

We are about to embark on a great adventure through one of the most timely books of the Bible. The message that Paul had for the people in Philippi is a message that we, as the church, desperately need to hear today. With the trials and pressures of our modern world, we have lost our joy and peace. Where did it go? Is it not attainable in our world today? Is this why people have lost hope?

God will reach out to you through the pages of Philippians to assure you that there is hope. You can have joy. You can have peace regardless of your circumstances. The solution is there for the taking. Come to God's life-giving Word and allow His peace to wash over you and fill you with joy. Commit to giving this study your precious time. It won't be wasted. If you allow God's truths to sink deeply into your heart, you will walk away from this study refreshed and revived with a hope, peace, and joy that will not be shaken no matter what you encounter in your life.

Lift your heart to God in prayer and commit this study to Him. Ask Him to give you a teachable mind and the strength to be a doer of the Word and not a hearer only (James 1:22).

DAY ONE

Whether you are new to inductive Bible study or you have been doing it for years, it is always good to review important concepts to make sure that we are all on the same page as we work through these studies. So please read the instructions carefully, and work through each step. Every step is important. You are approaching God's Word. Truth is revealed by God's Spirit (1 Corinthians 2:9-10). Prayerfully approach every day, and ask God to open your eyes to understanding and for the strength to live according to the truths laid out in His Word.

In an inductive Bible study, we always begin with the Bible itself. We are going to allow it to speak to us. In order to do that we have to have a grasp of the book we are reading, so we begin by completing a thorough overview. That is our goal for this week's study. We want to get the big picture of the book as a whole before we begin to dissect it chapter by chapter and verse by verse. Every step this week will help us to look at the book of Philippians from a different perspective.

You will find the book of Philippians typed out with plenty of space to mark and jot some notes. These are called your Observation Worksheets. Please use them as such. Mark them up; make notes on them. That is how you will learn!

1. If someone you love takes time to write to you, would you read a little bit of the document and then set it aside for later? Unfortunately, we tend to approach God's Word in that way. Man has divided a book like Philippians into four chapters. We convince ourselves we are doing a great thing by reading one chapter and then putting it away. Not today, and not in this study. Read through the entire book. It shouldn't take you more than 15 minutes. Don't stop to think about it. Just read it straight through. Once you finish, jot down your initial impressions of this book.

2. Read through Philippians again. This time as you read, you are going to be looking at the author of the book. As you read, get a colored pencil (I use blue) and underline every reference to the author. It could be his name, a synonym referring to him, or a pronoun like I, me, my, etc. At this point in time, unless you are experienced at this type of study, I would encourage you not to be concerned about plural pronouns like "we" or "us." When you are done reading through the book and marking the author, then turn to page 9 and record what you learn by asking the 5 W's and H questions (who, what, where, when, why, and how) about the author. Just look for the obvious things that you learn about him at this time. Don't worry if you can't find information for every category. Remember - you are looking for the obvious!

DAY TWO

1. Remember to start your time in prayer! You are going to read through Philippians yet again. This time you are going to look for the recipients of this letter and mark them. I underline mine in green. Mark any references of their name or synonyms and pronouns referring to them. This time you are going to look for pronouns like "you" or "your". When you are done, you are going to answer any of the 5 W's and H about the recipients on page 10 of this lesson. Only record obvious information and don't worry if you can't fill in every question. Do the best you can and know that you are learning with each step you take. It will be well worth your effort in the end.

2. What kind of literature is the book of Philippians? Is it a historical account? Poetry? A letter? A narrative about someone's life? Record your thoughts on page 11 where it asks about the type of literature.
3. If you have ever received a letter, note, or message from someone, it has probably left you with a certain feeling. It may have been excitement, joy, anxiety, anger, hurt, or a combination of these feelings. This is called the atmosphere. Read through Philippians again. As you read and think about what you have learned about the author and recipients, how would you describe the atmosphere of this letter? Record your insights on page 11.
4. One last assignment for today, and this may be a little harder, but give it your best shot. Read through Philippians one more time. Keeping in mind all that you have learned to this point about the author, recipients, type of literature, and atmosphere, let's see what you can learn about the time period in which they lived. This will give you the historical background of the book. Record what you learn about the culture, the time period, and the religious background of the time on page 11 of this lesson.

DAY THREE

The more time and thought you put into this assignment, the more you will see. It will be like peeling back layers of an onion. You peel back one layer and it reveals yet another layer.

So far you have read through the book of Philippians at least five different times. You should read it at least five more times over the next couple of days. By the end of the first lesson, you will have a really good grasp on the book of Philippians. This is really important when you want to glean the wealth of riches that lie in these verses!

Introduction to Key Words

You are going to be looking for key words today. Let me explain what a key word is. A key unlocks a door. A key word unlocks the meaning of the book you are reading. So the question becomes, how do I find a key word? You have probably found some by now, and you are not even aware of them. A key word is an important word that is repeated throughout the book. If that word would be removed, you would lose a big part of the meaning and purpose of the book.

When you find key words, you are going to mark them on your observation worksheets. You want to use different colors and different symbols. There is no right way or wrong way to do this. I am not an artist so I tend to go with simple symbols and shapes. Arrows, stars, triangles, squares, underlines, etc. On page 8 of this lesson, I have included a sample page of possible symbols. The important thing is that you use the same symbol and color throughout your study. When you do, these key words will pop off the page at you.

When you read through the book looking at and marking one or two key words, you will find even more that strike you. When you do, read through again and mark those. One warning though. It is a key word to the book when it is mentioned all the way through the book. You may find a word that is repeated in one particular chapter and not the entire book. That word may be a key to that chapter but not to the book itself. We will mark those at a later time. If you mark it now and then realize later that it was only key to that chapter, it's okay. Just don't list that particular word on your list of key words for the book.

With that background, I believe you are ready for your assignment for today.

1. Read through Philippians and jot down a couple of words that are repeated throughout the book.
2. Determine the symbols that you will use to mark these words. Write these words and their corresponding symbol on an index card.
3. Read through the book again and mark these key words. If, as you are marking, you see other words that are repeated, jot them down and read the book again.
4. Record your key words on the chart on page 11.

Some of you may be able to mark three or more words at a time. Some of you may only be able to mark one word at a time. Let me encourage you if you are one that can only mark one at a time. It will take you longer to complete this assignment than other students, but think of the blessings you will have because you have read and struggled over this book many more times. You will be blessed by your effort.

DAY FOUR

If you have not completed the assignment for key words, please complete that before you move on.

1. Today we are going to discover general subjects or themes covered in Philippians. You may be asking yourself how you are supposed to do that. The subjects that the author is talking about center around those key words you found yesterday. One more layer of that onion is now exposed. Isn't this great? Read through Philippians looking for these themes. Remember that right now you are just looking for things that are obvious. Record these general subjects on the chart on page 12.
2. Looking over what you recorded for step one, do these all tie together into one major theme that runs through the entire book? This is going to be the most important topic of the book. If you are able to find that topic, you can record it on page 12.
3. You now know the important key words. You know the general topics covered in Philippians. You may have even found the major theme that runs through the whole book. Armed with all this information, read through Philippians one more time and look for the author's purpose in writing the book. In some books like John and I John, John is kind enough to plainly state this for us. Look at John 20:30-31, I John 5:13, and Jude 3. Other books, the author doesn't come right out and say it. We have to acquire that information from the key words and topics the author covers. When we can see the general theme running through the entire book, we have caught a glimpse of his purpose. This is why I am writing to you! This is what I want you to see! If you can find his purpose, record that on your worksheets on page 12.
4. Are there any questions that this book has raised in your mind? You can record these on page 12 as well. We are not going to answer them right now, but if you have those questions written out, then as you study and wade deeper into this book, you may begin discovering the answers to your questions.

