



*To Live is **CHRIST***

A Study of the Book of Philippians

Lesson Four

Gold River Calvary Chapel
Women's Bible Fellowship

Spring 2021

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

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Step One: Read the Word

"In Him are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." Colossians 2:3

This study uses the Christian Standard Bible translation (CSB), which is provided for you in each lesson in Step One. Please use that version to fill in blanks or answer questions, but you are encouraged to read as many translations as you like in order to get a fuller understanding of the scripture.

In Step One, try to determine the "who, what, where, when or how" of the passage. Look for words that are repeated often, such as "in Christ" or "joy" or "rejoice." Circle any 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.

Note: There is an example of how to do Step One in the Introduction to this study. You can also use the "Bible Study Aids" included in the Introduction to gain more understanding of the passage of scripture.

Remember to always pray before you read God's Word, asking the Holy Spirit to open the scripture to your understanding.

Read Philippians 2:5-30 starting on the next page:

Philippians 2:5-30
Christian Standard Bible

Christ's Humility and Exaltation

⁵ Adopt the same attitude as that of Christ Jesus,

⁶ who, existing in the form of God, did not consider equality with God as something to be exploited.^[a]

⁷ Instead he emptied himself by assuming the form of a servant, taking on the likeness of humanity.

And when he had come as a man,
⁸ he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death— even to death on a cross.

⁹ For this reason God highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name,

¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow— in heaven and on earth and under the earth—

¹¹ and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Lights in the World

¹² Therefore, my dear friends, just as you have always obeyed, so now, not only in my presence but even more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. ¹³ For it is God who is working in you both to will and to work according to his good purpose. ¹⁴ Do everything without grumbling and arguing, ¹⁵ so that you may be blameless and pure, children of God who are faultless in a crooked and perverted generation, among whom you shine like stars in the world, ¹⁶ by holding firm to the word of life. Then I can boast in the day of Christ that I didn't run or labor for nothing. ¹⁷ But even if I am poured out as a drink offering on the sacrificial service of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you. ¹⁸ In the same way you should also be glad and rejoice with me.

Timothy and Epaphroditus

¹⁹ Now I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon so that I too may be encouraged by news about you. ²⁰ For I have no one else like-minded who will genuinely

care about your interests; ²¹ all seek their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. ²² But you know his proven character, because he has served with me in the gospel ministry like a son with a father. ²³ Therefore, I hope to send him as soon as I see how things go with me. ²⁴ I am confident in the Lord that I myself will also come soon.

²⁵ But I considered it necessary to send you Epaphroditus—my brother, coworker, and fellow soldier, as well as your messenger and minister to my need— ²⁶ since he has been longing for all of you and was distressed because you heard that he was sick. ²⁷ Indeed, he was so sick that he nearly died. However, God had mercy on him, and not only on him but also on me, so that I would not have sorrow upon sorrow. ²⁸ For this reason, I am very eager to send him so that you may rejoice again when you see him and I may be less anxious. ²⁹ Therefore, welcome him in the Lord with great joy and hold people like him in honor, ³⁰ because he came close to death for the work of Christ, risking his life to make up what was lacking in your ministry to me.

Step 2: Consider the Word

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.” Colossians 3:16

Re-read Philippians 2:5-30 and answer the questions below.

1.
 - a. What does Paul tell the Philippians (and thus all believers) to have? (v. 5)
 - b. According to verse 7, of what did Jesus empty himself? See also John 17:5 and 2 Corinthians 8:9.
 - c. According to verse 7, what form did Jesus assume?
 - i. How does this relate to Paul's description of himself and Timothy in Chapter 1, verse 1?
 - ii. How should both these models relate to all believers?

2.
 - a. How does Jesus serve as the ultimate example to us of humility? (v. 7-8)
 - b. What do you think obedience has to do with humility? (v. 7-8)
 - c. Why do you think verses 5-8 follow verses 1-4 in Chapter 2?
3. What will be true of all humanity when Jesus returns to rule and reign as Lord of Lords and King of Kings? (v. 10-11).

