



To Live is CHRIST

A Study of the Book of Philippians

Lesson One

Gold River Calvary Chapel
Women's Bible Fellowship

Spring 2021

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Lesson One

Step One: Read the Word

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

For this first lesson, please make sure to read the **Introduction** to this study, which will provide you with the necessary background on who the Philippians were and the reason Paul wrote to them. It will be important information in order to understand the context of this letter.

This study uses the Christian Standard Bible translation (CSB), which is provided for you in each lesson. 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 1:1-11, starting on the next page:

Philippians 1:1-11
Christian Standard Bible
Greeting

1 Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus:

To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in
Philippi, including the overseers and deacons.

2 Grace to you and peace from God our
Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Thanksgiving and Prayer

3 I give thanks to my God for every
remembrance of you,^[a] **4** always praying with
joy for all of you in my every
prayer, **5** because of your partnership in the
gospel from the first day until now. **6** I am
sure of this, that he who started a good
work in you^[b] will carry it on to
completion until the day of Christ
Jesus. **7** Indeed, it is right for me to think this
way about all of you, because I have you in
my heart,^[c] and you are all partners with me

<p>in grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸ For God is my witness, how deeply I miss all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus. ⁹ And I pray this: that your love will keep on growing in knowledge and every kind of discernment, ¹⁰ so that you may approve the things that are superior and may be pure and blameless in the day of Christ, ¹¹ filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ to the glory and praise of God.</p>	
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Step Two. Consider the Word.

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

Re-read Philippians 1:1-11 and answer the questions below.

1. In verse 1, Paul identifies himself as the writer of this letter, along with Timothy. How does he describe them both?

2. How does Paul describe the recipients of this letter? Fill in the blank below from verse 1:

To all the _____ in _____ who are
in Philippi, including all the overseers and deacons.

Does this mean that ALL those in Christ Jesus are saints, not just those with a leadership position?

3. What two blessings are ours from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ? (v. 2)

4. a. What caused Paul to give thanks? (v. 3)

- b. How often did Paul pray? With what emotion did he pray? (v.4)
 - c. Why was he thankful for the Philippians? (v.5)
- 5. In verse 7, Paul lists two important ways in which the Philippians were partners with him in God's grace. List those two things below:
 - a.
 - b.
- 6. Re-read verses 9-11.
 - a. Why did Paul pray that the Philippians' love would grow in knowledge and discernment? (Hint: what follows the "so that?")
 - b. Do you think this prayer is more or less important for the church today? Why?

Memory Verse: “I am sure of this, that he who started a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.” (Philippians 1:6)

Write the memory verse down below:

Step Three. Walk in the Word.

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

Re-read Philipplians 1:1-11 and answer the questions below:

1. In verse 1, Paul refers to Timothy and himself as servants of Christ Jesus. The Greek word for “servant” in this verse means a bond-servant or slave. In the Old Testament, the term would be applied to a slave who, rather than be set free after a term of servitude, would choose to stay with his or her master for life out of love for the Master (see Deut.15:16-17). The word in the Greek also means “devoted to another to the disregard of one’s own interests.”

- a. Do you see yourself as a bond-servant of Jesus? Why or why not?

- b. Jesus told his disciples (that’s us!) that whoever wants to be great must be a servant, just as Jesus did not come to be served but to serve and give his life as a ransom for many. (Matt 20:26-28).

Do you see yourself as a servant to others? Why or why not?

- c. A wise person once said, “you know whether you are willing to be a servant of all when people treat you like one.” How do you react when you are treated like a servant?

- d. How could an attitude that serves 'as unto the Lord' make it a joy rather than a burden to serve others?

2. In verse 6, Paul gives this beautiful encouragement and blessing: “⁶I am sure of this, that he who started a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”

- a. What is this “good work” that Jesus has started in you?
- b. Look up and write out the following verses, which also promise this blessing:

Jude 1:24: _____

Hebrews 7:25: _____

- c. List some of the things that God is able to do from these verses to fulfill the promise of verse 6 in your life.

d. Can you think of a specific instance or instances in your life when God “protected you from stumbling” as Jude 24 declares?

e. What role does our own obedience play in this promise? Write that role next to the scripture below:

John 14:15:

Galatians 5:16:

Galatians 6:9:

Romans 12:1-2

- f. Are you as settled and sure as Paul that Jesus is able to save you completely (to the “uttermost” NKJV) as promised in Hebrews 7:25? Explain your answer below.

3. Re-read Paul’s prayer for the Philippians in verses 9 through 11 below:

⁹ And I pray this: that your love will keep on growing in knowledge and every kind of discernment, ¹⁰ so that you may approve the things that are superior and may be pure and blameless in the day of Christ, ¹¹ filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ to the glory and praise of God.

- a. We can learn much from Paul’s intercessory prayers in his letters by meditating on what Paul prayed for. Notice how he prays for their spiritual needs more often than their physical “wants.” In the space below, write down at least 4 things that Paul prays that God would do in these saints’ lives:

1.

2.

3.

4.

b. Which of these things do you think you most need in your own life right now? Why?

Challenge: Be an intercessor! An intercessor prays for the needs of others, whether or not they even know they are being prayed for. How very Christ-like, since Jesus always lives to intercede for us! (Heb. 7:25)

Pray this prayer for at least one person this week by filling in the blanks below with his or her name(s) and praying that God would accomplish this in his/her life.

⁹And I pray this: that _____'s love will keep on growing in knowledge and every kind of discernment, ¹⁰so that _____ may approve the things that are superior and may be pure and blameless in the day of Christ, ¹¹filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ to the glory and praise of God.

Don't forget to put your own name in those blanks as well and pray that the Lord would do this in your life too!

Write the memory verse below:

I am _____ of this, that _____ that started a _____ work in _____
will carry it to _____ until the day of _____
_____.

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

Journal a prayer below, thanking God for that truth.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

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