Every soul has a right to hear the Gospel.
 - a. Every Christian should be committed to “sharing the Gospel.”
 - b. Christ had a vision - **Is our “vision” the same as Christ’s?**
 - c. Paul responded “immediately” - - - do we respond immediately?

IV. The Importance that God puts on Obedience (Acts 16:10)

- A. Obedience is the “key” word in every decision we make. (I Samuel 15:22)
 - 1. God is debtor to no man.
 - 2. When we “obey” God’s leadership - God responds to our obedience and gives fruit.
- B. The “**Victory**” came by “obedience” to the Holy Spirit.
 - 1. The church in Philippi did not begin with a “city-wide crusade.”
 - 2. There was no big “kick-off banquet.”
 - 3. **Victory** came when they “obeyed” Christ – AND continued to trust the Holy Spirit.

THE FIRST VICTORY

A Great Victory was won, and a Great Church was founded in Philippi.

1. It started with the conversion of one person – a woman.
 - a. They rested and waited. (Acts 16:12)
2. On the “sabbath day” they went to “a place of prayer.”
 - a. That tells us there was no synagogue in Philippi.
 - b. Paul was known to “go into the synagogue” but there was none.
3. Lydia was saved – and her house. (Acts 16:14-15)
 - a. Why? “God had opened her heart.” (Verse 14)
4. God alone can “open hearts” to believe.
 - a. He can open ears to hear. (Mark 7:34-35)
 - b. He can open eyes to see. (Luke 24:31)
 - c. He can open minds to understand. (Luke 24:44-45)
 - d. He can open Scripture, so people know and believe. (Luke 24:32)
5. We KNOW Lydia was saved – **She changed** - “attended and helped.” (Acts 16:15)
 - a. Change testifies that she was saved. (II Corinthians 5:17)

Paul being beaten and in “jail” does not seem to matter with his “joy” expressed in Philippians

THE SECOND VICTORY

- A. A Great Victory was won over Satan
 1. Paul and his group faced great opposition.
 1. Shows the “power of God” over Satan.” (Acts 16:16-18)
 2. Woman was possessed by demons.
- B. Satan’s strategy was to “use truth” to associate her with God’s servants in people’s minds.
 1. **Illustrated:** (Mark 5:1-12)
 2. Great truth!!!

THE THIRD VICTORY

- A. A Great Victory was won over “suffering” by Paul and Silas (Acts 16:19-24)
 1. That appeared to be the “end of the Gospel in Philippi.”
- B. At mid-night, Paul and Silas sang and praised God. (Verse 16:33) (**JOY**)
- C. No other religion works in times of suffering.
 1. It worked for Paul. (Phil. 4:11)
- D. Eight or nine years later, Paul wrote Romans 8:28, “*We know that all things work...*”
- E. God sent forth an earthquake. (Acts 16:26) – Only God.....

1. Paul and Silas were freed.
2. The Jailer asked a question, “*What must I do to be saved?*”
3. They led the Philippian jailer to Christ.
4. The jailer and his family were baptized. (Acts 16:33-34)
5. The Gospel continued to work.

F. A church was planted in Philippi. (Philippians 1:1)

1. How do we know that?

They had bishops and deacons. (**Plurals**)

This is why the Book of Philippians is called

THE VICTORIOUS CHRISTIAN EXPERIENCE

PHILIPPIANS

Lesson #2

(Philippians 1:1-2)

The Saints, their Salvation & their Special Benefits

- I. Servants of Jesus Christ were writing to “the Saints” of Jesus Christ (Vs. 1)**
- A. Paul included Timothy “...*servants of Jesus Christ*”
1. Greek word for “servant” is *Doulos* (Bond-slave)
 - a. We have been **purchased** (I Corinthians 6:19-20)
 - b. Paul said: “*Lord, what would thou have me do?*”
 2. We need more who will have, “servants of Jesus Christ” after their name!
- II. Saints of Jesus Christ are Members of an “Exclusive Group” (Vs. 1)**
(Which: a local church)
- A. All Christians are “saints.”
1. Saints means “a holy one.” (*Hagios*: Sacred – consecrated – holy)
 2. Paul was keenly aware of the “Kinship” of his Brethren in Christ.
 3. You and I are “kinfolks” in Christ. (Ephesians 2:19)
 - a. You and I are “kinfolks” **with EVERY Christian around the world.**
- B. Being a “saint” is having a “Sacred Position with Christ.”
1. It means we are “God’s “**sacred, set apart property.**”
- C. We are called “**to be**” saints. (Romans 1:7 & I Corinthians 1:2)
1. Called “to be” is not just “named saints.”
 - a. It implies: “Called **to walk** as becometh saints.”
“Called to be a “divine imitator of Christ.” (Acts 11:26)
- D. God is a “thrice holy God.” (Isaiah 6:3 & Revelation 4:8)
- E. Bible reasons that we should be a “divine imitator” of Christ!!
1. We have a Savior who is “Holy.” (Acts 4:27 & 30)
 2. We are indwelt by a “Holy Spirit.” (Acts 1:8)
 3. We have a Bible which is a “Holy” book. (Romans 1:2)
 4. We are designated “holy brethren.” (I Thess. 5:27 & Hebrews 3:1)
 5. We are part of a “holy “priesthood. (I Peter 2:5)
 6. We are called to a “holy” calling. (II Timothy 1:9)
 7. We are commanded by Christ to be “holy.” (I Peter 1:16 - A Divine imitator)
 8. We are being prepared by Christ to be presented “holy.” (Col. 1:21-22)
 9. Conclusion (II Peter 3:11-12)
 10. Living a “holy” life, you will be stamped “holy” for all Eternity. (Rev. 22:11)

III. Salvation's Benefits are Explained (Philippians 1:2)

A. Grace

(Meaning from Greek word: "A favor performed for a friend.")

1. Christ stepped down from His Sovereign throne.
 - a. --- to be made sin for us, found guilty, and paid our "sin debt."
2. At Salvation "We become the recipient of "God's grace."
3. After Salvation, "How do we receive the necessary grace for living our daily lives?"
 - a. We receive grace by going boldly to the throne of God. (Hebrews 4:16)
 - b. We receive grace through prayer. (Acts 4:31 & 33)
 - c. We have no excuse to be destitute of God's grace. (Romans 5:2)
4. Why do we need God's grace?
 - a. We need it in speech. (Col. 4:6)
 - b. We need it in service. (Hebrews 12:28)
 - c. We need it in stability. (Hebrews 13:9)

UNDERSTANDING OUR NEED FOR GRACE

A Christian who does not have "grace in his words" will end up hurting people. He will use wrong words; he will cause problems; he will find himself a failure in everything he does; he will be a blessing to no one, and he will not be able to get along with other people.

5. Children of God are:
 - a. Heirs who have the grace of God now. (I Peter 3:7)
 - b. Heirs who have a Heavenly Father who is "the God of ALL grace." (I Peter 5:10)
 - c. Heirs have a Heavenly Father able to make "ALL grace abound toward you."
 1. You will always have all sufficiency in all things. (II Cor. 9:8)
 2. You will abound to every good work. (II Corinthians 9:9-10)
6. Christians are commanded to "grow in grace." (II Peter 3:18)
7. Christians should be careful not to "fail" the grace of God. (Hebrews 12:15)

B. Peace

1. This is not referring to "peace with God" – it is "peace of God."
 - a. The "peace with God" was accomplished at the cross. (Col. 1:20 & Rom. 5:1)
2. Paul is referring to "the peace of God" that comes from grace. (Phil. 4:7)
 - a. This is "peace in the midst of the storm."
 - b. Many Christians have "no peace" because they fail "in grace!"
3. Paul will have more to say about "peace" later in the epistle.
4. It is enough here to say, the grace and peace of God –
 - a. Comes "from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ." (Vs. 2)

PHILIPPIANS

Lesson #3

Philippians 1:3-8

The Principles of Fellowship with the Saints

Introduction: The theme of the book of Philippians is found in Philippians 1:3-5

- A. Fellowship is a Bible word - (Phil. 1:5)
 - 1. GREEK WORD: **fellowship** "*Koinonia*" Means "**partakers**"
 - a. Same word in verse 4:15 for "communicated with" **partakers** – (Phil. 4:15-19)
 - b. Other religions have: "get-togethers -forms of religions – social gatherings."
 - c. Other religions have: Secret handshakes or passwords, but not fellowship.
 - 2. Paul was in a Roman Prison – The Saints in Philippi 150+ miles apart!
- B. "Fellowship is for the "Saints Only"
 - 1. This is a "Unique Fellowship" – ONLY those who have trusted Christ can join.
- C. True Fellowship is the result of the "Fruit of the Spirit." (Galatians 5:22-23) (**LATER**)
 - 1. It is not "in the fellowship hall" having pizza and talking!

PAUL HAD THEM IN HIS MIND

Philippians 1:3-6

- I. Paul wrote, "...I Thank my God upon Every Remembrance of You ..." (Vs. 3)
 - A. Paul was not remembering their worldly possessions. - **GOLD**
 - B. Paul was not remembering their worldly position. - **IMPORTANCE**
 - C. Paul was not remembering their worldly power. - **INFLUENCE**
 - 1. He was remembering their "Fellowship in Christ" in the Gospel. (Vs. 5)
 - D. The world "does not understand our fellowship" (**Covering on the Tabernacle**)
 - 1. Inside it was BEAUTIFUL! Outside it was ugly "badger skins" (Ex. 26:14)
 - 2. All the world sees is the "outside covering of badger skins."

PAUL HAD THEM IN HIS PRAYERS

- II. Paul said, "Always, in every prayer of mine... (Vs. 4)
 - A. The **Key**: 1. Being "Thankful for each other." (Vs. 3)
 - 2. Being "Prayerful for each other." (**Paul** - Vs. 4 & 9) (**The Saints**: Vs. 19)
- III. The Saints Have a "Sanctified Fellowship." (Vs. 5) (**Set apart – unusual**)
 - A. The **Purpose**:

1. Strengthened “Fellowship in the Gospel.” (Vs. 5)
2. Promoted the “Furtherance of the Gospel.” (Vs. 12)
3. Guarded their “Faith of the Gospel.” (Vs. 27)

B. There may be differences – disappointments – difficulties.
 1. But **there is never** “disruption” in our fellowship.

C. If there is a “disruption of fellowship” it is **because there is sin in the church.**
EX: I criticize “a church member” to you instead of going to them. (Matt: 18:15)
 1. I have sinned against God.
 2. **The Holy Spirit is grieved.** (I Thess. 5:19 & Ephesians 4:30)
 3. It effects the entire church. (Hebrews 12:15)

IV. The Saints Have a “Secured Fellowship.” (Vs. 6)

- A. The word “Confident” in this verse means: **“Persuaded.”**
1. The fellowship of true believers “is secure” and CANNOT fall apart.
 - a. Paul said, “...*from the first day - - - unto now... until Christ comes*”
 2. **Gamaliel** made that clear. (Acts 5:38-39)
 - a. Some “local assemblies” may fall apart.
 - b. Those are built on “a wrong foundation.” (I Corinthians 3:11)
 3. Paul was “confident” that the Philippian church was on the right foundation.
 - a. **How? – By looking at the members**
 - b. Paul said, “I thank my God for every remembrance of YOU!”
 1. Of Lydia – (Acts 16:15) Her life testified to the fact she was real.
 2. Of Jailer – (Acts 16:33-34) His life testified to the fact he was real.