DAY FIVE

Are you exhausted yet? I know that this is a lot of work, but trust me, it is worth it. In the inductive method, there are three steps: Observation, Interpretation, and Application. In our instant world, we have been trained to do things quickly. Being able to accurately handle the Word of God is not a pursuit that can be attained without a lot of blood, sweat, and tears. People want to jump to the “I want to know what this means and how it applies to me.” They want someone else to put the time and effort into the observation and just give them the interpretation and application. The truth of the matter is that the Observation is vital to our Christian walk. If we rely on everyone else to do the work for us, then we have gained little or nothing that can sustain us through life’s trials and hardships. We find ourselves standing on the sand when the storms come

wishing that we were on the rock instead. It takes time to build on the rock. The easy, quick path leads to the sand. Persevere and you will stand!

We are going to work on an “At a Glance Chart” today. This is where you are going to record all the information that you worked so hard to glean. This will help us to see the book as a whole in one place. You will find this chart on page 13. We are going to walk through filling out this chart step by step together.

1. Before you start, begin with prayer. Ask God to reveal His truth to your heart.
2. Read through the book of Philippians.
3. Read through the book of Philippians. No, that wasn’t a mistake. I wanted you to read it second time. If you have done all your work this week, that makes at least ten times that you have read it. Is it becoming familiar to you? Is it beginning to feel like an old friend? That is the purpose. Remember - you are gleaning the results of that observation process.
4. Begin filling out the chart on the left side of the page with the author, recipient, purpose, and key words. You should have all this information on your worksheets from page 9-12.
5. Next record the major theme of the book in the top left-hand box, Use as many words as necessary but stick with just main ideas.
6. Continue down the column and see if you can come up with the major theme(s) for each chapter.

7. When you are satisfied that you have recorded the major themes, we now want to turn them into titles for each chapter (leave the book title blank right now) and record them in the right-side column. Here are a couple of rules for chapter titles. Do your best to follow them but don't let them frustrate you.
 - a. Try to use no more than four words.
 - b. Use at least one key word in your title.
 - c. Make it distinctive from the other chapter titles.
 - d. Make it descriptive. (it should describe what is in the chapter)
 - e. If possible, use a portion of a particular verse. (that will become your key verse of the chapter).
8. Now try to come up with a book title that you will record in the top right-hand box. Follow the same rules as above. This book title should encompass all the chapter titles. You should be able to see how each of the chapters fits into the book title. Some people do really well with these titles. Others have great difficulty with them. If you are one of those people, that's okay. The fact that you are wrestling with the assignment, it is forcing you to think differently about the information you have acquired this week. The more you do this, the easier it does become. But be assured that you are learning just by going through the process!
9. Can you see any divisions in this short book of Philippians? Some books, like Romans can be broken down into smaller sections. Romans 1-11 are doctrinal while chapters 12-16 are practical. Did you notice any of those kinds of divisions in Philippians? If so, record them below.

Well you made it through the week. I know this has been an extensive amount of work, but we have now laid an important foundation on which to build over the next many weeks. Be joyful for the opportunity presented to you to know your Heavenly Father in a deeper, richer way when we come out on the other side.

God (triangle) Jesus Christ (triangle) Spirit (Holy Spirit) (cloud) holy (cloud) unholy (cloud)

covenant (rectangle) bless (cloud) curse (cloud) circumcised (underline)

die (death) (arch) Israel (the man, nation, people) (star) sin (iniquity, transgression) (cloud)

remnant (underline) eternal life (underline)

devil (evil spirits, mediums, serpent) (devil) land (Israel's land given by God) (underline)

sign (octagon) law (commandments) (arch) tabernacle (tent of meeting, temple, house) (underline) nations (underline)

righteous (underline) unrighteous (underline) atonement (underline) wrath (underline)

redeem (redemption, redeemer) (cloud) the coming of the Lord (His coming) (cloud)

cry (circle) pray (cloud) listen (hear) (cloud) love (heart) (God's love) (heart)

grace (underline) suffer (affliction, trial, tribulation) (underline) repent (underline)

kingdom (God's or man's) (crown) believe (faith, truth) (cloud)

gospel (megaphone) day of the Lord ("that day" if a synonym) (underline)

references to time (clock) double underline all geographical locations (underline)

Cursory Observations of the Book of Philippians

Author:

Who:

What:

When:

Where:

Why:

How:

Recipient

Who:

What:

When:

Where:

Why:

How:

Type of Literature:

Atmosphere:

Historical References (Religious/Cultural):

Key Words:

General Subjects:

Major Theme of Book:

Purpose for Writing:

Personal Insights:

Questions Raised:

Philippians At a Glance Chart

Themes and Titles Chart		
Themes		Titles
Author:		
Recipient:	Book	
Purpose:	Chapter 1	
Key Words:	2	
	3	
	4	

Last week we looked at the book of Philippians from many different angles. You should have read it at least ten times. It was a lot of work and a lot of effort, but I hope you concluded that it was well worth it!

You would think that now, we should be able to dive right into it. Hold on. That is not until next week. We still have a little more ground work that needs to be done. This week will help us understand the times, settings, and the author a little better.

There are some who don't like Paul because of a statement that he makes in this very book. In Philippians 3:17 Paul states, ". . . join in following my example, and observe those who walk according to the pattern you have in us". Paul says almost the same thing in I Corinthians 11:1 when he tells the church in Corinth, "Be imitators of me, just as I am of Christ". Who does he think he is making statements like that? Paul was a man of God and a man with a mission. We need to understand this man better in order to understand how he can call us to have joy in all circumstances. That is our goal for this week.

DAY ONE

1. Remember what you learned last week. Begin your time every day in prayer. Ask God to open the eyes of your understanding and allow you to see Him clearly as you study His Word.
2. Read through Philippians. You should be used to this and comfortable; however, there is an inherent danger in that. When we become too comfortable, we become complacent. We skim over it, think we know it. Try to approach Philippians with new eyes. As you read record (with their reference) any people, places and time references. Record again any reference that gives information about historical, cultural, and religious references. Don't go into detail! I will start you off with the first couple. There is more room on the next page if you need it.
 - With Timothy (1:1)
 - Church of Philippi (1:1)
 - imprisoned for gospel (1:7)
 - Praetorian guard (1:13)

3. One of the first things you should have noticed is that Paul and Timothy are together while writing this letter to the church at Philippi. Who was Timothy? When did Paul and Timothy first meet? What was their relationship? Where is Philippi? What was Philippi like? How did they hear the gospel message? Why were they writing to this church? See how we used the 5 W's and H questions? Do you know what other book of the Bible you might be able to look at to answer some of these questions?

4. Let's start by learning all we can about the church and the city of Philippi. Before we look anywhere else, does the Bible have anything else to say about them? There are several ways to go about answering that question. If you have a concordance in the back of your Bible or a Strong's concordance, you can look for the words "Philippi" and "Philippians" to see where they are mentioned in the Bible other than the book of Philippians. I will give you a hint - there are only three places. When you find them record them below and then take time to read them in the context of the chapter.

5. How are the two occurrences in Acts related? Are they referring to the same time? Are there two separate occasions? If you don't know, don't worry about it. You will be able to answer that with tomorrow's lesson.

DAY TWO

1. Yesterday you saw that Philippi was mentioned twice in the book of Acts. What kind of literature is Acts?

2. Read Acts 15:36-17:1. Before you read, look over the questions below. When you are done reading answer the questions.
 - a. How did Paul and Timothy meet each other?

 - b. How did they come to hear about Philippi?

 - c. How did they come to the decision to go to Philippi?

 - d. Is there any mention to the people meeting in a synagogue in Philippi?
If not, where did they worship?

