



To Live is CHRIST

A Study of the Book of Philippians

Lesson Seven

Gold River Calvary Chapel
Women's Bible Fellowship

Spring 2021

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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 4:10-23 starting on the next page:

Philippians 4:10-23
Christian Standard Bible

Appreciation of Support

¹⁰ I rejoiced in the Lord greatly because once again you renewed your care for me. You were, in fact, concerned about me but lacked the opportunity to show it. ¹¹ I don't say this out of need, for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I find myself. ¹² I know how to make do with little, and I know how to make do with a lot. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being content—whether well fed or hungry, whether in abundance or in need. ¹³ I am able to do all things through him^[a] who strengthens me. ¹⁴ Still, you did well by partnering with me in my hardship.

¹⁵ And you Philippians know that in the early days of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving except you alone. ¹⁶ For even in Thessalonica you sent gifts for my need several times. ¹⁷ Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the profit^[b] that is increasing to

your account. ¹⁸ But I have received everything in full, and I have an abundance.

I am fully supplied,^[c] having received from Epaphroditus what you provided—a fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God. ¹⁹ And my God will supply all your needs according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. ²⁰ Now to our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.

Final Greetings

²¹ Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The brothers who are with me send you greetings. ²² All the saints send you greetings, especially those who belong to Caesar's household. ²³ The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

Step 2: Consider the Word

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

Re-read Philippians 4:10-23 and answer the questions below.

1. In verse 10, Paul is rejoicing because the Philippians renewed their care for him.
 - a. In what ways were the Philippians caring for Paul? (See Phil. 1:3-5, 4:15,16, and 18)
 - b. Why was Paul rejoicing in the Lord rather than the Philippians?
 - c. Verse 15 commends the Philippians for being his sole source of church support after leaving Philippi. See Acts 17:1-10. What was some of the fruit of the Philippians’ support of Paul in Thessalonica?
 - d. What extra light does 2 Corinthians 8:1-3 shed on how the church at Philippi gave to support the gospel through Paul?

2. See verses 11-14.
 - a. In verse 11, what astounding statement does Paul make about his ability to be content? What makes this statement astounding to most modern readers? Do you think it would have been astounding to the original readers when Paul wrote this letter?
 - b. Look up the definition of “contentment” and write it below:
 - c. Look up the definition of “discontentment” and write it below:
 - d. Based on its definition, what relationship does discontentment have with covetousness, envy and/or greed?
 - e. What does contentment in all circumstances say about our trust in God to supply our needs?

f. Look up and write out the following verses:

John 3:27:

James 1:17:

Given these two verses, what does discontentment and dissatisfaction say about how we view God as our provider?

g. How might contentment regardless of circumstances and living up to 1 Timothy 6:8 be a witness to others?

h. How does contentment within a church body promote unity and love?

3. In verse 11, Paul says that he had *learned* to be content in whatever circumstance he found himself in.
 - a. Why do you think it was something he had to learn? Is this true of all Christians?
 - b. Based on verse 13, what was it that Paul learned that helped him to be content?
 - c. Why would Paul need Christ's strength to be content when he was hungry and in need?
 - d. Why would Paul need Christ's strength when he was well fed and in abundance?
4. What does verse 17 tell you about Paul's true motivation in encouraging the Philippians in their partnership with him in the gospel through their financial support?

5. See verses 18-19.
- a. Paul essentially is equating the financial support of the gospel with the sacrificial offerings made to God at the temple by calling the Philippians' gift, "a fragrant offering and acceptable sacrifice." According to Ephesians 5:2, who is the ultimate sacrificial and fragrant offering?
- b. Given the above, why do you think Paul was so sure that their gift was pleasing to God?
- c. What was Paul sure God would do for the Philippians (verse 19)? Do you think that is true for all Christians who partner in the gospel and give sacrificially of themselves?
4. What does Verse 22 tell you about how the gospel spread through Paul even while he was in prison?

5. What does verse 20 say about what Paul considered the goal of everything he did for the Lord?

Memory Verse: “In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being content – whether well fed or hungry, whether in abundance or in need. I am able to do all things through Christ who strengthens me. “(Phil. 4:12(b)-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.” Philipplians 1:27

Re-read Philippians 4:10-23 and answer the questions below:

1.
 - a. Are there areas of discontent in your life where you struggle to believe that God is in control and that He will provide all your needs according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus? List them below.
 - b. How might Ephesians 3:20 and Romans 8:32 encourage you?
 - c. How might James 1:17 help you rest in the knowledge that only God knows what is best and good for you and His timing is always perfect?

d. Paul says that he learned to be content, whether he had much or little, because he relied on the Lord's strength to do it (verse 13).

Heart check: Are there any areas of discontentment in your life caused by relying on your own strength to handle a situation?

If so, journal a prayer below, giving the situation to the Lord and thanking Him that he is the one who gives us the strength to rest and be content regardless of our circumstances.

2. a. Do you consider yourself a "partner in the gospel" - as if you were doing the work along with others you are supporting - when you give of your finances to spread the gospel and minister to God's people? Explain.

b. Do you consider your sacrificial giving of your time, abilities and finances to be a form of worship to God...a fragrant offering, acceptable and pleasing to God? Explain.

3. Can you describe a situation(s) where you knew God was supernaturally supplying your needs when a situation looked impossible? Share below and praise God for it!

Write the memory verse below:

“In _____ and _____ circumstances I have _____ the
secret of being _____ – whether well fed or _____,
whether in _____ or in need. I am able to do _____
_____ through _____ who
_____ me. “(Phil. 4:12(b)-13)

(Note! Study continues on the next page)

Wrapping Up....

What a beautiful journey of joy we have taken studying the book of Philippians!

1. How has this study changed your view of joy?
2. How has this book changed your view of what this means: to “Live is Christ, to die is gain?”
3. Has what you have learned changed the way you pray?
4. Has what you have learned changed the way you think?

5. What lesson or truth meant the most to you in your study of Philippians?

Journal a prayer below, thanking God for that truth.

NOTES

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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