PAUL HAD THEM IN HIS HEART **Philippians 1:7-8**

V. The Saints Have a “Sacred Fellowship.”

- A. Paul said, “It is meet for me...” The Greek word means, **“It is right...”**
1. Because he **“had them in his heart”**
 2. Bible Fellowship comes from the “Fruit of the Spirit” (Gal. 5:22-23)
 - a. We are to be “Filled with the Holy Spirit” (Eph. 5:18)
- B. The brethren in Philippi were not a burden on his mind, but a joy in his heart. (Vs. 7)
1. Paul was in prison –Yet – we find no sign of “self-pity.”
 2. Paul was in prison - Yet – he rejoiced because of their fellowship in the Gospel.
 3. Paul was in prison – Yet – he “thanks God” on every remembrance of them.
 4. Paul was in prison – Yet – he had them in his heart.
 - a. Are Christians like that today?

- C. Paul called God “**to be his witness**” that he loved them. (Vs. 8)
- D. Paul and the saints of Philippi were “bound” and “inseparable” because of – Sanctified – Secured – Sacred – Fellowship.

VI. What would happen if every Christian practiced the following?
Sanctified, Secured, and Sacred Fellowship, controlled by the Holy Spirit?

We **can** have one – and - We **should** have one!

PHILIPPIANS

Lesson #4

Philippians 1:9-11

Paul's Prayers for the Saints

Introduction:

1. **Last week:** We looked at "True Christian Fellowship" (Partners – Partakers)
 - A. Paul and the Saints at the church in Philippi were "partners & partakers."
 1. They were Partners and Partakers financially.
 2. They were Partners and Partakers in prayer.
2. **This week:** We look at "Paul's prayer for the "Saints."
 - A. Paul prayed a prayer of "Christian maturity."
 1. Paul's prayer began with an appeal for them to love one another.
 2. If our life "begins with love" – everything that follows is pleasing to God.
 3. If you **Love** your wife like Christ loves the Church – **You will do her right!**

I. Paul prayed they would "Abound More and More in Love. (Phil. 1:9)

- A. Abounding love: Greek is *Perisseuo*: (**Until your cup runneth over.**)
 1. He prayed that it would abound "more and more."
 2. Paul's was stressing "**what would most benefit their "Fellowship in the Gospel."**
 - a. Love in the greatest Commandment of all (Mark 12:28-31)
 - b. Love is the greatest Command God gave us. (John 13:34)
 - c. Love is the greatest fruit of the Spirit. (Gal.5:22)
 - d. Love is the greatest testimony of Christian Character. (I Corinthians 13:13)
 - e. Love is the greatest testimony to "all men." (John 13:35)
 - f. Love is the greatest motive to serve God. (II Corinthians 5:14)
 - g. Love will cause us to serve God regardless of recognition.
- B. Our Fellowship must begin with love for the brethren.
 1. The "High Priest" in the Tabernacle wore a special garment – an "Ephod."
 - a. Twelve stones with the names of the twelve tribes of Israel.
 - b. He carried the people "over his heart in love."
 2. **You and I are a "Royal Priesthood."** (I Peter 2:9)
 - a. We are "partners" financially.
 - b. We are "partners" in prayer.
 3. Fellowship when we are "praying one for another."
 - a. **The "High Priest" took the nation of Israel into the "holy of holies"**
- C. Discerned by "Knowledge and Judgment"
 1. Discernment comes by knowledge and maturity.
 2. Knowledge, discernment, plus maturity lead to good judgment.
 - Approve things that are excellent... (Vs 10)

II. Paul prayed they would “Abound More and More in Sincerity and Without Offense.”
(Phil. 1:10)

- A. This speaks of Mature Christian Character.
1. **Sincere:** “Sin” - without and “Cere - wax” = without wax! – Unmixed!
 - a. Christians should be willing to be examined by “sunlight.”
 - b. Not deceitful or hypercritical.
 - c. Not living a double-life.
 - d. Being sure the “words” of our mouth match the “works in our heart.”
 - e. Being “true to our word.”
 2. **Without offense.**
 - a. Be “ready” to appear before the Judgment Seat of Christ. (II Cor. 5:10)
 - b. Will I be ashamed if Jesus returned today? (I John 2:28)
 - a. Never hurting feelings.
 - b. Never saying anything that damages a person’s name.
 - c. Never injuring anyone for any reason.
 - d. Never “naming the name of Christ” – but not “living it.”
 3. These two things “**prove the sincerity of your love.**” (II Corinthians 8:8 & 24)

III. Paul prayed they would “Abound More and More in Christian Service.” (Phil. 1:11)

- A. He said, “I am praying that **YOU will be filled** with the fruits of righteousness.”
 1. It does not say, “he prayed that they would produce fruit.”
 2. But that they would be **filled with fruits** of righteousness - (Galatians 5:22-23)
- B. A **right** life produces **right** fruit. (Genesis 1:11) “After its kind!”
 1. Power from within produces fruit without.
- C. Every Christian is “**APPOINTED**” by God to bear fruit. (John 15:16)
 1. We are His workmanship, - created **UNTO GOOD WORKS**. (Ephesians 5:10)
- D. How can we bear “fruit?”
 1. **John 15:1-5 – Abiding!!!**
 - a. Beareth fruit (Vs. 2)
 - b. Beareth more fruit (Vs. 2b)
 - c. Beareth much fruit (Vs. 5)
- E. What does it show if a Christian “does not bear fruit?” (Ask for opinions)
- F. EVERY Christian should be greatly concerned about “bearing fruit.”
 1. If not, there is a more serious matter in their hearts.
- E. Old Testament Survey – We saw how Israel failed at every point.
 1. Their greatest failure. (**Hosea 10:1**)

- IV. We are “Partners & Partakers” with every “Saint of God”**
- A. We are partners in financial support. (Missionaries)
 - B. We are partners in Prayer Support.

BIBLE JOY

J – Jesus First

O – Others Second

Y – You Third – Last!

PHILIPPIANS

Lesson #5

(Philippians 1:12-18)

For the Furtherance of the Gospel

Intro: Every Christian needs to reread this lesson several times a year.
We all need reminding that: “Good Results” always come from “**Bad Circumstances.**”

The “true test” of our Christian Character is how we react to “**bad circumstances.**”
Our reaction reveals: “How much time we spend abiding in Him.” (With His Word)

BAD CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE LIFE OF A CHRISTIAN ALWAYS BRINGS GOOD RESULTS Acts 27:14-25 ---- Nahum 1:3

- Intro:** A. Everyone here is either:
- (1) Going through “bad circumstances” now.
 - (2) Just came out of some “bad circumstances.”
 - (3) If not, “bad circumstances” are on the way.
- B. Purpose of Storms – Much misunderstanding. (Nahum 1:3)
1. Some people say, “God’s whipping him.” – Not necessarily
 2. Others say, “Devil’s on his back.” – Not necessarily
 3. People shout and run the aisle – God’s blessing. – Not necessarily
- C. Three types of “Bad Circumstances.”
- | | | |
|-----------------|-------------|------------------|
| 1. Temptations | James 1:13 | Come from Satan. |
| 2. Tribulations | Rev. 1:9 | Come from men. |
| 3. Trials | I Peter 1:7 | Come from God. |
- D. Bad Circumstances are a “test” – For our good and growth.
1. Bad Circumstances are getting you ready for something bigger.
- I. Bad Circumstances are to “detect” things in your life that need fixing!**
Most of us are not made of as good of stuff as we pretend to be!!!
- A. Expose Your Character
1. If you quit – You were a quitter from the beginning – just took “**Bad Circumstances.**”
 2. Peter was shouting when feeding 5000 – **Bad Circumstances** came – “I go a fishing.”
 3. “Faith that fizzles before the finish had a flaw from the first.” (I Cor. 15:58)
- B. Expose your Confidence
1. Have you been disappointed in: Preacher – Teacher - Deacon – Friend?
 2. Sad – No excuse - but if you are the right kind of Christian – be in church on Sunday.
 3. Phil. 3:4, “Have NO confidence in the flesh.”
 4. “No excuse until you find a problem with God.” (Jeremiah 2:5)

- C. Expose your Capabilities
 - 1. Many Christians say, “I can’t!” – this should NOT be in your vocabulary! (Phil. 4:13)
 - 2. People say “I can’t” because they have a fear of failing.
 - II Timothy 1:7 “*God has not given...*” came from somewhere else!
 - 3. Famous Lockheed Aircraft
 - When it is built – before giving flying status – it’s put in a wind-tunnel for testing.
 - Turbines are turned up to 800-1000 mph. (**Bad Circumstances**)
 - Plane shakes, but if it pops no rivets – it is given flying status!
 - If it “pops rivets” it is put back in the hanger for more work!
 - Too many Christians “pop rivets” when a storm comes!

II. Bad Circumstances are to “develop” your Christian Life.

- A. Stabilize you (I Corinthians 15:58)

There are hundreds of palm trees that were planted when they were only 12” tall along the coastal highway in Texas called “Tropical Trail.” They have been through storm after storm coming in off the gulf. None were ever blown out of where they were planted. The article stated that because of the pressure of the storms, they grew a root down in the sand 12” for every 12” you see above ground. The storms stabilized them. Same trees planted 50 miles inland only have a root of 3-4 feet. A storm like the one that comes in off the gulf would blow those trees away.

Bad Circumstances are used by God to “stabilize us.” (Eph. 6:13)

- B. Sanitize you (Ephesians 5: 25 & 26)
 - 1. By the Word of God
 - a. Hebrews 4:12
 - b. James 1:4
 - c. James 1:22-25
 - 2. When preaching of the Word of God won’t work in your life:
 - a. God has another way! Hebrews 12:10-11
 - b. God speaks to your heart and you say, “No.”
 - c. When they take your little child to the emergency room and the doctor comes out and says, “Not sure what’s wrong, but it is serious. You might need to pray!”
 - 3. **THEN!** – You will get your heart right with Him – and quickly!
 - 4. Bad Circumstances are used by God to “sanitize us.”
- C. Synchronize you (Ephesians 5:16)
 - 1. Example:
 - a. Acts 1:8 “God said, go and preach the Gospel to the uttermost part....”

- They did not go! They all stayed in Jerusalem – enjoyed their life.
- b. Acts 8:4 “God sent a storm.”
They went EVERYWHERE preaching the Gospel!

