

PART ONE

Philippians 1:12-21 // August 21



Prepare Your Heart & Mind

Begin this time in prayer, confessing any sins you can recall, thanking the Lord for the gift of His Word, and asking for His Spirit to guide you in your time.



Reflect/Connect

- Use these questions for a time of individual reflection or to connect with others in meaningful conversation.

Grow in the Word

- These questions are designed as a guide for individual study and to foster spiritual conversation with a group of people.

REFLECT/CONNECT

- In what ways were you encouraged by last week's study?
- What are some things you care about most in life?

GROW IN THE WORD

Paul informed the Philippians that though he was imprisoned, his circumstances actually resulted in progress for the gospel. He explained two gospel positive outcomes from his imprisonment (v. 12-14).

- How did Paul's imprisonment result in the two outcomes he described in verses 13 and 14? Put the outcomes in your own words and see also Acts 28:17-31.

- How did Paul's faith and devotion to Jesus shape his thoughts and actions while he was imprisoned? Take note of what you've read in Philippians 1 so far and Acts 28.

Two groups of people preached Christ with greater confidence and boldness as a result of Paul's imprisonment. One group preached with pure motives while the second group did it out of selfishness. In either case, Paul rejoiced (v. 15-18).

- What are the different motivations you see in these verses? Compare Bible translations to get a broader range of meanings.
- Why and how was Paul able to rejoice even when people preached Christ out of envy and ambition? Take note of 2 Timothy 2:8-13.

GROW IN THE WORD

Paul rejoiced because the gospel was preached and because he expected deliverance from his imprisonment. Likewise, he expressed confidence that he would remain faithful to honor Jesus in life or in death (v. 19-21).

- How can Paul prioritize the gospel and Jesus' exaltation above his own well-being?
- How does this passage help you to reframe your own circumstances?
- What can you do to reprioritize the list of things you care about to better imitate Paul?

SERIES RESOURCES

OVERVIEW: PHILIPPIANS

An animated video by the Bible Project provides a thorough overview of the book of Philippians. The video offers a great summary of the book while emphasizing that every Christian's story can be an expression of Jesus' ultimate story.

- <https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/philippians/>

INTRODUCTION TO PHILIPPIANS

A fundamental introduction to the book of Philippians from the ESV Study Bible. Get a quick synopsis of the book's background to help you gain a better understanding of the book of Philippians as a whole.

- <https://www.esv.org/resources/esv-global-study-bible/introduction-to-philippians/>

PHILIPPIANS: A COMMENTARY BY THE GOSPEL COALITION

A free, downloadable commentary of the entire book of Philippians. This commentary offers background material and a section-by-section commentary of the entire book.

- <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/commentary/philippians/>

BE JOYFUL: EVEN WHEN THINGS GO WRONG, YOU CAN HAVE JOY BY WARREN WIERSBE

A timeless resource by one of this generation's most trusted teachers, Be Joyful gives readers invaluable insights into the history, meaning, and context of Philippians. This new version includes study questions at the end of each chapter to aid readers in reflection and application.

- https://www.amazon.com/Be-Joyful-Philippians-Things-Commentary-ebook/dp/B005MT7WSC/ref=tmm_kin_swatch_0?_encoding=UTF8&qid=1659553546&sr=1-19

LIFE LESSONS FROM PHILIPPIANS: GUIDE TO JOY BY MAX LUCADO

A guide through the book of Philippians by pastor and author Max Lucado that offers its readers thoughtful questions, encouraging stories, and reflections to dig deeper into God's Word. Lucado unpacks Paul's letter to the young church emphasizing Paul's focus on living a life full of joy, peace, and contentment even in the midst of trouble.

- https://www.amazon.com/Life-Lessons-Philippians-Max-Lucado-ebook/dp/B077Y2F619/ref=tmm_kin_swatch_0?_encoding=UTF8&qid=1659553546&sr=1-18