 - e.
Paul and Timothy came to Philippi on Paul's second missionary journey. Look at the map located on page 21 of this lesson. Read through Acts 15:36-17:1 again. This time, using a colored pencil, see how much of the second missionary journey you can trace.

 - f. If you have maps in your Bible or access to the internet, see if you can find a map of Paul's first and third missionary journey. Put them on the map, each in a different color. You will run out of map, so do what you can.

- g. Record anything of significance about the church in Philippi, how the gospel came to them, or events that happened while they were there.

DAY THREE

Over the next several days, we are going to get to know Paul better. You want to understand where he came from and how he became this man of zeal to carry the gospel straight to Caesar's feet.

1. Read Acts 6:1-9:31.
2. Record the major events that happen in Saul/Paul's life. Note the change in his zeal.

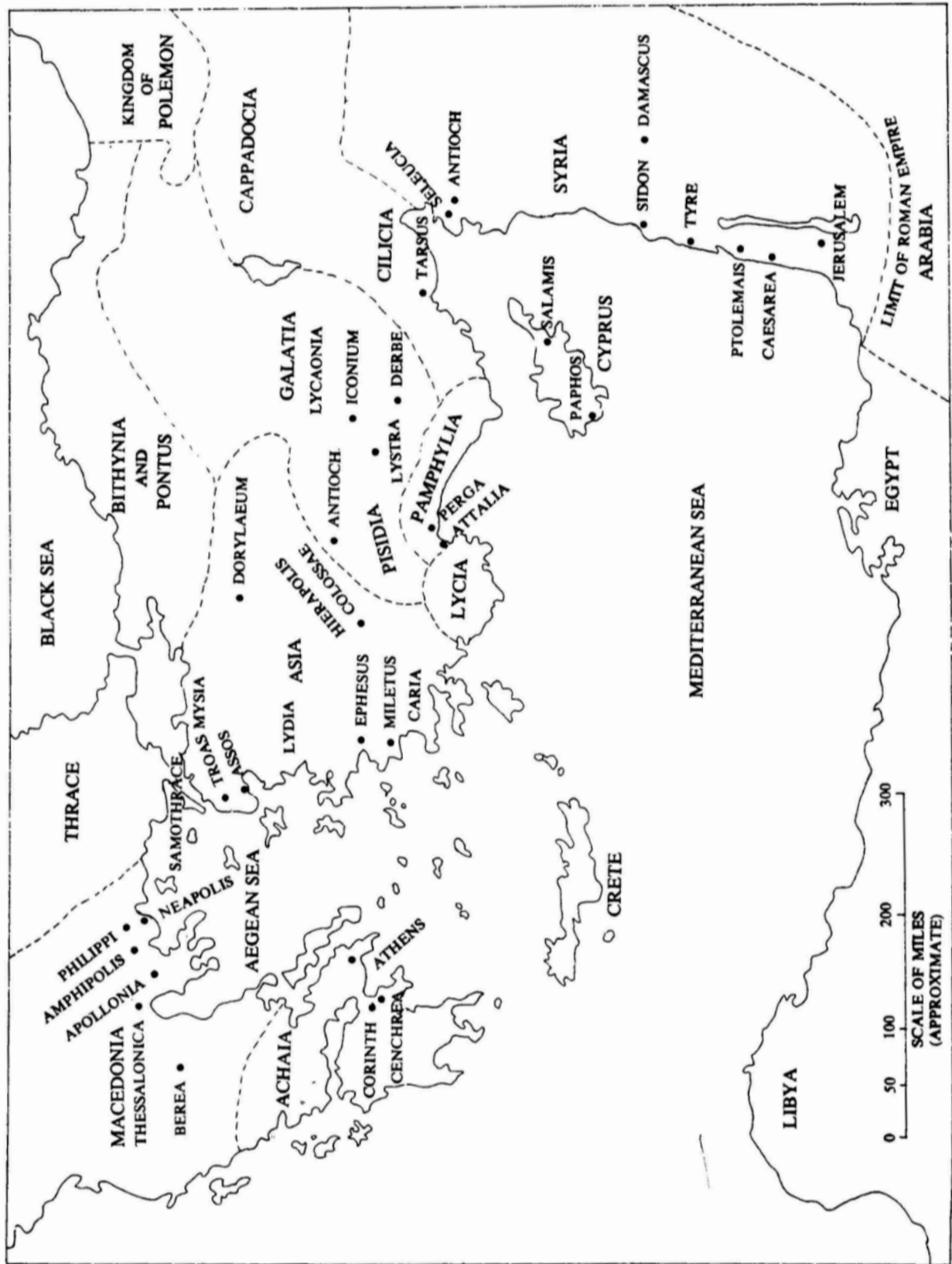
DAY FOUR AND FIVE

You will be reading through a longer passage this time, so we are going to spread this out over two days. Read through all the steps before beginning. This will help you to spread the work out over the two days.

1. Prayerfully read Acts 20:1-28:31. As you read through this, ask your Teacher, the Holy Spirit, to help you see the heart, the desire, the zeal of Paul. Your goal is to understand who he is and what he did so that you can understand why he could say, "Be imitators of me, just as I am of Christ".
2. List the major events that take place throughout these chapters. Be sure to include chapter and verse.

3. What was Paul's final destination, his goal, as seen in Acts 28?
4. How long was his imprisonment in Rome according to Acts 28, and what kind of imprisonment was it? Where did it take place?
5. Read II Timothy 1:8-18, 4:6-22, and Philippians 1:12-26. Is this the same imprisonment or different ones? Give reasons to support your answer.
6. There is a "Chronological Table of Paul's Life" on pages 22-28 of this lesson. Look over this as a review of events in Paul's life. Question marks mean that the dates are unsure.
7. If you have time and want to do a little more study, you can check out resource books or the internet to obtain information about the Roman Empire and Paul's imprisonments. Record what you learn on a separate piece of paper.

Philippians
Lesson 2 - Overview



Chronological Table of Paul's Life

dates are still disputed among scholars

Year	The Life of Paul	Books Written	Historical Events
AD 4			Augustus (27 BC – AD 14)
c. 5	Born—an Israelite—in Tarsus of Cilicia (Acts 22:3; Phil 3:5)		
	A Roman citizen by birthright (Acts 22:28)		
7			Judea becomes a Roman Imperial province
14			Census of Caesar and Tiberius
			Tiberius (AD 14–37)
c.15-20	At the school of Gamaliel, Jerusalem (Acts 22:3)		
26			Pilate begins serving as procurator of Judea
28			John the Baptist executed by Herod Antipas
30			Crucifixion of Christ
31(?)	A Pharisee (Phil 3:5)		
c. 32	Present at Stephen's stoning (Acts 7:58; 8:1)		
c.33-34	Persecutor of the church (Acts 8:1-3; Phil 3:6)		

Chronological Table of Paul's Life

c.33-34	Persecutor of the church (Acts 8:1-3; Phil 3:6)		
34	Conversion on the Road to Damascus (Acts 9:1-9)		
	Goes to Damascus (Acts 9:10-19)		
	Travels to Arabia and remains there (Gal 1:17)		
35			
36			Imprisonment of Herod Agrippa
37			
	Returns to Damascus then exits the city for safety (Gal 1:17; Acts 9:20-25; 2 Cor 11:32-33)		
	Goes up to Jerusalem (Acts 9:26-29; Gal 1:18)		Caligula becomes emperor at the death of Tiberius
	Goes back to Tarsus for safety (Acts 9:30)		
38			
39			Herod Antipas deposed by Caligula and exiled to Gaul
40			
41			Caligula murdered
42			Cladius declared emperor
			Famine in Rome
43			Roman campaigns against Britain
44			Death of Herod Agrippa I
45			
46			
	Barnabas travels to Tarsus in order to seek Saul (Acts 11:25)		