2. Bad Circumstances are used by God to “synchronize us.”

III. **Bad Circumstance will Direct you to the Place and Purpose of God.**

- A. Direct you to the **PLACE** of God (**Example: Jonah**) (Jonah 1:2)
 - 1. (Jonah 1:2) “Arise and go to Nineveh...” Jonah went the exact opposite way.
 - 2. God sent a storm (Jonah 3:1-2) - Jonah went where God wanted him to go.
 - a. What caused Jonah to go to THE PLACE of God? **“Bad Circumstances”**
 - b. Results of Jonah going to THE PLACE of God: (Jonah 3:4 & 5)
120,000 Got right with God – “World’s Greatest Evangelistic Meeting”
- B. Direct you to the **PURPOSE** of God (**Example: Joseph**) (Genesis 37:5)
 - 1. **Five Cases of “Bad Circumstances”**
 - a. Hated by his brethren - (Genesis 37:5)
 - b. Left in a pit to die - (Genesis 37:22)
 - c. Sold to slavery in Egypt - never to see his family again. (Genesis 37:28)
 - d. Lied about by Potiphar’s wife - he was trying to do right. (Genesis 39:7 & 20)
(Most Baptists would have said, “I do right, and this is what I get!” “It’s just not worth it to live right!”)
 - e. Forgotten by the butler (Genesis 40:23)
 - 2. Genesis 41:14 (**They sent for him!**)
 - a. When you’re ready, you won’t need to volunteer! They will send for you!
 - b. Genesis 50:19-20, “I am in the **PLACE** of God” – AND -
 - c. He was **THERE** for the **PURPOSE** of God: “To save much people alive”

God uses “bad circumstances” to direct us to the “purpose, the place, and the plan of God.”

PHILIPPIANS

Lesson #6

Paul's Confidence in the Savior and the Saints

Philippians 1:19-26

Intro: In spite of Paul being beaten, in prison, and feet in stocks, he was rejoicing and confident that
“all things work together for good.”

I. Paul was “Confident” in the Prayers of the Saints “for his Bad Circumstances” (Phil. 1:19)

A. About 3- 4 years before writing this letter, Paul penned (Romans 8:28)

1. Paul was “practicing what he preached!”
2. He had learned that in spite of “bad circumstances” – he would be delivered.
 - a. He **KNEW** everything would “turn out for good.”

B. Two Reasons Paul **KNEW** his circumstances would turn out for good – his **BENEFIT**

1. He **KNEW** the saints were praying for him. (Phil. 1:9 & 19)

QUESTION:

- a. If all Christians prayed “like I/you prayed” would I/you have confidence???
- b. We should learn to rely on the prayers “of the church.” (Acts 12:1-5)

2. He **KNEW** he had “... *the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ*” (Phil. 1:19)

- a. Remember the “Golden Candle S=stick” in the Tabernacle?
- b. It had “no measurements.”
 1. Pictures “**Unlimited power.**” (Exodus 25:31)
 2. The “Candlestick is **PURE GOD** - has **NO MEASUREMENTS!**
John 14:16; 14:26; 16:7
- c. “...supply” (**God “delights” to meet all our needs!** (Phil. 4:19)

II. Paul was “Confident” that Christ would be magnified “by his bad circumstances.” (Phil 1:20)

A. This should be the desire of every Christian. (I Corinthians 10:31)

1. If this were true – the lost would “take notice.”

B. How did Paul “magnify” Christ?”

1. In his Body (Phil. 1:20) (In his life)

- a. Our human desire is to “magnify” ourselves!
- b. Christ “came in a body” to “show the world the Glory of God.”
- c. Christ is not here now – we are the only body He has! (I Corinthians 12:27)
 1. I Corinthians 6:19-20
- d. We “name the name of Christ.”
 1. The world sees us – let’s give them a picture of what Christ is like!

2. In his "Life or his Death" (Phil. 1:20)

III. Paul was “Confident” in his “Reason for Living.” (Phil. 1:21-23)

- A. Paul’s circumstances led him to “**evaluate the value of life.**” (Mark 8:34-37)
- B. The ONLY real reason for life is to “Magnify Christ.” Give glory to God!
Only one life, will soon be past.
Only what’s done for Christ will last! (James 4:14)
- C. Christians should make a list of “everything they have in their life...”
 - 1. That: 1) money will buy.
 - 2) death will take away.
 - 3) If money will buy it or death will take it away, it has no value.
 - a. It is “wood, hay, and stubble.” (I Corinthians 3:12-15)
- D. For a Christian to “live in the flesh,”
 - 1. That is “the fruit of our labors” done for Christ (Phil. 1:22)
 - 2. The “fruit of our labors” done for ourselves is found in I John 2:15-17
 - a. The lust of the flesh - Desire to "do more"
 - b. The lust of the eyes - Desire to "have more"
 - c. The pride of life - Desire to "be more"
- E. Paul spoke of “death” as a “time of departure.”
 - 1. Paul had the same vision of death as Abraham. (Hebrews 11:9-10)
- F. None of us look forward to death. (Phil. 1:21-22)
 - 1. Must look at death in the “light of eternity.”
 - 2. Must do everything we do in the “light of eternity.”
 - 3. Paul looked at his death as, “...to be with Christ.”

IV. Paul was “Confident” that he could “Encourage other Saints.” (Phil. 1:24-25)

- A. That is a MAJOR part of being a saint.
- B. Paul was confident that he would be released from Prison.
- C. Paul was “unselfish” and more interested in OTHERS than himself.
- D. THEIR needs were more important to Paul than HIS needs!
- F. Part of Paul’s joy was the blessing he received from “encouraging” others.
- G. Every Christian should pattern their life after Paul’s life in The Book of Philippians.

PHILIPPIANS

Lesson #7

Philippians 2:1-11

Humility and Harmony

Intro: Paul now changes subjects

- A. He is addressing a problem in the church at Philippi.
 - 1. There was a problem of “a division” in the church family. (Phil. 4:1-4)
 - a. He does not state the problem which was causing the division.
 - b. He does give them a “Great Example” to resolve the division.
- B. Paul gives the church the Bible pattern for resolving divisions.
 - 1. BEFORE he addresses the problems!
- C. There are two ways of resolving division:
 - 1. Unity – This is a matter “of the heart.” (**Scriptural**)
 - 2. Rules – This is a matter of “the flesh.”
- D. Unity is accomplished when every member’s heart is:
 - 1. Right with God.
 - 2. Right with each other.
- E. When there is a division in the church then ...
 - 1. Selfishness sets in.
 - 2. Selfishness is the product of pride!
- F. The key verse is Philippians 2:3.
 - 1. In Chapter One it is “Christ first.”
 - 2. In Chapter Two it is: “Others second.”
- G. Understanding what the Bible means when it speaks of “humility.”
 - 1. Bible humility always gives:
 - a. Glory of God
 - b. Good of Others

Paul Teaches Humility and Gives Reasons.

ACT ONE

PAUL’S PLEA

for

Humility and Harmony

(Philippians 2:1-8)

I. Reason One: If you have received ANY Consolation in Christ (Encouragement).

- A. What Christ had done for the saints in Philippi – Christ has done for us.
- B. What Christ has done for us – We should do for other saints.
 - 1. Remember that we are all “members of one body.”
 - 2. Remember that there should be no schism in the body. (I Cor. 12:25-27)

II. Reason Two: If you have received ANY Comfort of love.

- A. We have received the “love of God” beginning with salvation. (John 3:16)
 - 1. God has “comforted us” in **ANY & ALL** our tribulation. (II Corinthians 1:3-4)
 - 2. God expects us to “comfort others” with that SAME comfort. (II Corinthians 1:5)

III. Reason Three: If you have received **ANY** Companionship (Fellowship) of the Spirit.

- A. Fellowship (*koinonia*): This means “Partnership.”
 - a. We are “partners together in one body.” (I Cor. 12:13)
 - b. We are “laborers together with Christ.” (I Corinthians 3:9)

IV. Reason Four: If you have received “**ANY**” Compassion. (Bowels of mercies.)

V. You and I HAVE received, not “one, two, or three of these” but ALL of these.

VI. BECAUSE we have received, we should be likeminded.

- A. “Let this mind be in you – the mind of Christ. (Phil. 2:5)

ACT TWO
PAUL’S PRACTICAL APPROACH
for
Humility and Harmony
(Philippians 2:2-4)

Intro: Paul is saying, “**Reciprocate that which ye you have Received.**”

I. Be likeminded and “Put On” three things. (Philippians 2:2)

- A. Let every member “have the same love” one for another. (Vs. 2)
 - 1. That “same love” refers to the “love of Christ.” (John 13:34)
 - a. Love should be the “foundation” of ALL we do.
- B. Let every member “be in one accord” one with another. (Vs. 2)
 - 1. Having “the same love” will produce “the same accord.”
- C. Let every member “be of one mind” one with another. (Vs. 2)
 - 1. This does not mean that we cannot have different opinions or viewpoints.
 - a. A difference of “opinion” never breaks down “harmony.”
 - b. A difference of “attitude” always breaks down “harmony.”

II. Be likeminded and “Put Off” some things. (Phil. 2:3)

- A. Every member must “put off” any and everything that causes “**strife.**” (Phil. 2:3a)
 - 1. There should never be strife in a New Testament church. (Col. 3:8-9)

- B. Every member must “put off” any and every form of “**vain-glory.**” (Phil. 2:3a)
 - 1. Vain-glory is a result of not “loving one another as God loves us.” (John 13:34)

- C. Every member must “put off” being “**high minded.**” (Vs. 3 & 4)
 - 1. We are commanded to “think of others better than ourselves.” (Phil. 2:3-4)
 - 2. Self-exaltation will end up in the person being “abased.” (Luke 14:11)
 - 3. Every member must “put others” behind Christ, but “before” us. (Phil.2:4)

PHILIPPIANS

Lesson #8

ACT THREE

PAUL POINTS US TO THE PERFECT PATTERN

For Humility and Harmony

(Philippians 2:5-8)

Intro: The Holy Spirit emphasized

- (1) Paul's Plea for Humility and Harmony
- (2) Paul's Practical Approach to Humility and Harmony
 - A. He now moves to the "Perfect Pattern" for us to follow.
 - B. The Holy Spirit begins by Proclaiming:

JESUS CHRIST AS GOD'S PERFECT PATTERN

- I. **He Proclaimed to be God and made no apology.** (Philippians 2:6)
 - A. "...being in the form of God,"
- II. **He Proclaimed Christ was "equal with God."** (Vs. 6)
 - A. Jesus Christ NEVER laid aside His Divine Nature, Deity, or Attributes.
 - B. Jesus Christ, while in the form of a man, was VERY GOD of VERY GOD!
 1. He stated, "I and my father are one." (John 10:30 & 14:9)
 2. He was the complete "fullness of the God head. (Col. 2:8-10)
 3. In spite of that – He humbled Himself – to the lowest degree.
 - C. If "God in the flesh" can humble himself – We should follow – the exact pattern.

BUT

WHEN HE CAME TO EARTH...

