



# *To Live is **CHRIST***

A Study of the Book of Philippians

*Introduction*

Gold River Calvary Chapel  
Women's Bible Fellowship

Spring 2021

# **To Live is CHRIST**

**A Study of the Book of Philippians**

**Gold River Calvary Chapel Women's Ministry**

## **INTRODUCTION**

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# **To Live is CHRIST**

## **A Study of the Book of Philippians Gold River Calvary Chapel Women's Ministry**

### ***Welcome***

My Dear Sisters of Gold River Calvary Chapel:

I am so excited that we get to study the Book of Philippians together! Philippians is known as the "joy" epistle, because Paul so often expresses his joy in this book. How necessary is the beautiful fruit of the Spirit called joy in our lives!

Yet, many of us struggle with experiencing joy. We might wonder how Paul could rejoice when he was under house arrest and chained to Roman soldiers when he wrote this letter. What caused this joy to constantly well up in Paul regardless of his circumstances? His answer was not a "what" but a "Who."

"For me," Paul told the Philippians, "to live is Christ, and to die is gain." His joy came from living out his life wholeheartedly for Jesus. What does that look like in my life or yours? We will explore that wonderful truth in our study this semester aptly titled, To Live is CHRIST". May the Holy Spirit open our hearts and minds and grow us closer as sisters in Christ as we study this glorious letter word for word together!

In Him,

Anne Eowan  
Women's Ministry Director  
Gold River Calvary Chapel

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## A Study of the Book of Philippians

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### ***Study Schedule and Times***

**Thursday Morning Study:** 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. – in person study (socially distanced)

**Thursday Evening Study:** 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. - VIA ZOOM

Each week we there will be teaching on the passage of scripture assigned for that week, followed by group discussion of the lesson and prayer.

Introduction to Philippians	Thursday, April 8
Lesson One	Thursday, April 15
Lesson Two	Thursday, April 22
Lesson Three	Thursday, April 29
Lesson Four	Thursday, May 6
Lesson Five	Thursday, May 13
Lesson Six	Thursday, May 20
Lesson Seven	Thursday, May 27

Please register online for either study: [www.goldrivercalvarychapel.com](http://www.goldrivercalvarychapel.com), Women's Ministry page. There you will get the Introduction and the lessons as well as the Zoom link for the evening study. Lessons also available at Gold River Calvary Chapel.

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#### ***How To Do This Study***

This study uses the inductive method of bible study, which simply means that as you are studying this book, chapter by chapter and verse by verse, you will be completing three separate steps in every lesson and asking yourself three important questions:

- ***What does it say?*** Rather than just reading quickly over the scripture, each week you will be reading the assigned passage for comprehension. This will be Step One of each lesson. In Step One, you will be given a column on the right of the passage in which to jot down important information, such as the “who, what, where, when and how” of what is being relayed. You can also circle, underline or highlight important words as you read through the scripture. An example of how this is done is included on page 10 of the Introduction.

You will also want to use the Bible Study Aids that are suggested in this Introduction on page 10.

This study uses the Christian Standard Bible translation for use in completing the answers to the questions in lessons, but you are encouraged to use as many bible translations as you like to glean as much meaning as possible as you read through the lessons. Some suggested translations for you to explore are the New King James Version (NKJV), the English Standard Version (ESV), the New Living Translation (NLT), and the Amplified Version (AMP).

- ***What does it mean?*** In Step Two of your lessons, you will be looking at what the verses mean – both from the point of view of the original believers who received the letter and to all believers at all times. In other words, Paul’s epistle was written to the people at Philippi more than 2000 years ago, but the doctrines and truths he wrote about have been preserved in scripture for all believers. Paul wrote to Timothy in 2 Timothy 3:16-17 with this great truth:

“All Scripture is inspired by God and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.” Ladies, consider yourselves included in this truth!

- ***What does it mean to me?*** In Step Three of your lessons, you will be asking yourself this question: how does this scripture relate personally to me? Is the Holy Spirit bringing a particular application to my own life from the truths I am reading? How can I apply this to my own Christian walk and experience?

As you complete each lesson and we discuss it, you will find that your answers to Step Three may vary significantly from someone else’s answer because the Holy Spirit so personally applies scripture to individual hearts. There are no wrong answers! But each of us will grow as we share the truths that the Lord lays on each of His daughter’s hearts.

Never forget to pray before you open the Bible and study a lesson, asking that the Holy Spirit open the Word to your understanding.

May God use this study to grow you in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ, and may you fall more deeply in love with Him.

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## **A Study of the Book of Philippians**

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### ***BACKGROUND TO PHILIPPIANS***

#### ***Authorship***

The apostle Paul identifies himself as the author of this letter to the “saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi.” (Philippians 1:1 and 4:15).

Paul wrote Philippians during his first Roman imprisonment (Philippians 1:7, see also Acts 28:30-31). This dates the letter around A.D. 60 - 62.

Along with Philemon, Colossians and Ephesians, Philippians is commonly referred to as a “prison epistle.”

#### ***Setting***

The city of Philippi was in Macedonia, which is in modern day Greece (see map).

Paul established the church at Philippi during his second missionary journey (AD 51) in response to a vision given to him by God of a Macedonian pleading with Paul to come help them (Acts 16:9-10). This was the first church in Europe. One can read about this church and Paul's ministry in Philippi in Acts 16:9-40.