Chronological Table of Paul's Life

47	Goes to Antioch with Barnabas teaching and many people (Acts 11:26)			
	Agabus prophesies a famine (Acts 11:27, 28)			
	Aid sent to Jerusalem through Barnabas and Saul (Acts 11:29, 30)			
	Barnabas and Saul return with John Mark (Acts 12:25)			
	Barnabas and Saul "separated" and sent out (Acts 13:2, 3)			
	They travel from Antioch to Seleucia, then to Cyprus (Acts 13:4)	First Missionary Journey		
48	While on Cyprus they go to Salamis and Paphos (Acts 13:5-12)			
	From Paphos they go to Perga of Pamphylia where John Mark departs for home (Acts 13:13)			
	Ministry in Antioch of Pisidia (Acts 13:14-50)			
	At Iconium (Acts 13:51 - 14:6)			
	Flees to Lystra and Derbe, preaching the gospel (Acts 14:6-7)			
	In Lystra Paul and Barnabas are mistaken for gods (Acts 14:8-18)			
	Stoned at Lystra, supposed to be dead, but re-enters the city (Acts 14:19-20)			
	Departs with Barnabas to Derbe, preaching the gospel (Acts 14:20-21)			
	They return to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch to strengthen disciples and appoint elders (Acts 14:21-24)			
	From Pisidia they returned to Antioch of Syria and reported their journey to the church (Acts 14:24-28)			

Chronological Table of Paul's Life

49	Goes up to the Jerusalem Council with Barnabas (Acts 15:1-29; Galatians 2:1)		Claudius expels Jews from Rome and blames it on Chrestus (a possible reference to Christ)
	Paul and Barnabas return to Antioch of Syria, teaching and preaching (Acts 15:30-35; Galatians 2:11-14)		
	Contention over John Mark; Barnabas and John Mark sail to Cyprus (Acts 15:36-39)		
	Paul and Silas depart, going through Syria and Cilicia strengthening the churches (Acts 15:40-41)	Second Missionary Journey	Galatians (?)
50	Goes to Derbe and Lystra and picks up Timothy, strengthening the churches (Acts 16:1-5)		The rise of the Zealots
	They go to Troas and Paul sees a vision of a Macedonian man (Acts 16:6-10)		
51	They sail from Troas to Neapolis (Acts 16:11)		
	To Philippi where Paul meets Lydia (Acts 16:12-15)		
	Paul and Silas imprisoned after casting out a demon from a slave girl (Acts 16:16-25)		
	Prison doors opened miraculously and the jailer saved (Acts 16:25-34)		
	Departs from Philippi (Acts 16:35-40)		
	They passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia (Acts 17:1)		
	At Thessalonica and preached Christ, but had to flee (Acts 17:1-10)		
	At Berea where he leaves Silas and Timothy (Acts 17:10-14)		
At Corinth and rejoined with Silas and Timothy (Acts 18:1-17)	Galatians (?)		
	1 Thessalonians		

Chronological Table of Paul's Life

52			2 Thessalonians	
53	Paul returns to Antioch after stopping at Ephesus, Caesarea, and Jerusalem (Acts 18:18-22)	Third Missionary Journey		
	Travels through Galatia and Phrygia strengthening the disciples (Acts 18:23)			
	Passes through the upper regions on his way to Ephesus (Acts 19:1)			
	Ministry in Ephesus (Acts 19:1-41)			
54				Claudius poisoned by his wife
			1 Corinthians	Nero becomes Emperor
55				
56	Goes to Macedonia (Acts 20:1)	Third Missionary Journey	2 Corinthians	Nero (AD 54-68)
	Travels to Greece (Acts 20:2)		Romans	
	Goes back to Macedonia (Acts 20:3)			
	At Troas (Acts 20:4-12)			
	Assos. Mitylene. Chios. Samos. Togyllium. (Acts 20:13-15)			
	Paul exhorts the Ephesian elders at Miletus (Acts 20:15-38)			
	Cos. Rhodes. Patara. Phoenicia. (Acts 21:1, 2)			
	At Tyre (Acts 21:3-6)			
	At Ptolemais (Acts 21:7)			
At Caesarea (Acts 21:8-14)				

Chronological Table of Paul's Life

57	At Jerusalem (Acts 21:15-25)		
	Paul gets arrested in the temple and causes a mob (Acts 21:26-36)		
	Addresses the mob (Acts 21:37 - 22:21)		
	Paul's citizenship saves him from scourging (Acts 22:22-29)		
	Before the Sanhedrin (Acts 22:30 - 23:10)		
	Jesus tells Paul that he will bear witness of him in Rome (Acts 23:11)		
	The plot against Paul's life (Acts 23:12-22)		
	Sent safely to Felix the governor (Acts 23:23-35)		
	Paul before Felix (Acts 24:1-27)		
59	Paul before Festus (Acts 25:1-12)		
	Paul's appeal honored - turning point towards Rome (Acts 25:12)	Journey to Rome	Assassination of Agrippina, the mother of Nero
	Paul before Agrippa (Acts 25:13 - 26:32)		
	Paul departs for Rome and sails to Myra (Acts 27:1-5)		
	They sail to Fair Havens on Crete (Acts 27:6-8)		
	In spite of Paul's warning, they set sail again (Acts 27:9-12)		
	In the midst of a terrible storm they get shipwrecked on the island of Malta (Acts 27:13 - 28:1)		
	At Malta (Acts 28:2-10)		
	Sails to Syracuse (Acts 28:11, 12)		
	Sails to Rhegium then Puteoli (Acts 28:13)		

Philippians
Lesson 2 - Overview

60	Arrives in Rome (Acts 28:14-16)	First Roman Imprisonment		
	Meets with the Jews (Acts 28:17-28)			
	Preaches the gospel without hindrance for two whole years in his rented house (Acts 28:30-31).		Philemon	
61			Colossians	
			Ephesians	
62			Philippians	
	Released from Roman imprisonment		1 Timothy (c. 62-64)	
63	Further missionary work		Titus (c. 62-64)	The Great Fire in Rome; Major persecution of Christianity begins
64				Josephus pleads the interests of the Jews before Rome
			2 Timothy (c. 64-66)	Nero constructs the Domus Aurea
65				
66	Second imprisonment and martyrdom under Nero	Second Roman Imprisonment		The beginning of the Jewish Revolt against Rome
67				Josephus surrenders to the Romans
68				Nero commits suicide
69				Vespian prevails as the Emperor amidst civil war
70				Destruction of the temple under Titus

You spent two weeks setting the background of Philippians. You became familiar with the book. You learned about the city of Philippi, and you learned more about the author, Paul. You discovered the key words which led you to the main topics of the letter. Now it is time to begin looking at the book chapter by chapter.

The focus of your study this week is Philippians 1. This week you will see how chapter one fits into the scheme of the whole book. Every chapter, every paragraph, every verse helps the author achieve his purpose. This week you will be working on a chapter study. If you are new to this type of study, we will walk through this process step by step.

Let's get started.

DAY ONE

You are going to be doing a lot of work this week with your Observation Worksheets. You marked key words on week one. This week you are going to be marking more key words and phrases, lists, contrasts, comparisons, conclusions, and time references. You will be looking at paragraph divisions, key verses, and answering the 5 W's and H questions.

When you are done, you should be able to see how this chapter helps Paul to communicate God's message to the believers in Philippi.

This may sound intimidating, but if you follow the directions step-by-step, you will do just fine. Remember that this work is what will anchor you to the Solid Rock that will hold you fast when the storms of life assail you.

1. Begin your time with prayer. Ask God to open your eyes of understanding as you seek the truths contained in this chapter.
2. Remember that you are only working on one chapter at a time now. Read through Philippians 1. As you read chapter one, think through the 5 W's and H questions. As you read, record any questions you may have about this chapter.