- I. **He Presented Himself "as a Servant."** (Phil 2: 7)
 - A. "He made of himself no reputation. (Vs. 7)
 1. He took on the form of a man. (Vs. 7)
 2. He humbled himself..
 3. His heart's desire was "*to do the will of His Father.*" (Hebrews 10:7)
 4. His heart's desire was "*to please His Heavenly Father.*" (John 8:29)
 5. He heart's desire was "*to seek and to save that which was lost.*" (Luke 19:10)
- II. **He Presented Himself "as a Sacrifice."** (Phil. 2:8)
 - A. God so loved the world "*that he sent his only begotten son...*" (John 3:16)
 - B. *But God commended his love toward us...* (Romans 5:8)
 - C. **No man took his life from him!** He sacrificed his life. (John 10:18)
 - D. We are admonished to be "sacrifices for one another." (Philippians 2:1-4)

III. He Presented Himself “as a Standard” for us to follow.”

A. “*Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus.*” (Philippians 1:5)

**ACT FOUR
THE PROFIT OF FOLLOWING THE PATTERN
(Philippians 2:9-11)**

I. The First Coming of Christ

- A. He humbled Himself.
1. He took the form of a man.
 2. He humbled himself.
 3. He was disrespected and despised.
 4. He was mocked and laughed at.
 5. His name was used more in “blasphemy” than in “blessing.”
 6. He sacrificed Himself for us. (He could have called 10,000 angels, but....)

II. The Second Coming of Christ

- A. He will be exalted “from the lowest rank of Humility to the highest rank of Heaven.”
1. Every knee shall bow. (Philippians 2:10)
 2. Every tongue shall confess “Jesus Christ as Lord.”
- B. The Son humbled himself – The Father exalted him.
1. He sits at the “right hand of God” (Hebrews 12:2)
- C. **What about us?** - “... *he that humbleth himself shall be exalted...*” (Luke 14:11)
1. He has made us to be Kings and Priests. (Revelation 1:6)
 2. We shall reign with him for one thousand years. (Revelation 20:6)
 3. How exalted shall we be? (I Corinthians 6:1-3)
 4. We shall be exalted “from the lowest rank of humility to the highest rank of Heaven.”
- D. How will our reign be decided?
1. Possibly as found in Matthew 25:15-25.
(Context is the “tribulation period”)
(But, I believe it applies to us)
 2. You have a spiritual gift.
 - a. You should use your gift.
 - b. You should multiply your gift.

III. The Pattern Christians are to follow (I Peter 5:4-5)

I Peter 5:6

“Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God,
that He may exalt you in due time.”

PHILIPPIANS

Lesson #9

Philippians 2:12-18

The “in and out” of Salvation

INTRO 1: We studied the great example of Christ which Paul gave us in the beginning of the chapter.

- A. We have seen the “pattern” of life for us to follow for humility and harmony.
- B. That pattern starts with us “having the mind of Christ.”
 - 1. That has to be possible or God would not have told us to do that.
 - 2. God has provided the power to accomplish God’s plan for us.
- C. That is accomplished by us – “working out our salvation.”

INTRO 2: Paul begins this section in Verse 12, by saying “Wherefore...” That refers back to Verse #2.

- A. The phrase, “work out”... implies “translating into something...”
- B. **Translate – “what you know” – into – “what you do.”**
- C. There is a problem when **“knowledge and practice don’t match.”**

God has a Purpose for Each of us that should Excite us! (Philippians 2:12-13)

“Working out...” – does not refer to “working for our salvation.” God did all that was necessary to provide salvation. God has NEVER asked anyone to help in the work of salvation. This letter was written to “the saints”. They were already saved!

There are four principles in Philippians 2:12 & 13 that explain “work out your own salvation.”

1. “For it is God...” – We have The Personal Attention of God. (Phil. 2:13a)

- A. God is the answer to... (Can you imagine GOD wanting to help us???)
 - 1. Every question of your mind
 - 2. Every fear of your heart
 - 3. Every trial of your faith
 - 4. Every temptation of your flesh (God is there to give you the victory.)
 - 5. Every loneliness of your life
 - 6. Every thought of the future
 - a. The “all-knowing, all powerful, ever present God - **is the answer!**
- B. God created us – God made us!
 - 1. God knows us.
 - 2. God knows our environment.
 - 3. God knows every problem we face.
 - 4. God knows our problem with our sin-nature – He MADE us with a sin nature!
- C. Because God “made us”:
 - 1. **God assumes the responsibility for giving you victory for ALL the above.**
 - a. We are His children. (you are parents....)
 - b. Do you “assume” the responsibility of ALL their problems?
 - 2. God does not “leave us” to face those things alone.

3. God does not “expect us” to face those things alone
4. What does God expect of us? - - - - All God expects of us...
 - a. ... is for us to “do our part” (**Submit**) (**James 4:7**)
 - b. He has worked in us.
 - c. He expects us to “**work out what He worked in!**”

2. “...which worketh...” – **The Unlimited Working Power of God** (Phil. 2:13b)

- A. God did not abandon creation after he created the earth.
- B. God did not abandon us after he “made us.”
- C. God worked tirelessly to “draw” us to Him.
- D. God worked sacrificially to “redeem” us.
- E. God redeemed us – THEN sent the Holy Spirit to dwell in us (John 14:16 & 17)
 1. **Unlimited Power - Tabernacle**
- F. The Holy Place in the Tabernacle pictures the “local church.”
 1. Table of Shew Bread: (Wood, gold & measurements) (Exodus 25:23)
 2. The Altar of Incense: (Wood, gold & measurements) (Exodus 30:1-3)
 3. The Candlestick: (No wood & no measurements) (Exodus 25:31)
 - a. Means: God's power has NO LIMITS
- G. The Greek word for both “**worketh**” and “**to do**” is the same. (Greek word *Energieo*)
Energieo means - **to show himself mighty to work with mighty energy**
- H. “I can do **all things** through Christ who strengtheneth me” (Philippians 4:13)
 1. Why do you think God sent the Holy Spirit to live in us???

3. “...to will and to do...” **We have The Total Willingness of God** (Phil. 2:13c)

- A. Two things prevent you and me from doing this: 1) We do not want to, 2) We can't!
 1. God works in us to do what? - - “to give us the will” to do...
 2. God works in us to do what? - - “to give us the power” to do...
- B. The “will” to please and serve God – COMES FROM GOD.
 1. As Christians – God’s will is MUCH STRONGER than our will.
 2. God “worketh” and **gives us the “will”** to do that which He wants us to do.
 - a. God did not create babies to want milk – and then not provide milk!
 - b. God did not create lions to want meat – and then not give them meat.
 - c. God did not create us to “please Him” – and then not give us the will.
 3. God, who works in you “**to will**” has prepared you “**to work.**”
- C. Look at John 5:20-21
 1. God sent his Son to do “greater works.”
 2. God sent the Holy Spirit that “we may do greater works.” (John 14:12-14)
- D. We study to have knowledge (God “works it in us”) (I Corinthians 15:58)
 1. Our part is “to work it out.”
 2. If “knowledge” does not turn “into works” **Forasmuch**: “The way you know.”

4. “...of his good pleasure...” We have the Unique Privilege of Pleasing God!
(Phil. 2:13d)

- A. The life that pleases God is the life which through salvation “works out...”
 - 1. A life that “depends on Christ” to work through us.
 - a. It is NOT what we can do for Christ, **but what Christ can do for us.**
 - b. **It seeks not its own good, but the good of others.**
 - 2. God does this; “...for his good pleasure!” (For His satisfaction and delight.)
 - a. **See Philippians 4:18**
- B. If we lay down at night and say, “Everything I’ve done today was pleasing to God.”
 - 1. God whispers in our ear, “I’m pleased with you.”
 - 2. One day you will hear God say, “Well done good and faithful servant.”

PHILIPPIANS

Lesson #10 – Part #1

Philippians 2:19-24

“A Rare Pair”

*“For we are labourers **together** with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building.”*

“We...” – EVERY Christian is a co-laborer together – in the ministry!

(I Corinthians 3:9)

INTRO: Paul mentioned that all Christians should be “likeminded” four times in Phil. 2:2-5

He admonished us to “have this mind in you which was also in Christ Jesus.”

This seems to make it extremely important.

Four characteristics of a person who has “The Mind of Christ:”

1. They think like Christ thinks.
2. They want what Christ wants.
3. They ask for what Christ wants you to ask.
4. They do what Christ wants you to do.

Paul now gives us two “examples to follow.”

1. These two men were “ordinary saints.” (They were not apostles.)

NUMBER ONE - TIMOTHY

Philippians 2:19-24

Paul apparently met Timothy when he was in Derbe in Acts 14:6. (About 45 AD)

1. That seems to be confirmed in Acts 16:1. (About 52 AD)
Timothy apparently joined Paul and Silas in the ministry.
2. Paul apparently led Timothy to Christ.
He called Timothy “his dearly beloved son...” (II Timothy 1:2)
3. Timothy had been faithful to Christ for about 8-9 years – not a novice.
God had apparently been “preparing Timothy” for the ministry.

I. Timothy was “like-minded” with Paul. (Philippians 2:19-22)

A. Timothy, without doubt, had a “servant’s heart.”

1. Paul sent him from Rome to Philippi that he might ...
 - a. “...know their state” (Vs. 19)
 - b. “...care for their state” (Vs, 20)
 - c. Paul wanted to know their state - because he cared for their condition!

2. Andrew: “He **first** findeth his own brother...” (John 1:41-42) – **He cared!**
Andrew is a partaker in the 3000+ that were saved when Peter preached!

3. To us God has said, “Go...” (Mark 5:19)

B. The Christians in Rome “were not likeminded.”

1. Each of those Christians “sought their own.” (Philippians 2:21)

a. Paul named 25 of those Roman Christians in Romans 16!

b. They were “not co-laborers” with Christ!

2. Every Christian living today is listed in Philippians 1:21 – **or** - 2:21.

a. We should ask ourselves this question: “**Which group am I in?**”

C. This is the “tragedy” in most churches today.

1. Most Christians spend more time and effort on themselves – than on Christ.

II. Timothy was a “co-laborer” with Paul in the Gospel. (Philippians 2:22)

A. Timothy was faithful as a young man.

B. Apparently, he was with Paul and Silas in Philippi. (Acts 16:1 & 12)

1. It seems that Timothy was not put in prison with Paul at Rome.

2. But stayed to minister to Paul and Silas.

C. Paul sent Timothy back to Philippi. (Phil. 2:23)

III. Timothy was “rewarded by God” as a “faithful co-laborer” for the cause of Christ.

A. **First:** He was rewarded by God appointing him to work with the greatest Christian.

B. **Second:** He was rewarded by God appointing him to “carry on the ministry of Paul.”

1. Paul’s desire was to be faithful and serve Christ to the end! (Philippians 3:12-14)

a. Personal gain, comfort or enjoyment never entered Paul’s mind.