(Extra credit question: on a scale of 1 to gazillion, how glad are you that you get to bend the knee to Christ now?)

4. Following this beautiful description of Christ's attitude in verses 6-8, Paul reminds the Philippians to obey the Word of God, regardless whether Paul was there watching them (v. 12).
 - a. What does Ephesians 6:6 tell us about this kind of obedience?
 - b. Who is it that knows our hearts and sees all we do, even when others aren't watching? (See Matthew 6:4)
5. In verse 12, Paul tells us to "work out your own salvation with fear and trembling."
 - a. Notice that Paul says to "work **out**" our own salvation, not "work **for**" our own salvation. According to Ephesians 2:8-9, is it possible for us to "work for" our salvation? Why?
 - b. The Greek for "work out" means to bring something to a conclusion, to continue in a task until it is done, to run a race until its conclusion, to not give up. What does this tell you about how a Christian is to "work out" his or her salvation?

c. Paul tells us to “work out our own salvation with fear and trembling” in verse 12. According to Blue Letter Bible, the original Greek translated “fear and trembling” means the following:

“fear and trembling is used to describe the anxiety of one who distrusts his ability completely to meet all requirements, but religiously does his utmost to fulfil his duty.”

Ordinarily we think of fear and trembling before God as our awe-filled reverence and love of God. Yet the Greek in this verse seems to relate more to the distrust of our own sinful natures when it comes to working out our salvation. Based on the definition above:

- What should we not trust?
- What should we try to do?

d. According to verse 13, who do we rely on to empower us to do our part in working out our salvation? How does He do this?

6. a. According to verses 14-16, why should Christians do everything without grumbling or complaining?

b. With what emotion did Paul view his sacrificial suffering on behalf of the Philippians? (See verses 17-18). Were the Philippians to feel sorry for him? How were they to respond?

7. a. How does Paul describe Timothy in verses 20-22?

b. How does Paul describe Epaphroditus in verse 25?

c. Would these qualities be more or less important in the church today in order to spread the gospel and minister to the needs of others?

Memory Verse: “ For it is God who is working in you both to will and to work according to his good purpose. “ (Philippians 2:13)

Write the memory verse down below:

Step 3: Walk in the Word

“...As citizens of heaven, live your life worthy of the gospel of Christ.” Philippians 1:27

Re-read Philippians 2:5-30 and answer the questions below:

1. After reading verses 5-8, what do you think true humility looks like in a life? What can you do practically to reflect humility in your own life?
2. See verses 12-13.
 - a. Paul calls on Christians to obey Jesus whether others are watching or not. Are there areas of your life where it has been hard to “bend the knee” to Jesus and obey? Describe below:

b. In verse 13, after telling us to obey, Paul tells us, “for it is God who is working in you both to will and to work according to his good purpose.”

Have you ever resisted doing something in obedience to the Lord, and then found that he had given you not only the *will* to do it but the *power*? Describe below:

c. Give an example when obeying the Lord wasn't easy but it resulted in joy.

3. In verse 14, Paul tells us not to grumble or argue. The word “grumble” means a low, continuous murmuring, like a dripping faucet. Sadly, we ALL know what arguing means!

Think of a situation or situations in your own life where a “go to” reaction might be to grumble or argue in response. Journal a prayer to the Lord to give you the will and the power not to grumble or be combative but instead to rejoice.

4. Look again at Paul's description of his fellow servants Timothy and Epaphroditus in verses 20-25. Which of these virtues do you value most from others? Which of these would you want to be known for and why?

Write the memory verse below:

For it is _____ who is working in _____ both to _____ and to _____ according to his _____ purpose.

What lesson or truth meant the most to you this week?

Journal a prayer below, thanking God for that truth.

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