3. Read through Philippians 1 again. Record the answers to the following questions.
 - a. Who is speaking?
 - b. How do you know he is speaking?
 - c. When was he writing this letter?
 - d. To whom is he speaking?
 - e. From where is the letter being written?
 - f. Why is this letter being written?

DAY TWO

1. In week one, you read through your Observation Worksheets and marked key words and phrases that were used throughout the book. Key words or phrases are explained on pages 3-4 in Lesson 1. You should have marked those key words on an index card. Read through chapter one and make sure that you didn't miss any markings of those key words. If you missed those markings, take time to mark them now.
2. Read through chapter one again. If you haven't marked God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit as key words, you will want to do that now. Any mention of the Godhead is always key to a passage. I mark any mentions of God with a purple (representing royalty) triangle (for the trinity). I use a red cross to mark Jesus, and a purple dove for the Holy Spirit. Make sure to mark any pronouns that refer to a member of the Godhead. If you are unsure about how to mark something, leave it go for the time being. As you study, it may become clearer.

3. Are there any words that are key words in just this chapter? If so you want to mark them at this time and note them on your index card.
4. Now what do you do with all those key word markings? You are going to make lists of **EVERY** key word. These lists can be made on computer, on a separate piece of paper, or in the side margins on your Observation Worksheets. Here is an example taken out of the book of I Thessalonians 1:5-8. The Gospel is a key word. Here is what you may want to write in the side column.

The Gospel

- came in word (5)
- came in power (5)
- came in Holy Spirit (5)
- came in full conviction (5)
- came by example (5)
- received with much tribulation (6)
- received with joy of the H.S (6)

DAY THREE

Today you may have to read through Philippians several times. Each time you are going to look for and mark something different. You may not find all of these, but you want to look for them anyway. Read through all the steps before you start.

1. Look for any **lists** that may be in the chapter. For example, in Galatians 5, Paul tells us about the deeds of the flesh (19-21) and the fruit of the Spirit (22-23). You can mark these with numbers in the text of your Observation Worksheets, or you can make a list down the side margin of your paper. I will put simple lists like this in a red box, and I will number them like this

19 Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are:¹immorality,²impurity,
³sensuality,
20⁴idolatry,⁵sorcery,⁶enmities,⁷strife,⁸jealousy,⁹outbursts of anger,¹⁰disputes,
¹¹dissensions, factions,
21¹³envying,¹⁴drunkenness,¹⁵carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you,
just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit
the kingdom of God.

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is¹love,²joy,³peace,⁴patience,⁵kindness,⁶goodness,
⁷faithfulness,
23⁸gentleness,⁹self-control; against such things there is no law.

2. Read through Philippians 1 again and look for **contrasting words and phrases**. Contrasting ideas are two ideas that have opposite or dissimilar qualities. Words like “but,” “however,” “although,” “contrary,” “yet,” “nevertheless” are all clues that you are seeing a contrast. I put a blue lightning bolt across my contrasting word and then circle the two things that are being contrasted. It is very helpful to record these contrasts in the side margins.
3. Read through Philippians one last time for today. This time you are looking for **words of comparison**. You are looking for words such as “like,” “as,” “as it were,” “in the same way,” “likewise,” “just as,” “so too.” I circle the comparison word in red and then draw arrows to the ideas that are being compared. Again, you may want to write these in the side margins on your Observation Worksheets.
4. That’s it for the day. We will come back and look at this with fresh eyes tomorrow. Keep on pressing on!

DAY FOUR

1. Today as you read through Philippians 1, you want to look for **terms of conclusion**. Look for words such as “wherefore,” “finally,” “therefore.” Mark the word and then note what the therefore is there for! I put the word in a green box and then underline what the conclusion is.
2. Next, you are going to look for and mark **expressions of time**. This could be days, feasts, or words like “then,” “after this,” “until,” and “when.” I make a simple blue clock over top of the time word.
3. Read Philippians 1 and mark any **locations** you find. These could be areas, cities, a synagogue, or a house. I use a green compass to mark these. If they are moving from one city to another, it is good to try to see where both locations are in relationship to each other.
4. This time through the chapter you will be looking for major characters (who), events and doctrines (what) that are covered in the chapter. You might want to start a chart to keep in your notebook where you can record all this information. Record this information along with chapter and verse.

Major Characters

Major Doctrines

Major Events

DAY FIVE

This is the last step in overviewing a chapter. You will look at the individual paragraphs and then at the chapter as a whole. This may be the most difficult part of the overview, but don't get frustrated. Do the best you can. You may want to do your work in pencil, that way as you study and want to change something you can easily do that.

On your Observation Worksheets you will see lines between two verses. These are paragraphs. So in Philippians 1, you will see that there are four paragraphs: verses 1-2, 3-11, 12-26, and 27-30.

1. Let's start with a chapter title. A chapter title is going to be the main theme of the chapter. All of the paragraphs will support or build the idea of the chapter. As you look for your chapter title, follow these couple of steps.
 - a. four words or less
 - b. contains at least one key word
 - c. distinctive from other chapter titles
 - d. find a key verse that supports the chapter title
2. Write your chapter title on the line at the beginning of the chapter.
3. Record your key verse with your title.
4. Now work on each paragraph. Follow the same rules as the chapter title. Record the paragraph titles along the left side of your Observation Worksheets between the lines that separate the paragraphs. I will give you an example from John chapter 1.

John 1 - The Word Made Flesh	Key Verse:14
1:1-5 - Was in the Beginning (When)	
1:6-8 - Was the Light (What)	
1:9-13 - Was Rejected By His Own (What)	
1:14-18 - Was Full of Grace and Truth (What)	
1:19-28 - Was Witnessed by John (What)	
1:29-34 - Was the Lamb of God (Who)	
1:35-42 - Was the Messiah (Who)	
1:43-51 - Was the Son of God (Who)	

Notice that the paragraph titles answer the 5W's and H questions. Also, each paragraph title supports or explains the chapter title. The Word made flesh was in the beginning. The Word made flesh was the light. The Word made flesh was rejected by His own. The Word made flesh was full of grace and truth. You can see how the paragraphs all support the chapter title.

Again, this may be the most difficult part of your Bible study, but realize that the more you do this, the easier it becomes. This comes naturally to some people and harder to others. Your work doesn't need to be perfect. You do not need to create a poetic masterpiece. It doesn't need to be catchy or flashy. Do not let this step defeat you or make you feel inadequate in any way. Remember that the more you have to think and process this information, the more it will become part of you.

If you made it through this lesson, congratulations. You are learning to be a workman that need not be ashamed being able to accurately handle the Word of truth - II Timothy 2:15.

You have spent two weeks overviewing the book of Philippians and one week overviewing chapter one. This week you will now dig down to the nitty-gritty. What does it mean (interpretation) and how do I live that out in my life (application). This is where we bite into the meat of God's Word. Savor its sweetness and its capacity to nourish and strengthen you in the days and weeks to come.

DAY ONE

If you have access to a computer, I am about to give you a website that you want to put in your favorites bar. The site is this: https://www.preceptaustin.org/inductive_bible_study. I don't know who put this together, but it is a fantastic resource. Once on the site you should discover a bullet list of related articles. The first one is Inductive Bible Study - Observation. The second is Inductive Bible Study - Interpretation. The third is Inductive Bible Study - Application. Your job today is to read through the sites on interpretation and application. There is a wealth of information on these two sites. If you are a fast reader, you may want to go back to the first one and read about the observation process which you did during the first three weeks of this study. You will come to understand the importance of each of these steps and how they each fit into the inductive method of Bible study.