2. **But**, before Paul departed, he made sure the work would continue. (II Timothy 4:1-11)

C. **Third:** What an honor!

1. Timothy was Paul’s “son in the faith.”

2. Timothy was Paul’s “servant” in the Gospel.

3. Timothy was Paul’s “substitute” in continuing the race.

D. **Fourth:** Two thousand years later - **Timothy continues to be held in “high-esteem.”**

E. Paul “mentored” Timothy for about 22-23 years

F. EVERY Christian should be “mentoring” someone – for the future

1. Failure in this personal & important ministry has been the downfall of America.

PHILIPPIANS

Lesson #10 – Part #2

Philippians 2:25-30

NUMBER TWO - EPAPHRODITUS

Philippians 2:25-30

I. Epaphroditus was a “Committed” co-laborer of Paul and to the Gospel

- A. Paul refers to him as:
 - 1. My “brother” in Christ (Phil. 2:25)
 - 2. My “companion” in labor (Phil. 2:25)
 - 3. My “fellow-soldier” in the faith (Phil. 2:25)
- B. He was **committed** to “the work.” – He was **committed** “to the warfare.”
 - 1. As Nehemiah did, “a sword in one hand and a trowel in the other.” (Nehemiah 4:17)
- C. The church today needs more men and women who are “committed co-laborers.”

II. Epaphroditus was a “Caring” co-laborer to Paul.

- A. He traveled from Philippi to Rome because he “cared” for his co-laborer. (Vs. 25)
- B. He “risked his life” to deliver an offering from the church in Philippi to Paul. (Phil. 4:18)
- C. The church today needs more men and women who are “caring co-laborers.”

III. Epaphroditus was a “Concerned” co-laborer for the people of his church in Philippi.

- A. He fell sick, and was “nigh unto death.” (Phil. 2:26-27)
 - 1. He did not feel sick because of the circumstances he was in.
 - 2. He felt sick because he knew that his being sick would be a burden to his church.
- B. The church today needs more men and women who are “concerned co-laborers.”

IV. Epaphroditus was a “Compensated” Co-laborer because of his blessings to others.

- A. He was blessed because he knew “it is more blessed to give than to receive.”
 - 1. He lived his life to be a blessing to others.
 - J – Jesus First
 - O – Others second
 - Y – You last
 - 2. He lived his life in the light of Philippians 1:21.
- B. He was blessed because he was dissatisfied “being a spectator.”
 - 1. He was dedicated to being a “participator.” (Phil. 2:30)
 - 2. “...for the work of Christ.”
- C. He was blessed because he was a blessing to Paul.
 - 1. Caring for and encouraging him while in prison.

- a. WHAT a time he and Paul must have had together!

- D. He was blessed because he was more concerned about his home church.
 - 1. More concerned about them than himself.
 - 2. Paul admonishes the church to honor him for his sacrifice and service.
 - “...hold such in reputation” (Vs. 29)

- E. Christ always gets all the credit and glory, but -
 - 1. It is not wrong to honor men like Timothy and Epaphroditus. (I Thess. 5:12-13)

- F. Two-thousands years later - **Epaphroditus continues to be held in “high-esteem.”**
 - 1. This proves to us that a life of “sacrifice and service” brings joy to OUR life.
 - 2. This proves to us that “we can” have “the mind of Christ!”
 - 3. He and Timothy together “set an example” that should encourage us to -
 - a. Submit ourselves to Christ
 - b. Submit ourselves to one another
 - c. Submit ourselves to the power of the Holy Spirit
 - 4. The Pattern works!
 - d. Christ shows us the “Pattern.”
 - e. Paul shows us the “Power.”
 - f. Timothy and Epaphroditus show us the “Proof” - It works!
 - 1. Having the “mind of Christ” is possible, and - It works!

- G. Titus 2:14 & Titus 3:8 – Admonish us to “work for the cause of Christ!”

- H. **Three questions:**

Will you promise God that you will “submit yourself to have the mind of Christ?”
(Phil. 2:5)

Will you promise God that you will “submit yourself to one another?” (Phil. 2:2)

Will you promise God that you will “submit yourself to the Holy Spirit to reproduce Christ in you?” (Phil. 1:21)

FACT: If you chose to put Christ in second place, and your own plans and desires first, rest assured

YOU WILL HEAR ABOUT IT AT THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST!

- I. **Two Reminders:**
 - 1. Demas (II Timothy 4:10)
 - “...because he loved this present world”
 - 2. Diotrefes (3 John 1:9)
 - “...because he desired to have the preeminence”

PHILIPPIANS #11

Philippians 3:1-9

In This Section of Scripture Paul is Recounting his “Past Life.”
“Paul the Accountant”

BEWARE – BEWARE - BEWARE

INTRO: A. Paul, because of his background, warns us of dangerous things.
B. He makes “no apology” for identifying people that are dangerous! (Vs. 1)
C. He shows utter contempt for anyone who “adds to the Doctrine of Grace.”
(Psalms 119:115)

I. Beware of Dogs (Verse 2)

- A. “Dogs” seems to refer to “leaders of false doctrine.”
1. Isaiah referred to religious leaders as “dumb dogs” and warns (Isaiah 56:10)
 - a. They were seeking “personal gain.” (Isaiah 56:11)

II. Beware of Evil Workers (Verse 2)

- A. Christians are “warned to...”
1. Be watchful for “infiltration” of false doctrine. (**Jude 1:3-4**)
 2. The Jews acknowledged Jesus as a Great Prophet and Great Teacher.
 - a. But, insisted on one condition – You must not violate the Law of Moses!
(Acts 15:1)

III. Beware of the Concision (Mutilation). (Verse 2)

- A. Jews taught that circumcision was ESSENTIAL to Salvation. (Gal. 6:12-18)
1. Religion still does that today.
Catholic Church – Places Tradition above Truth. (Ezekiel 22:26-27) (Rev 22:18)

HAVE NO CONFIDENCE IN THE FLESH

In these verses, Paul is using himself as an example. He is giving a picture of the vast difference between living in the flesh, for self, and living in the Spirit, for Christ.

Philippians 3:3-6

How long has it been since you sat down and gave a serious look at how you have spent your life; your time, your talents, your interest, your energy, and use your material resources to determine if those to which you give your attention have any real eternal value?

Paul seems to have “re-evaluated” his life. In Philippians 1:21, he states:

“For me to live is Christ, . . . and to die is gain.”

In Colossians 1:18 he again stated:

“And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.”

IV. Bankruptcy Comes with “Living for Self.” (Phil. 3:4-6)

A. Seven Steps to Bankruptcy, according to Paul’s testimony. (All found in these 3 verses)

1. Pride in Ritual
 - a. Circumcised in the eighth day (Genesis 17:10-12)
 - b. John the Baptist (Luke 1:59)
 - c. Jesus (Luke 2:21)
2. Pride in Relationship
 - a. Of the stock of Israel
 - b. Paul could trace his roots to Abraham
3. Pride in Respectability
 - a. Of the tribe of Benjamin (Kingly line) – (I Kings 12:21)
4. Pride in Race
 - a. A Hebrew of the Hebrews
5. Pride in Religion
 - a. As touching the Law, a Pharisee (Acts 23:6)
6. Pride in Reputation
 - a. Concerning zeal, persecuting the church (Acts 9:1)
7. Pride in Righteousness
 - a. Touching the righteousness, which is in the law, blameless
 1. All our righteousness is as filthy rags. (Isaiah 64:6)
 2. Paul had tried to establish his own righteousness. (Romans 10:3)
 3. At “Salvation” we are MADE Righteous. (II Cor. 5:21)
8. Conclusion: **BANKRUPT!**

V. What Paul “Gave-Up” by Making Christ the Lord of his Life (Phil. 3:7)

THINGS THAT WILL BURN (I Corinthians 3:12-13)

- A. Paul under-went an “absolute change” when He trusted Christ in Acts 9:5 & 6.
 1. The explanation of “absolute change” is found in II Corinthians 5:17.
- B. Paul asked “two-questions” when he met Christ. (Acts 9:5-6)
 1. WHO art thou Lord?
 2. LORD, WHAT wilt thou have me do? (Paul immediately became Christ’s bond-slave.)
- C. He was willing to “forsake all” that he had considered “**great assets.**”
 1. That is a pattern of all men whom God used in a great way. **WEALTH**
 2. Moses (Hebrews 11:24-25)

- D. The things they “forsook” were not “bad things,” like drinking, etc.
 - 1. They were “GOOD” things, but “worldly” things.
 - a. **Paul’s forsaking all** made him a man of great success. (Greatest Christian)
 - b. **Moses forsaking all** made him a man of great success. (Names 708 times in the OT.)
- E. Paul “counted” them as “dung.” (**Counted:** *Logizomai* – re-evaluated)
 - 1. You cannot “cling” to the old life and “live” the new life!

“A man is no fool to give up that which he cannot keep, to gain that which he cannot lose.”
Jim Elliott

VI. What Paul “Gained-Back” By Making Christ the Lord of his life!

- A. He gained the “Excellency of the knowledge of Christ.” (Philippians 3:8)
 - 1. One thing to have knowledge “about” a person.
 - 2. Another to have knowledge “of” a person.
 - “Of” indicates it is a personal relationship! (John 17:3)
- B. He gained the “Righteousness of God” (Philippians 3:9)
 - 1. Romans 4:1-4 “Counted” – (*Logizomai*)
 - In context “Imputed” or “Put to his account.”
- C. He gained the “Fellowship with Christ.” (Philippians 3:10-11)
 - 1. It was Personal
 - That I may **KNOW Him. (Walk with Him – every day – all day.)**
 - 2. It was a Powerful experience.
 - That I may **Know the POWER of His Resurrection.**
 - Power to live (Galatians 2:20)
 - Read Eph. 1:15-23 & 3:13-21
 - 3. It was a Painful experience.
 - That I may Know the Fellowship of his Suffering.
 - Paul knew that suffering. (Phil. 1:29-30)
 - As you grow in knowledge of God and we experience his Power:
 - Our adversary increases his attacks.
 - You can “rebuke” the adversary. (Jude 1:9)
 - 4. It was a Practical experience.
 - He died that he might live. (Romans 12:1–2)
 - Life does not depend on “the things of the world.” (I John 2:15)
- D. He gained a “Crown of Righteousness” laid up in Heaven. (II Timothy 4:6-8)
 - a. Some will be ashamed. (I John 2:28)

PHILIPPIANS #12

Philippians 3:10-16

“The Making of a Man of God”

Intro: Paul compares the Christian life to an athlete “Training to win a race.”

I. Be Dissatisfied with your Christian Life (Philippians 3:12 & 13)

- A. Never feel you have “attained.” (Vs. 12)
1. Paul, a great Christian, never allowed himself to be satisfied.
 - a. “*Lambano*” – I have not yet attained – what I hope and plan to attain!
 - b. First step in growing spiritual – be conformed to Christ.
 2. Paul never compared himself to other Christians.
 - a. Compared himself to Christ (Vs. 10)
 - b. If he compared to “others” he would have been satisfied!
 - c. Many Christians today are satisfied.
 1. Why? – They attend faithfully! They are called “spectators.”
 - a. They say or think - I am as good as _____!
 3. Bible examples:
 - a. Sardis (Revelation 3:1) – “Had a name – but were dead.”
 - b. Laodicea (Revelation 3:17) “Said rich – poor, naked, blind.”
 4. Paul was “daily” pressing toward the mark. (Vs. 14)
 - a. Said, “I have fought a good fight...” (II Timothy 4:7)
- B. There is no condition **more necessary** for spiritual growth than being “dissatisfied.”
1. If you feel you “have attained,” your life will dry up and be worthless!