Philippi was a very ancient city, previously known as Krenides. It was the capitol of Alexander the Great, who renamed it after his father Philip of Macedon. When the Romans conquered Greece, Philippi became a Roman colony. Thus, colonists in Philippi had all the rights and privileges of Roman citizens. Paul asserted his Roman citizenship when he was incarcerated and beaten without a trial (Acts 16:37). However, God used Paul's incarceration to bring the jailer and his household to faith (Acts 16:31-34).

Philippi was mostly made up of Romans and Greeks (gentiles). Apparently, there were not enough Jewish men to even comprise a synagogue (ten were needed), so Paul and Silas went to the river to find a place of prayer on the Sabbath (Acts 16:13). There were a number of women gathered there, and Paul and his companions sat down and shared the gospel with them. Lydia, a God-fearing woman who was a wealthy merchant in purple cloth, opened her heart to the gospel. She and her family were baptized, and she opened her home to Paul and his companions while they were there ministering in Philippi. Thus, the first church in Philippi began in her home (Acts 16:40). It is unclear exactly how long Paul shared the gospel in Philippi. Luke states that they were there “several days” (Acts 16:12) before being forced to leave by the local officials in Philippi after incarcerating them for freeing a slave girl from a fortune-telling demon who earned her masters a great profit (Acts 16:39).

### ***Purpose***

Paul’s purpose in writing to the Philippians was to thank them for their financial support while he was in prison (Philippians 4:10-20). In those days, prisoners had to provide for themselves. A hallmark of this church was their loyalty to Paul, which may be one reason he did not remind them of his apostleship in his opening greeting, as he did with other churches.

He also addressed disunity caused by personal conflicts (Philippians 4:2) and disagreements over theology, caused by the few radical Jewish teachers that were insisting that salvation required following the Law of Moses, especially circumcision (Philippians 3:2-3).

Finally, he wanted to assure the Philippians that Epaphroditus, who was sent by the church at Philippi with their gift, had recovered from the serious illness of which they had heard. He commended Epaphroditus to them, who may have carried this letter back to Philippi.



## ***Contribution to the Bible***

Philippians teaches us how to live out our Christianity with joy, not resting in what we have already learned, but pressing forward to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ. Almost every chapter talks about joy, but the reason for that joy is always Christ. For to Paul, to live was Christ and only to die was gain.

## ***Map***

Philippi is in Macedonia, in the top middle of the map below, in what is now known as Greece.



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### *Bible Study Aids*

There are many bible study aids that can help you gain more understanding out of your bible reading.

These study aids include bible dictionaries, different translations, maps, timelines, commentaries and other helps.

Some good “one stop shop” sources for all these different aids are as follows:

***Study Bibles.*** A good study bible is an excellent source of these helps. Study bibles provide context, cross references, maps, and commentary and more to help you understand the passage you are reading.

Some study bibles we would recommend include the Nelson Study Bible and the ESV Study Bible.

***Bible Study Websites.*** These resources are free online and are a “one stop shop” to find dictionaries, commentaries (both audio and text), maps, timelines and other study resources that help put the bible in context.

Two we would recommend are as follows:

### **Blue Letter Bible Website**

<https://www.blueletterbible.org/>

On this website, you are able to search and look up a scripture by its chapter and verse, or by using words and phrases. You also can choose which bible translation you want (King James Version, New King James Version, etc.)

Once a passage of scripture pops up, you will see “tools” to the left of each verse. Click on the tools bar to see a number of study resources, such as the Hebrew/Greek translation of the verse (“interlinear”), cross references, commentaries, versions of the bible, etc. There are audio commentaries that are listed as well as text commentaries. The audio commentaries are generally a pastor teaching from that area of scripture or topic. The text commentaries are written commentaries that can be very helpful. A good source for both written and audio commentaries are David Guzik and Chuck Smith.

There is a button for “study” at the top of the home page that provides a drop-down menu of a number of resources. There is also an app you can download for free on your phone.

### **Bible Gateway Website**

<https://www.biblegateway.com/>

This website is easy to read and access. On the home page, at the left, there are bible study tools that you can click on. There is an app that you can download to your phone as well.

[Get the Bible Gateway App](#)

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### STEP ONE EXAMPLE

Each week in this study, you will be given a section of scripture to read in Step One. You will read scripture with better comprehension and understanding if you make notes about what is being stated in the passage. Some simple steps that will help you do that are below.

1. Try to determine the "who, what, where, when or how" of the passage if possible. Make a note in the right column.
2. Look for words that are repeated often. For example, in Philippians, Paul frequently uses phrases such as "in Christ" or "in him." Highlight or circle those words.
3. Circle any other key words and underline phrases that stick out to you. Use the column to the right to jot down any notes, scripture references, or questions you might have.

#### Example:

<p><b>Philippians 1:1-2</b> <b>Christian Standard Bible</b> <b>Greeting</b></p> <p><u>1</u> Paul and Timothy, <u>servants</u> of <u>Christ Jesus</u>:</p> <p>To all the <u>saints</u> in <u>Christ Jesus</u> who are in Philippi, including the overseers and deacons.</p> <p><u>2</u> <u>Grace</u> to you and <u>peace</u> from <u>God our Father</u> and the <u>Lord Jesus Christ</u>.</p>	<p><i>Who: Paul and Timothy</i> <i>What: Servants of Jesus</i> <i>Where: Philippi</i></p> <p><i>Who: To ALL the saints - saints are in Christ</i></p> <p><i>Grace and peace come from God the Father and the Lord Jesus</i></p>
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