If you do not have access to a computer and are unable to look at this website, you may want to think about purchasing a book called How to Study Your Bible. You can pick this up on Amazon for under \$15 for a new book. There are also used books out there, and it is available on Kindle. This book can go by several names so I will list them for you, so you know that you are purchasing the right book. How to Study Your Bible: Discover the Life-Changing Approach to God's Word **OR** The New How to Study Your Bible: Discover the Life-Changing Approach to God's Word **OR** How to Study Your Bible: The Lasting Rewards of the Inductive Method **OR** How to Study Your Bible Precept Upon Precept. If you have one of these books, you want to read what it has to say about Application and Interpretation (Observation if you have time.)

If you don't have access to the computer or the book, never fear, there is an assignment for you as well. Read Philippians 1 at least three times. As you do, you are going to ask yourself the following questions and write your insights on a separate piece of paper. Why did Paul say what he said and how does that fit into the purpose of the book. What can I learn from Paul's life that I can apply to my own life? What can I learn about the people of Philippi and how does that relate to my own spiritual walk?

DAY TWO

1. Paul often refers to himself as a bondservant (bondslave). The Greek word for bondservant is “doulos,” Strong’s #1401. You can look that word up in your study tools, but just so you don’t miss the significance, I want to give you a brief definition of this word. It means a slave, one who gives himself up to another’s will for the purpose of advancing his cause, devoted to another to the disregard of one’s own interests. Let’s go to the Bible and see how this was introduced. Read Deuteronomy 15:12-18 and answer the following questions.
 - a. List the three reasons why someone would be willing to become a bondservant.
 - 1)
 - 2)
 - 3)
 - b. How long was one to remain a bondservant?
 - c. How was the bondservant to be marked? Compare that to what Paul said in Galatians 6:17. Record what you learn about our lives.
 - d. In the Bible soldiers, slaves, and temple servants all wore brands. Look up the following verses and record what you learn about each one of these and how this may relate to you as a Christian.
 - 1) I Corinthians 3:16-17
 - 2) I Corinthians 7:21-23

3) II Timothy 2:3-4

e. Read the following passages and record how they relate to what you learned about a bondservant in Deuteronomy.

1) Matthew 10:24-25

2) I Corinthians 3:21-4:7

3) I Corinthians 6:19-20

4) Galatians 1:10

f. Now take everything you have learned point by point and write out in list or outline form what it means to be a bondservant.

2. One last exercise today to take what you have learned and personalize it. This is the application part. Don't miss this! This is the whole purpose of studying the Bible. You are going to personalize each of the points you made in the last step. If you are wondering how to do that, I will give you an example. If one of your points was that a bondservant belongs to his master you may write something like this -

Lord, I acknowledge that I am nothing more than a slave to You. I have given up my life so that I may serve You with all that I am. Help me to always remember that I was bought with a price and I am no longer my own. Everything I do, say, or think needs to be for the purpose of pleasing my Master and furthering Your Kingdom!

This is where the proverbial rubber meets the road. Be diligent in this step. This is part of the transforming of our lives by the renewing of our minds by the Word of God.

DAY THREE

Paul's letter was addressed to three groups of people. Over the next couple of days, you are going to take a look at each of these groups. You should know this by now with the number of times you have read Philippians 1. Who are the three groups (see if you can list them without looking)?

1. You are going to learn the process of completing a word study for each of these words. I will walk you through the steps, but you can go back to the preceptaustin website and look up how to do a word study and go into even greater detail than I did here. Pray before you get started and ask God to help you be a diligent student of His Word. It takes time, but you CAN do it!
2. The first step is to look at the word that you want to study. So the first overall group that Paul mentioned was the "saints." With whatever resources you have find a complete definition for this word. If you don't have a computer or study books, try a dictionary. The Strong's number (just to get you started) is Greek #40. Record what you discover. There are several ways the idea of a "saint" is used in the Old Testament, but you will see it holds the same meaning as you are going to find with the Greek word "hagious."

3. Saints are those who have been set apart for God's purposes. God's people in the Old Testament were also set apart from the other nations. The word holy or set apart is sometimes used. So the next step in a word study is to see how this word is used in Scriptures throughout the Bible. If you look up the word or the Greek number for "saint" or the Hebrew number for "holy" or "set apart" you will find many Scriptures references. Your job would be to wade through those Scriptures and find out and record which ones are applicable to your study. I will help you as these two words could be a bit overwhelming. Let's narrow it down to these five passages. As you read the verses, record what you learn about God's people that makes them different. What sets them apart from those around them?

a) Exodus 19:3-6

b) Leviticus 20:22-26

c) Deuteronomy 14:2

d) I Peter 1:13-16; 2:9

e) II Corinthians 6:14-7:1

4. Time to get personal. How has your study spoken to your heart today? Is there something that you learned about yourself? Is there something that needs to be changed in your life, and if so, take that to God and make it a matter of prayer. Write out your thoughts below, including your prayer as you seek God's help to change (transform) your heart as you study His Word.

DAY FOUR

Yesterday, you learned the steps necessary to accomplish a complete word study. Here is an overview.

Step 1 - look up the word in its original language and find a complete definition.

Step 2 - look up all the references that use that word, skim over them, and sort through them to find the ones that are applicable to your study.

Step 3 - look up each of the Scriptures and record what you learn about that word and its usage.

1. Today's study is going to focus on the second group of people mentioned - overseers (bishops in King James Version). Find the Greek word and write down the number, the transliteration (the Greek word written with English letters), and its definition. Record your information.

2. Now look for all the places that it is mentioned in the Bible. Since this is a reference to a position in the church, it is a New Testament term only. Hopefully you were able to find the Strong's number which is #1985. Can you find all the places it is mentioned in the New Testament? This is a much easier word to deal with than "saint" or "holy." There are only four places it is used other than Philippians 1:1. If you can find them, list them below. **DON'T LOOK AHEAD**, try to do this on your own.

3. If you are doing a study like this on your own, you don't want to just read the one verse that is listed. We had talked about the importance of the context of a verse. Anytime you are looking up verses, it is important that you read them in their context (verses surrounding them). For the rest of the time today, you are going to take the time to read these in their context and record what you find out about them. Let's start with the passage with the least amount of information, and when you read it, you are going to ask yourself if you read the right passage.
 - a) I Peter 2:25 - Can you find the word that would mean overseer in that verse?

 - b) I Timothy 3:1-7 - List the qualifications of an elder/overseer/bishop. (Titus 1:5-9 is a cross-reference so list anything you may learn from that passage as well.)

DAY FIVE

1. You should know the drill by now. Let's see how well you remember the steps. Can you list the steps (without looking back) to accurately complete a word study?

2. Today we are going to look at the last group of people, the deacons. Start by looking up the word in the original language and recording its number, transliteration, and definition.

3. Next, look up all the places that this word (or the number) occurs in the New Testament. There are more verses this time, but they are worth looking at because you may be very surprised where the word shows up and how it is used. Record all the places it is used below.

4. I am going to help you sift through all these verses, by directing your attention to certain ones and even adding one that you didn't come up with in your study. We will talk about that one when we get to it.
 - a) Matthew 20:26 - Can you find the word? Since the church hasn't begun yet during the time period of the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) the word is translated the same in every reference, so don't look up any other references in these four books.

b) Acts 6:1-6 - Deacon is not used here, but theologians agree that this was the beginning of the position of deacon. If you are wondering how you would find that on your own doing a word study, the answer is that you wouldn't, but if you researched the word deacon at all, this reference would have probably come up. Is this reference vital to our study? No, it is not. You would still understand what a deacon was without this one passage. Remember - the main things are the plain things and the plain things are the main things. You're not going to miss the vital truths because you don't have computer access or a library full of books! Record why this position was created.

c) All the other Scriptures that you recorded in Romans, I & II Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Colossians, I Thessalonians, and I Timothy 4:6 all use the word servant, minister, or worker. But there is one other passage that we do want to look at in more detail and that is I Timothy 3:8-13. This passage lists the qualifications of a deacon. List those qualifications below.