II. Be Dedicated to Be More Like Christ. (Philippians 3:13) (Romans 8:29)

- A. This “one thing” I do...” (God considers “one thing” very important!)
1. Luke 10:42 “One thing” is needful ...
 2. Psalms 27:4 “One thing” I desire ... that will I seek after.
We grow and attain “one step at a time.”
- B. Most Christians are focused on too many things!
- C. Christians should focus on “one thing” instead of “many things.”
1. Running the race (I Corinthians 9:24)
- D. Example: Nehemiah 6:3 “... I am doing a great work - cannot come down...”
1. We should all make a “Decision” to focus on “One Thing”
 2. What is that? “Pleasing God” (John 8:29)

III. Be Devoted to fulfilling that which God “apprehended you for ...” (Vs. 12)

- A. God has a plan for which he “apprehended you.” (Seized – eagerly taken)
- B. **God had – in eternity past a plan for your life. (Ephesians 2:10)**
- C. Salvation is “not an end.” Salvation is “a beginning.”
 - 1. Be dedicated – keep your eye on the goal – run the race to win!
- D. God’s plan for your life is revealed in two manners:
 - 1. Immediately: As with Moses (Exodus 25:1-9)
 As with Paul (Acts 9:1-6)
 - 2. Gradually: One thing at a time! – One step at a time....
 (Psalms 36:9) – “In thy light....”

IV. Be Determined “to Run the Race to Win.” (Phil. 3:14)

- A. Paul starts this section by saying, “...this one thing – **forgetting....**
 - 1. Christians must forget three things.
 - a. **Past Successes:** (Paul had a string of great churches in his past.)
He could have said, “I’ve done enough – I’ve done my part.”
 - b. **Past Failures:** Remembering failures will torment you.
 - c. **Past Sufferings:** Paul could have said, “I’ve suffered enough.”
Everyone would have agreed with him.
 - 2. After admonishing them to “forget things in the past,” he said...
- B. “I reach forth...”
 - 1. Pictures a horse running the race patiently.
- C. “I press...”
 - 1. Pictures a horse when he turns into **the “home stretch.”**
 - a. The horse is “turned loose and he **‘gives it all he’s got.’**”
 - b. Greek word means **“unreservedly”**
- D. Many Christians today reach forth and press....
 - 1. To be a better golfer.
 - 2. To be a better fisherman.
 - 3. To be a better hunter.
 - 4. To be a better money-maker!
- E. Christians should say, “this one thing I do... I press toward the mark.”
- F. Bible Picture of Determination
 - 1. Moses sent spies to spy out the land.
 - 2. God made a promise to Celab. (Deut. 1:35-36)
 - 3. Forty years later, Celab said, “**I still** want that mountain.” (Josh. 14:6-14)

- G. “I press toward the mark ... for the prize...for the high calling...” (Romans 8:29)
The word "press" pictures "a horse coming down the home-stretch
...giving it ALL HE HAS..."

V. Be Disciplined to Follow the Patterns of Scripture (Philippians 3:15-16)

- A. Run the race – according to the principles of the Bible. (I Cor.9:24-27)
- B. Strive “lawfully.” (II Timothy 2:5)
- C. We will ALL stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ. (Bema Seat)
 - 1. Will give account for what we’ve done “with God’s plan for our life” (II Cor. 5:10)
 - a. Be honest
 - b. Be Transparent

PHILIPPIANS # 13

Philippians 3:15-21

Let Us Go on to Perfection!

Intro: Paul has admonished us to have a certain type of mind five times in Philippians.

- A. One-Mind – (Phil. 1:27)
- B. Like-minded - (Phil. 2:2)
- C. Lowliness of mind – (Phil. 2:3)
- D. This mind - (Phil. 2:5)
- E. Of the same mind - (Phil. 4:2)

THE EXHORTATION OF PAUL

Philippians 3:16-17

I. Paul Exhorts the Believers to be Perfect – be “thus minded.” (Philippians 3:15)

- A. Perfect (*teleios*): Signifies “having reached a certain end.”
 - 1. Not “sinless perfection.”
 - 2. We are to be continually moving toward “perfection” by knowing our “imperfections.”
- B. Moving forward:
 - 1. Of a little baby, we say, “Isn’t he perfect!” (Yes, for his age and stage.)
 - a. But, he has a long way to go and must continue to grow!
 - 2. Of a fine young manhood: He is a perfect young man. (Yes, for his age and stage.)
 - a. But, he has a long way to go and must continue to grow!
 - 3. Of a kind old dear man, “Oh, what a perfect dear old man.” (Yes, for his age and stage)
 - a. But, he STILL has a long way to go and must continue to grow!
 - 4. Of being fully perfect. (I John 3:2)
- C. We learn “Full” when we learn to love our enemies. (Matthew 5:44-48)
- D. Paul says, “...be thus minded.”
 - 1. Paul said: Think like I think...
 - 2. Paul is referring to all he has written to them in this letter.
 - 3. Apparently some disagreed with Paul “...otherwise minded.” (Phil. 3:15)
 - a. Some thought they did not need to treat it as Paul taught it.
 - b. We seem to have the same problem today.
 - 4. In Verse 16 Paul exhorts them: “In spite of what you think “WALK RIGHT...”
 - a. He exhorts them to “walk by the same rules.”
 - b. He exhorts them to “mind the same things.”

II. Weeping of tears done by Paul – (Strange: He suddenly moves from rejoicing to weeping.)

- A. Paul could have been weeping over his own condition - we would quickly understand
- B. Paul was "weeping" because "many other people walk, Skip to Verse 19

1. Whose God is their belly” &
 2. Whose glory is in their shame.
 3. Who mind earthly things
- C. *"...they are the enemies of the cross"* (Verse 18)
1. *"...Whose end is destruction* (Verse 19)"
 2. They accepted Christ, but "added things to the cross" (Gal. 5:1-5 -Gal. 1:6-9)

THE EXAMPLE OF CHRIST **Philippians 3:17**

I. Be Conscious that You Are Setting an Example. (Philippians 3:17)

- A. Paul was setting an example and said, “Be ye followers together of me!”
- B. Paul did not stand alone. He said, *“mark them which walk so as ye have us for an example.”*
1. **EVERYONE** is setting an example for someone to follow.
 2. Paul was aware that others were following him. (I Thess. 1:6)
- C. Paul could say,
“Ye are witnesses, and God also, how holily and justly and unblameable we behaved ourselves among you that believe.” (I Thess. 2:10)
- a. What a challenge! – Can you say that same thing of yourself???**

II. Be Conscious that Someone is Following Your Example, Therefore, “Set the Right Example.”

- A. Paul was not calling attention to **himself**.
1. “Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.” (I Corinthians 11:1)
 - a. This text is clearly connected with I Cor. 10:31-33).
 2. Paul was directing their attention to Christ – Whom HE FOLLOWED.
 - a. Romans 8:29 tells us how to become a good example.
- B. However, Paul realized that “he himself” was a pattern. (I Timothy 1:15-16)
1. Paul knew that “he was the recipient of God’s mercy – that he might be a pattern!
 2. This is an important object Christ had for us when He EXTENDED mercy to us!

THE ENEMIES OF THE CROSS **Philippians 3:18-19**

I. Paul Now Warns us of Adding Anything to Salvation by Faith – Paul wept over this!

- A. The importance of false doctrine is emphasized – **Paul wept!**

1. Paul wept because he was “broken-hearted over the walk of others.”
2. These were “professed” Christians in the church – but in reality - were enemies!
 - a. They were actual enemies of the Cross. (3:18)
- 3.. Refers to Judaizers who added things to salvation by faith.
 - a. They claimed Christ **but** added ‘the law of Moses.’
 1. **That makes a person “an enemy of Christ.”**
4. Nothing can be added to the Cross of Christ. (Galatians 6:14)

II. Paul Bluntly Gives us the “End of Such People.” (Philippians 3:19)

- A. Whose end is destruction.
- B. Whose god is their belly. (Romans 16:18) - (Exodus 32:4)
- C. Whose glory is in their shame. (Phil. 3:18) They gloried in "keeping the law."
- D. Who “mind earthly things.” (James 4:4)

III. Therefore, “Set your affections on things above, not on things of the earth.” (Col. 3:2)

**THE EXPECTATION OF THE SAINTS
Philippians 3:20-21**

I. We Should be “Living” Like a Citizen of Heaven.

- A. The Greek word “Conversation” has four understandings,
 1. *Politeuna*: 1) Conversation 2) Community 3) Citizenship 4) Behavior
 - a. All four apply in this context.
- B. We are “citizens of Heaven” **now!** The word is in the “present tense.”
 1. We will be neighbors with Abraham. (Hebrews 11:10)
- C. God put this in for more than one reason.
 1. To give us a full expectation of our "**Heavenly home**" **in the future.**
 2. To give us a full understanding of our “**responsibility**” **while on earth.**
 - a. We are of the “household of God.” (Ephesians 2:19)
 - b. We are to “live” like a Heavenly citizen.
- D. Some Christians are so “Heavenly” minded they are no earthly good.
- E. Some Christians are so “earthly” minded they are no Heavenly good.

II. We Should be “Looking” for the Savior from Heaven. (Verse 20) (Titus 2:13)

- A. We should “wait” patiently. (Romans 8:24-25)
- B. We should “wait” for deliverance. (I Thess. 1:10)

III. We Should be “Listening” for the Shout from Heaven. (I Thess. 4:16)

A. His last words to His disciples were “I will return...” (Acts 1:11)

B. His comforting words were, "I will come..." (John 14:1-3)

IV. We Should be “Longing” for a new body. (I Corinthians 15:51-53) (II Corinthians 5:1-2)

A. We will be changed into His likeness.

1. We will be delivered from (I Corinthians 15:55-56)

a. Sin

We will not have a sin nature!

b. Suffering

c. Death

d. Grave

V. We WILL BE satisfied when we see Him. (Psalm 17:15)

PHILIPPIANS #14

Philippians 4:1-9

Intro: Paul is struggling as he comes to this part of his letter to the church at Philippi as he is about to address that problem that he has been building up to since Chapter #2. In Chapter 4, Verses 1 & 2 Paul goes from the “top of the mountain - - - to the lowest valley.”

I. Paul is “Exceedingly Glad” over the Fruit of his Laborers in Philippi (Verse 1)

- A. Paul is expressing how proud he is of the people he led to Christ in Philippi.
 - 1. He is “proud” of his “sons in the faith.”
 - a. He calls them “Dearly Beloved.”
 - b. He says they have given him Great Joy.”
 - c. He knows he has not run in vain. (Phil. 2:16)
 - d. He admonishes them to “*stand fast in the Lord.*” - Address problem

II. Paul is “Exceedingly Sad” over Two Women who had Labored with him in the Gospel. (Verse 2)

- A. Paul remembers “the day the church in Philippi started on a river-bank.” (Acts 16:12-13)
 - 1. It is very likely that Euodias and Syntyche were in that group of women.
 - a. His heart seemed to be breaking....
- B. Paul, out of true concern, addresses the two women by name. (Gotten serious - Matthew 18:15)
 - 1. Paul loved them “in the Lord” and he loved the church.
 - a. Paul knew their contention would affect the entire church. (**Hebrews 12:14-15**)
 - b. Paul admonishes them to be “of the same mind in the Lord.”
- C. Paul saw the seriousness to the point that he said, “I intreat thee also true yokefellow” **to help them.**
 - 1. Paul seems to have known this had been going on a long time.
Epaphroditus had apparently shared that with Paul while visiting him in prison.
- D. Paul **knew that this division had caused a good deal of worry** in the church.

III. Paul prepares them for addressing problems and the worry. (Philippians 4:5)

- A. Paul told them in Verse 1, "to stand fast in the Lord." Do not compromise, but...
- B. Let your **Moderation** be Known to all men... (Verse 7)
 - 1. Moderation does not have the same meaning today.
 - a. It is not “okay” to drink whisky in “moderation.” (Social drinking)
 - b. It is not “okay” to commit sin of any kind in “moderation.”
 - 2. Moderation (*Epieikes*) – Gentleness - Sweet spirited - In an appropriate manner.
- C. He instructed them not to be harsh, but to use a “**gentleness and a sweet spirit.**” (Vs 5)
 - a. Paul reminded them that “the Lord is at hand.” (The Lord was watching!)

GOD’S PRESCRIPTION FOR HAVING PEACE
First Step

I. “Be Careful for Nothing...” (Verse 6)

- A. Careful, in this context, means “Don’t be anxious – Don’t worry about this problem.”
 - 1. Christ taught this to His disciples. (Matthew 6:25-31)
- B. Apparently, the people in the church at Philippi were “worrying.”
 - 1. **WORRYING IS SIN! - Most of the time - Satan is behind worry (I Peter 5:8)**
 - a. Worrying is 100% contrary to the Word of God.
 - b. Our Lord taught this in Matthew 6 where he gave the command four times.
 - 1. “*Take no thought for your life...*” (Verse 25)
 - 2. “*Why take you thought for raiment...*” (Verse 28)
 - 3. “*Therefore take no thought...*” (Verse 31)
 - 4. “*Therefore take no thought for tomorrow...*” (Verse 34)
 - c. Our Lord commanded us... (Matthew 11:28-30)
 - d. Peter said, “*Casting all your care upon him, for he careth for you.*” (I Peter 5:7)
 - 2. Worrying will ALWAYS take away your peace of heart.
- C. Paul sent word to them to - “**STOP WORRYING.**” (Phil. 4:6)
 - 1. He would repeat the same things to us today - **Stop worrying!**
 - 2. **Be Careful for NOTHING!**

II. “But in Everything...” (Verse 6)

- A. Be careful for NOTHING – But in **EVERYTHING...**
 - 1. “...by prayer...” (Speaks of praise and devotion.)
 - 2. “...and supplication...” (Speaks of asking for help in a certain matter). (Heb. 4:14)

III. “...with Thanksgiving...” (Verse 6)

- A. We should be thankful for “things not yet seen.” (Hebrews 11:1)
In these cases “... obtain mercy, find grace, to help in a time of need.” (Hebrews 4:16)

JOB 1:21-22

IV. “...The Peace of God shall keep your hearts...” (Verse 7)

- A. God’s peace passeth all understanding. (Phil. 4:7) - (John 14:27)
- B. God’s prescription turns “**Problems into Peace of God.**”
- C. God’s prescription:

Careful for nothing – Prayerful about everything – Thankful for all things.

God is "Our Heavenly Father" - loves and cares for us.

We are parents - We would not want our children to worry about things

If in our power - we would make sure our children would not get hurt.

It is IN GOD'S POWER! (**Psalms 55:22**)

PHILIPPIANS #15

(Philippians 4:8)

GOD'S PRESCRIPTION FOR HAVING PEACE

Second Step

THE LAW OF REPLACEMENT

(Matthew 12:43-44)

Where does worry begin? Worry begins in our thoughts

"Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;" (II Corinthians 10:5)

I. First, we are to CLEAN OUT WORRIES IN our life. (Philippians 4:5-6)

A. Worry! Being anxious! - CLEAN IT OUT! - We have covered those verses

II. Second, we are to REPLACE THEM ...WITH... - (Verse 8)

A. Whatsoever things are true. (Ephesians 4:8)

1. Think on being True to God

a. Think on being true and just to everything that you know about God. (Obey)

b. Think on being an example of the very highest of Christian Character.

c. Think on being faithful in our duties toward God.

2. Think on being True to our fellow men.

a. Think on practicing these same things toward our fellow men. (Phil. 2:4)

1. Be faithful in our God given responsibility to other men.

b. Think on being true to our word, our appointments, our promises, our friendships.

3. Think on being true to our engagements; true to our promises; true in our statements;

a. Think on maintaining the truth about God; about eternity; about the judgment; and about His promises.

b. Think on being "an example" of truth!

B. Whatsoever things are honest. (II Corinthians 8:21)

1. Think on things that are honorable and respectful.

2. Think on things that "are worthy" of honor and respect.

a. Think on things that we should do that would "be worthy" of respect and esteem.

b. Think on things that "are worthy" of spending time on.

a. Remember that "thinking on things that worry you" **is a waste of time.**

C. Whatsoever things are just. (Deut. 16:20) (Isaiah 26:7)

1. Think on things that are "right."

a. Think always on being "just" between you and every person you know.

b. Think always on things that "make you an example" to lost people with whom you interact!

1. The lost world is impressed more by our actions - than by our words!

2. They say: "Your walk is so loud - I can't hear your talk."

D. Whatsoever things are pure. (I Timothy 4:12)

1. Think on purity as a MUST - There are no exceptions to purity.

2. Think on this Bible truth: Nothing destroys a testimony as much as impurity!

3. Think on the fact that "Impure thoughts lead to impure acts."

Nothing destroys a Christian testimony and example like impurity. (Prov. 6:32-33)

- E. Whatsoever things are lovely. (I Corinthians 13:1-13)
 - 1. Think on "not being sour."
 - 2. Think on "not being crabby."
 - 3. Think on "not being irritable."
 - a. Think lovely thoughts - They "build character" that the world admires.
 - 4. Think on "not finding fault with everything."
 - a. Think that "Lovely thoughts replace thoughts of being sour, crabby, irritable."
 - b. Think on things that "endeared" you to the people around you!
- F. Whatsoever things are of good report. (Col. 4:5-6)
 - 1. Think on things that the "world at large" agrees are commendable.
 - a. Think on: Courtesy - Kindness - Respect of parents - Respect of family members - Respect of people in general - Using: Sir, Ma'am, Yes Sir - Yes Ma'am.
 - b. Think on you "setting an example" of what Christ is like.
- G. Anything else which has virtue! (II Peter 1:3-4)
 - 1. Paul did not pretend to have given them everything that has virtue.
 - 2. A Christian should THINK CONTINUALLY about virtue.
 - a. We should ALWAYS be thinking about being a "pattern of Christ" to others.
- E. Think on ANYTHING that praised the Lord! (Hebrews 13:15)

III. Every Christian should think on those "Seven Things!"

- A. True, Honest, Just, Pure, Lovely, Good Report, Any Virtue
- B. Victory over worry BEGINS in controlling our thoughts. (II Corinthians 10:5)
- C. If you will busy yourself "thinking on these seven things"
 - 1. You will not have time to think on things that cause worry.

IMPORTANT: The human brain is an amazing thing, but
THERE IS ONE THING YOUR BRAIN CANNOT DO:
IT CANNOT THINK ON TWO THINGS AT THE SAME TIME!

IV. Philippians 4:9 admonishes us to "Do" these Seven things! (Philippians 4:9)

- A. The truth of God's Word always **sounds** good to us.
 - 1. It is NOT ENOUGH for it to sound good.
 - 2. It is NOT ENOUGH to talk about it.
 - 3. We must "Read" God's Word and "**DO**" God's Word. (Verse 9) (James 1:22)

V. **Conclusion:** Keep your mind on the Lord and THINK on things He wants you to think on...

God made us a promise in Isaiah 26:3.

God promises that "He will keep you in perfect peace. "

PHILIPPIANS #16

Philippians 4:9-12

Intro: Paul had just finished giving counsel to the church, "Do Not Worry."

- A. He encouraged them to "look to the Lord" and forbid them to worry.
- B. Now Paul gives himself as an example. (Phil. 4:9-12)

1. PAUL WAS "WORRY-FREE"

LEARNING TO WIN THE WAR OVER WORRY

I. I Can Accept All Things. (Vs. 11) (Accept whatever God sends your way)

- A. Paul said: "I know how to abound..." **Let's go back before Paul's conversion ...**
 - 1. Paul was a Pharisee - He had a high position in Israel.
 - a. He had great respect.
 - b. He had political influence. **Had all the world offers!**
 - c. He had great power.
 - d. He had financial help supplied for a life of luxury.
- B. He took a great step of faith when he left Antioch as a missionary.
 - 1. He had nothing but "prayer support."
- C. Paul said, "...in whatsoever state I find myself - I have learned to be content."
 - 1. "I know how to be abased..." (**After Paul's conversion...**)
 - a. Lived by faith - made tents - struggled - beaten - now in prison - **gone hungry**
 - b. He remembered that God fed Elijah. (I Kings 17:1-7)
 - 1. The ravens fed him - Ravens are scavenger birds. (**for 10 months**)
 - 2. A widow woman, had one cup of meal and a little oil, fed him 10 months
- D. Material assets will never bring contentment - Because man can never "get enough."
John D. Rockefeller, the world's richest man at the time, was asked:
"How much money will it take for you to have enough?"
He answered, "Just a little bit more!" (Eccl. 5:10)
- E. Paul said, "... **DO, and the peace of God will rule your hearts.** (Verse 9)

II. I Can Learn All Things. "I have learned to be content in whatsoever..." (Phil. 4:11)

- A. Learning! This does not come with salvation!
 - 1. It comes through experience! - **It comes by "doing"**
 - 2. We do not learn when we are "on the mountain top."
 - 3. **We learn when we "go through the valley."**
 - a. David "**learned**" to accept all things. (**Psalms 23:4-6**) (**Is God with you?**)
- B. God has Promised His Providential Power to Provide Peace. (Verses 7 & 9)
 - 1. **Providential: Sees** beforehand - **Knows** beforehand - **Goes** beforehand.

EXAMPLES

JOSEPH is an example of "accepting all things" - (Genesis 37-50)

Joseph's brothers "hated him." (Gen. 37:5)

Joseph's brothers "cast him in a pit to die" at 17 years old. (Gen. 37:20-22)

Joseph's brothers "sold him as a slave" at 17 years old. (Gen. 37:28)

Joseph had Potiphar's wife's lie – when he refused her. (Gen. 39:7-8 & 20)

Joseph had the butler "forget" that Joseph had helped him. (Gen. 40:23)

Joseph ACCEPTED God's providentially control of his life.