For me to live is Christ, to die is gain. What must it feel like to live in such a way that death is nothing to be feared, but something to look forward to. What happens when a Christian dies? What happens when an unbeliever dies? Paul understood that death would be the beginning of life for him - life lived in the presence of his beloved Savior. Do you have that confidence? You can. The answers are there. What treasures are in store for you this week.

DAY ONE

1. Read through Philippians 1:3-11 several times. Record what you believe to be the atmosphere of this portion of the letter.
2. According to these verses, how does Paul feel about the believers in Philippi?
3. These verses include a prayer that Paul prays for the Philippian people. List what Paul prays for these people.

Paul's Specific Requests	Reasons for those Requests

4. You have read through the entire book of Philippians. You have looked at the historical context, the time period, that this letter was written. In light of what you know to this point, why do you think Paul prayed what he prayed for the Philippian believers? Record your insights on the chart on the previous page.
5. In verse 11 Paul speaks of them being “filled with the fruit of righteousness.” What do you think Paul meant by that statement? According to his prayer, how would that be accomplished?

DAY TWO

If you have access to commentaries (there are plenty online), you can spend today looking at what they have to say about Philippians 1:1-11. Don't go any further than verse 11. Record your insights below.

If you don't have access to a commentary, spend time reading through these verses several times. Outline these verses in detail, in the space below.

DAY FOUR

Paul seemed to look forward to death. In Philippians 1:21, he said that to die was gain. What happens when a Christian dies? What happens when a non-Christian dies. The answers to these questions are the difference between life and death - eternal life and eternal separation from God (the second death). Every Christian needs to know the answer to these questions and how to share those answers with those who desperately need to know. This will be the topic of your study for the next two days. Study well so that you can accurately handle the word of truth and need not be ashamed.

1. When Christ died, He was the first-born from among the dead, the first to enter heaven. His entry into heaven opened the way for a Christian's spirit to go to heaven when he dies. Paul looked forward to death? Why? Answer this question from Philippians 1.

2. There are some that will teach that when a Christian dies, that his body goes to the grave and his soul sleeps until Christ's return. Where does that idea come from and is that what the Bible teaches? This doctrine comes from the interpretation of several passages that deal with the term "sleep" or "asleep" used in conjunction with a Christian's death. What does God's Word say? Look up the the following Scriptures and record what you learn about this topic.
 - a) Acts 7:60

 - b) I Corinthians 11:26-30

 - c) I Corinthians 15:6, 16-18

d) I Thessalonians 4:13-18

e) I Thessalonians 5:9-10

3. From the following Scriptures, explain where a Christian's soul goes when he dies.

a) II Corinthians 5:6-8

b) Philippians 1:21-23

c) I Thessalonians 4:13-18

DAY FIVE

What happens when a non-Christian dies? Where does he go? How long does he remain there? If a person rejects Christ in this life, does he have a second chance? What is his final destination? We need to be prepared to answer these questions if anyone asks us. This is a study that you need to have memorized. As you work through these passages, think through them, meditate on them, picture them in your mind, so you can explain these concepts to anyone young or old. At the end of this lesson, you want to set up a system of cross-references so you can go from verse to verse to explain the destiny of a person who dies who has rejected Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

1. Read Luke 16:19-31. As you read, remember that this incident takes place before the death and resurrection of the Lord and this is why Abraham's bosom is still a part of "Hades."

a) Who is relating this event?

b) Draw a picture of the account in verses 22-26.

c) Abraham said, "They have Moses and the Prophets, let them hear them" (29).
Where could they hear Moses and the Prophets?

d) Abraham said that the rich man's brothers would not be persuaded "if someone rises from the dead."

1) Did one ever rise from the dead?

2) Who taught the reality of hell?

3) Are men persuaded by His testimony?

2. Old Testament "Sheol," a holding place for dead souls, came over to the Greek language as "Hades." It became a temporary holding place for non-believers until the Great White Throne Judgment. After the Great White Throne Judgment, all non-Christians are cast into the lake of fire. This truth is taught in Revelation 20:11-15. Read this passage carefully. Draw out what happens in this passage.

3. "Sheol" and "Hades" are different words than the word "gehenna" which has been translated "hell" or the lake of fire. Look up each reference and make notes about what you learn of the lake of fire or hell-fire. As you look at these passages, write down who is speaking and what you learn about the lake of fire.

a) Matthew 5:22-30

b) Matthew 10:28

c) Matthew 18:9

d) Matthew 23:15, 33

e) Mark 9:43-47

f) Luke 12:5

g) James 3:6

4. Read Hebrews 9:27. Write out the verse below. This would be a great verse to memorize.

5. Read through the following information on "Hades" and "hell."

Hades, Hell, and the Lake of Fire

I. Hades

A. Description

1. The word Hades is a transliteration and not a translation. A transliteration is taking the spelling on a word over into another language using letter equivalents.
2. It means “the unseen.” The Septuagint (Latin translation) uses this word to translate the Hebrew word “Sheol” into the Latin and then Greek transliteration of “Hades.”
3. Hades was the Greek term that was used to speak of the world of those who have departed from this life.
 - a) The righteous dead went to Abraham’s Bosom or Paradise (Luke 16:22-26) where they were to wait for Christ’s death, burial, and resurrection. After Christ’s resurrection, all the righteous dead went to the third heaven where paradise is located (II Corinthians 12:2, 4). Christ was now raised as the first fruits of those who were asleep (I Corinthians 15:20), the first-born from the dead (Colossians 1:18).
 - b) The unrighteous dead go to Hades when they die, but they go to the place set aside for the wicked (Luke 16:23-24). They remain there until the Great White Throne Judgment of Revelation 20:13-14. Hades is a temporary place. According to Revelation 10:14, Hades and death will be thrown into hell.

B. New Testament references to Hades

1. Matthew 11:23; 16:18
2. Luke 10:15; 16:23
3. Acts 2:27, 31
4. Revelation 1:18; 6:8; 20:13-14

C. History

1. The pagan Greeks believed that this was an invisible land where all Greeks went
 - a) The virtuous went to a part called Elysium
 - b) All others went to a part called Tartarus
2. Difference between pagan and Biblical concepts
 - a) pagans thought that this was a final abode
 - b) Bible refers to this as temporary place of confinement of the wicked until the Greek White Throne Judgment. The righteous, at death, go to be with Christ (Philippians 1:23)

II. Hell

A. Description

1. Greek word for hell is “geena” or “gehenna”
2. It is the Lake of Fire
3. Final abode for the wicked (Matthew 5:22; Revelation 19:20)
4. It is already in existence (Matthew 25:41). The word “prepared” is in perfect tense and refers to a past completed action having present results.
5. The first occupants will be the Beast and the False Prophet who will be cast into it at the beginning of the millennium (Revelation 19:20); then, at the end of the 1,000 years, Satan will be released to deceive those who will follow him, and then he will be cast into the Lake of Fire (Revelation 20:10).

B. The New Testament references to Hell

1. Matthew 5:22, 29, 30; 10:28; 19:9; 23:15, 33
2. Mark 9:43, 45, 47
3. Luke 12:5
4. James 3:6

C. History

1. Hell is the English word used for “Ge-Hinnom” or the valley of Ben-hinnom (II Chronicles 33:6)
 - a) It is a deep, narrow valley to the south of Jerusalem
 - b) When Ahaz introduced worship of fire-gods, this place was used by idolatrous Jews to sacrifice their children to Molech
2. After Josiah, the sacrificing of children stopped; then the place became a refuse place of the city
 - a) The bodies of criminals, carcasses of animals, and all sorts of filth were cast into it
 - b) Its narrowness, smoke, and fire were symbols of a future place of punishment

6. Now let's pull all this together. Write out what you have learned from the last two days of study. Draw pictures, set up your system of cross-references, and work on how you would explain the destiny of a person who dies who has rejected Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.” - II Timothy 3:16.