No sign of worry - Joseph realized that "**God was in control.**"

God saw the future – God knows the future – God goes before us. (Gen.45:5)

God had a purpose - "...to save much people alive!" (Genesis 50:19-20)

From Genesis 37 to Genesis 50 covers about 40 years!

Joseph had no sign of worry. (He never complained)

Joseph "learned" to accept all things!

JOB is an example of accepting all things. (Job 1:21-22)

Job 1:2-3 - Job lost 7 sons and 3 daughters. Gained 7 sons and 3 daughters. (42:13)

Job 1:14-20- Job lost 7000 sheep. Gained 14,000 Sheep. (42:12)

Job lost 3000 camels. Gained 6000 camels. (42:12)

Job lost 500 yoke of oxen. Gained 1000 yoke of oxen. (42:12)

Job had no sign of worry

Job learned to accept all things.

DAVID is an example of accepting all things. (Psalms 42)

David had a conversation with himself - we need to do that

David suffered hurt and heartache. (Psalms 42:1-3)

a. David's soul thirsted for God. (Vs. 2)

b. David's heart was broken to the point of tears. (Vs. 3)

c. Crying may give emotional relief – but won't cure your problem.

David questioned God: "**Where is thy God?**" (Vs. 3)

a. David had been wounded.

b. David suffered "day and night." (**Took it to bed with him!**) (Vs. 3)

David changed the Direction of His Conversation. (Verse 5)

a. "Why are thou cast down?"

b. "Why are thou disquieted in me?"

David remembers God. (Verse 6) - - - (**Think on good things!**)

a. David expressed his "hope in God" in (Psalm 130:5).

David hears from God. (Psalm 42:8)

a. God promised "lovingkindness" for the day-time hours.

b. God promised "a song" for the night-time hours.

David reminds himself of his hurt and heartache. (Verse 11)

a. David's problems turn into praising.

b. Through trust in God - God restored his mental health.

c. David realized "God was with him - God was in control."
David had no sign of worry
David learned to accept all things.

III. Life is not a series of “accidents” – life is a series of “arrangements.”
“When He putteth forth His own sheep, He goeth before them.” (John 10:4)
“I will guide them with Mine eye.” (Psalms 32:8)

PHILIPPIANS #17

Philippians 4:13-17

INTRO: If you and I are going to "win the battle over worry and have victory in our lives, we must have a plan! After having a plan, we "must plan a work and work a plan" We must have faith that "we can do all things."

I. I Can Do All Things” (Philippians 4:13)

- A. We hear a statement like this, and we wonder about two things:
 - 1. Can Paul “really do ALL things?”
 - 2. Or – “that’s Paul – I’m me – I cannot do ALL things.
- B. Also, it sounds “contradictory”
 - 1. “Have NO confidence in the flesh” (Phil. 3:3)
 - 2. “I can do ALL things” (Phil. 4:13)
- C. Paul did not stop when he said, “I can do all things”
 - 1. He said, “I can do ALL things – **through CHRIST who strengtheneth me**”
without men - without anything
- D. Christ taught the same thing in John 15:5
 - 1. Abide in me, and me in you – you can bear
 - a. You can bear fruit (Verse 2)
 - b. You can bear more fruit (Verse 2)
 - c. You can bear much fruit (Verse 5)
 - 2. This is: “God working **in you...**” (Phil. 2:13)

II. EXAMPLES OF GOD WORKING IN AND THROUGH MEN

ABRAHAM - Chosen of God!

(Genesis 15-21)

- A. God told Abraham his wife, Sarah, was going to have a son (Genesis 15:1-5)
 - 1. Abraham and his wife "doubted God's Word" Genesis 16:1-4
 - a. The high cost of doubting and disobeying God (Genesis 16:5-12)
 - 2. God confirms his promise to Abraham (Genesis 17:15-16)
 - a. Abraham was 100 years old and laughed (Verses 17-19)
 - b. Sarah was 90 years old and laughed (Genesis 18:10-14)
 - 3. God did the work and Sarah conceived and gave birth to a child (Gen. 21:1-2)
- B. Today, Abraham and Sarah would both say
 - 1. We have learned that, “**We can do all things...through Christ**”

MOSES
(Exodus 3)

- A. God called Moses to deliver the Israelites out of bondage (Exodus 3:7-11)
 - 1. Moses said, "Who am I - that I should do...?" (Exodus 3:11)
 - 2. Moses said, "They will not believe me" (Exodus 4:1)
- B. God **knew** that Moses could not do that "in his flesh" (Exodus 3:19)
 - 1. God sent 10 plagues before Moses (Exodus Chapters 7-10)
 - 2. God opened the Red Sea - Israel crossed on dry ground (Exodus 14:22)
 - 3. God worked (Exodus 14:27-31)
- C. Today, Moses would say, "**I learned that, "I can do all things...through Christ"**"

JEREMIAH
(Jeremiah 1:4-5)

- A. God call Jeremiah to be a prophet to the nation of Israel
 - 1. Jeremiah said, "I cannot speak" (Jeremiah 1:6)
 - 2. God said, "you can't, but I can" (Jeremiah 1:8-10)
- B. Today, Jeremiah would say, I learned that, "**I can to all things...through Christ...**"

CONCLUSION

Have you learned that "...you can do all things through Christ who strengtheneth you?

This is done by God working in you and through you.

Could you join the NFL team as a quarterback and win a Super Bowl next year?

If "Tom Brady" moved inside you and took over your mind and your body,
Could you then possibly win a Super Bowl?

The Holy Spirit moved inside of you when you were saved
The Holy Spirit has unlimited power

AND

YOU CAN DO ALL THINGS THROUGH CHRIST WHO STRENGTHENETH YOU!

GOD'S WORD SAYS

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.

John 14:12

If you will let him control your mind, thoughts, mouth, hands, feet, and your actions

You can say, "I CAN DO ALL THINGS through Christ who strengtheneth me"

PHILIPPIANS #18

Philippians 4:18-19

The Promises of God

Intro: As Parents, we have no problem believing that we have the responsibility of providing for our children.

How much more does God take the responsibility of providing for His children?

It is on the basis of this truth that Paul reminds the church at Philippi that God has promised to supply “all of their needs.”

I. God's Promises are Always kept - God DOES what He says He would do.

(Exodus 1-Exodus 12)

God provides Food, Clothing, and Protection

- A. Israel was in bondage to Egypt.
1. God promised to deliver His people out of bondage. (Exodus 5:1)
 2. God KNEW that Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, would not let Israel go (Ex. 3:19)
 - a. Why? God wanted to show Israel that it was GOD who delivered them.
 - b. God wanted "his people" to see His great power!
 3. After “ten” plagues Pharaoh demanded that the Israelites leave. (Exodus 12:31-34)
 - a. Israel was forced to leave with “the clothes on their backs.”
 - b. Leave with “what they could carry on their shoulders.”
 4. There were about three million people in Israel, but God provided:
 - a. Food (Exodus 16:21)
 - b. Water (Exodus 17:6)
 - c. Clothes (Deut. 29:5)
 - d. Shoes (Deut. 29:5) Lasted 40 years!
Note: It does not say: their clothes "lasted" 40 years
It says: "Your clothes are not waxen old upon you."
Israel left Egypt with the clothes on their backs!
 5. After forty years, Israel could testify that:
“*Our God has supplied all of our needs.*”

(Luke 9:1-3)

God Promises Food, Clothing, and Protection

B. Christ Sent the Disciples out to preach in the town round about.

1. God clearly sent them out to preach – by faith.
 - a. They were to be TOTALLY dependent on God to supply.

2. God instructed them to take:
 - a. NOTHING! (What does NOTHING mean???)
 1. Staves - rod or staff. (Verse 3)
 2. Scrip - wallet or leather pouch to carry anything. (Suitcase)
 3. Food - Don't take a lunch!
 4. Money - Don't take money to buy food.
 5. Not even two coats!
 6. Don't even arrange for lodging. (Verse 4)
 - b. "And they departed, and went...preaching the Gospel..." (Luke 9:6)
3. God refers back **to that occasion when he said "take nothing"** in Luke 22:35.
 - a. God asked them, "Did you lack for anything?"
 1. They answered and said, "**Nothing.**"
 2. It appears that God knew when He sent them - they were doubting!

(Matthew 6:25-34)

God Promises to Provide Food, Clothing, and Protection

C. God Admonished them not to worry - not to even "think about their needs"

1. God encouraged them to "take **no thought** for tomorrow." (Matthew 6:25)
 - a. He encouraged them to "Not even to take thought for food." (**Basic for life**)
 1. God gave the example: "The fowls of the air" (Vs. 26)
 2. God gave the example: "The sparrow" (Verses 29 & 31)
 - b. He encouraged them to take **no thought** for clothing.
 1. God gave the example: "The grass of the field" (Vs. 28-30)
 2. Solomon was not so gloriously clothed!
 - c. God gave them further encouragement. (Vs 31-32)
2. You and I take full responsibility to provide for our children.
 - a. Food to eat - Water to drink - Clothing to wear.
3. **God takes "full Responsibility" for His children!**
 - a. **Who are His children?**
4. God encouraged them to "seek first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness."
 - a. God promised if they do that, "**all these things will be added!**"
5. **Question: Are you "seeking the Kingdom of God" FIRST???**
 - a. **Before your own plans and "want-to's?"**

(Matthew 10:1-31)

God Provides Protection and Safety

- D. God sent them out as "sheep among wolves." (Matthew 10:16)
 1. God provided protection. (Matthew 10:28-31)

II. God's Promises Are For You and Me!

- A. The Philippians had given generously.
 - 1. Gave out of poverty. (II Corinthians 8:15)
 - 2. Gave again and again. (Philippians 4:16)
 - a. God has promised to “reciprocate!” (Luke 6:38)
- B. They were promised that God would now provide ALL of THEIR needs!
- C. **God has always taken the responsibility to provide for His children. (Matt. 7:11)**
- D. If God richly gave of His “prize possession in heaven” “His only begotten Son” **(Rom 8:32)**
 - 1. How much more will He give to meet our “material needs.”
- E. He does not supply, “**FROM his riches** in Heaven,”
 - 1. He provides “**ACCORDING to his riches** in Heaven.”
 - a. Ephesians 5:20 “... exceedingly abundantly above what we ask or think!”
 - 2. ALL the promises of God are yea and amen!” (II Corinthians 1:20)

III. How do we receive all of the Promises of God?

- A. Be receiving them when we, by faith, believe that
 - 1. **God will do what He said he would do.**
- B. We do this “**By Faith!**” - But without faith it is impossible to please God.” (Hebrews 11:6)
 - 1. Ask and it shall be given unto you. (Luke 11:9-10)
 - 2. Even the Wisdom of God is freely given. (James 1:5)
- C. God will “do what He said he would do” for you and for me! Trust Him!