You already know that as a child of God, you have been called to be bondservants of Jesus Christ. By now you should know what that truly means. As a servant of God, you are called to be equipped for every good work. But what equips us to be able to do that? SCRIPTURE! It teaches, reproves, corrects, and trains in righteousness. Philippians 2 will do that for you, if you allow it. Let God work in your life as you wade through this priceless chapter. Walk in a manner worthy by having your mind rightly focused, your heart completely His, and your life given over completely to Jesus Christ so you can say, *“For me to live is Christ, to die is gain.”*

DAY ONE - DAY FOUR

You should know the steps to complete a thorough observation of a chapter. If you need a reminder of the steps you can go back to lesson 3 and review pages 30-34. You have four days to complete this process. Take it slowly, thoughtfully, and prayerfully.

1. Remember that a good observation takes much time, and that time needs to be guided by the Spirit that dwells within. Ask Him to open the eyes of your understanding, and help you to see truth. Also, ask for acceptance of conviction in your life. Many times we shut down when we begin to be convicted for something in our life. Let the Spirit do His work in your heart!
2. As you read through Philippians (many times as you work through the steps of observation), read the chapter out loud as many times as possible. This will help you begin to hide God’s Word in your heart. Some great verses to memorize would be Philippians 2:12-15. You can write these verses on an index card and say them out loud morning, noon, and night, and any other time throughout the day. You will be surprised as to how quickly they will become part of you.

DAY FIVE

1. If you have not completed your Observation Worksheets on Philippians 2, take a couple of minutes to finish them now. Make sure you leave some time to complete the next step for this week.
2. There is rich doctrine in this chapter. Take the time to carefully think through what this chapter teaches you about the topics.

a) Teaching (doctrine) - What does the chapter teach you about the following:

1) God the Father

2) Jesus Christ

3) Holy Spirit

b) Reproof - Where has God shown you error or disobedience in your life?

c) Correction - What instructions does this chapter give you for correcting what is wrong in your life?

- d) Training in Righteousness - What specific instructions does God give to believers in this chapter?

This week you are going to study what it means to suffer for His sake. Philippians 1:29 says, “For to you it has been granted for Christ’s sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake . . .” In our society today, we avoid suffering at all costs. In fact many churches will teach that if you are suffering you are living in sin. If you walk in faith you will be healthy and wealthy, life will be good. That is not what Scripture teaches. That is not the example the Lord Jesus left us when He walked on this earth. What if we are not willing to suffer for His sake? What if we strive to have a nice comfortable life? Is there anything wrong with that? We live in the 21st century, surely we don’t need to live by these antiquated ideas, do we?

Study well this week. The answers are there. Pray that you will be willing to hear and heed what God’s Word teaches you in those areas. Pray that you will understand what it means to suffer for His sake.

DAY ONE - DAY TWO

1. Just a note of how to approach this lesson since it covers two days. My suggestion would be to prayerfully read through each one of the eleven Scriptures today several times. Don’t write anything today, just read, pray, and read again. Tomorrow take the time to read through each Scripture and record any insights you have about suffering. Why do we suffer? Is it necessary? What is the cause? What is its purpose? Who is going to suffer? When you have recorded all the pertinent information, then go to step two where you will be asked to put this all together in a practical way.
 - a) John 15:18-21 - in verses 18 and 20 the “ifs” are first-class condition and can be better translated “since.” The “if” in verse 19 is a second-class condition and can be translated “and it is not true.” You may want to mark these in your Bible since they are vitally important!

- b) Romans 5:3-5

c) Romans 8:16-18 - the “if” in verse 17 is first-class condition and speaks of reality or certainty and, again, can be translated as “since.”

d) Romans 8:28-30

e) II Corinthians 1:7; 4:11-18 - if you have an Amplified Bible, you want to read these verses in that translation. There are many places online that you can pull that passage up in the Amplified Bible like Bible Gateway, Bible Hub, or Blue Letter Bible.

f) Philippians 3:10

g) Colossians 1:24

h) I Thessalonians 3:2-4

i) II Timothy 2:12; 3:10-12 - "endure" is translated "suffer" in the King James Version

j) Hebrews 2:10

k) I Peter 1:6-9; 2:18-25; 4:1; 4:12-5:1; 5:8-10 - if you have access to a concordance or commentary, you may want to check out the words "perfect," "confirm" (stablish in KJ), and "strengthen."

2. As you have read, studied, and meditated on these verses, now take the time to summarize all that you have learned from them. Be thorough and prayerful as you write out your summary below.

SUFFERING IN TODAY'S WORLD

We are living in a time that this idea is not popular. There are many who teach that a Spirit-filled Christian can be healed of all sickness. They teach that if you are not living in prosperity - materially, physically, socially, and emotionally - then you are not filled with the Holy Spirit - that you don't have enough faith. The Word of God does not teach this. Man tends to cling to truths that he likes and then neglects other teachings, causing an imbalance or perversion of the truth. Scripture can never contradict Scripture. We always need to seek the whole counsel of God's Word and proclaim its truths to the world.

DAY THREE

Today is one of those days that you need to be wearing your combat boots. We are going into enemy territory, a place where the enemy has had victory for a long time. The truths you are going to learn will force you to look in the mirror and take a good long look at your own life, and sometimes that means trouncing on some toes.

Are you ready to wade in? Don't rush this lesson. You will not be reading many verses today, but there needs to be much time set aside for processing and applying what you learn.

Why are some believers ridiculed and looked down on? Jude tells us that we need to "earnestly contend for the faith once for all delivered to the saints." If we contend or fight earnestly for our faith, then there are going to be those who look down on us and become angry because they stand in opposition to the truth. However, is it our stand that they have a problem with or our conduct?

Many times we may be doctrinally correct. We serve in our church. We witness to those we meet. We pray and read our Bibles. We live a "good" life, following God's Word; yet we are divided with one another. We are impatient and angry with those who don't agree with us - who don't see things our way. Maybe we are Biblically spot on, but our conduct is wrong.

As you read these Scriptures, ask God to show you what is in your heart. How do you respond to the people around you? Do you demonstrate love and compassion, or are you intolerant and harsh? Ask God to give you a teachable spirit and help you to be transformed by His Word. Ask Him to break your heart by what breaks His. When Jesus walked this earth, how did He respond to the sinners around Him? When they didn't understand or chose to walk away, did He become angry or weep from a broken heart? Jesus gave His life so that we could have life in Him, yet many reject Him. Even so His hands are still reaching out and patiently waiting.

Today is a chance to reflect on your heart. How do you respond to those around you? Does your love draw them to the Lord, or does your conduct chase them away? Write out a prayer in the space below asking God to open your heart, to give you understanding and insight, and to show you any area in your life that you may need to change.

3. Now take the commands from these two passages and personalize them. Write out what you need to do like this,

I need to stand together with fellow believers as we walk in one spirit (Phil 1:27)

When you have completed your list, take it before the Lord asking Him to help you change your heart and your mind so that you become the bond-servant He wants you to be. This is application of Scripture at its best. Don't miss this step because this is what Bible study is all about!

DAY FOUR

Yesterday we didn't cover many verses, but we waded through a wealth of information and application. Today we are only going to cover two verses. Again, within those verses there is gold to be mined. This is going to take thought and prayer. Don't miss the treasure that is in store for you.

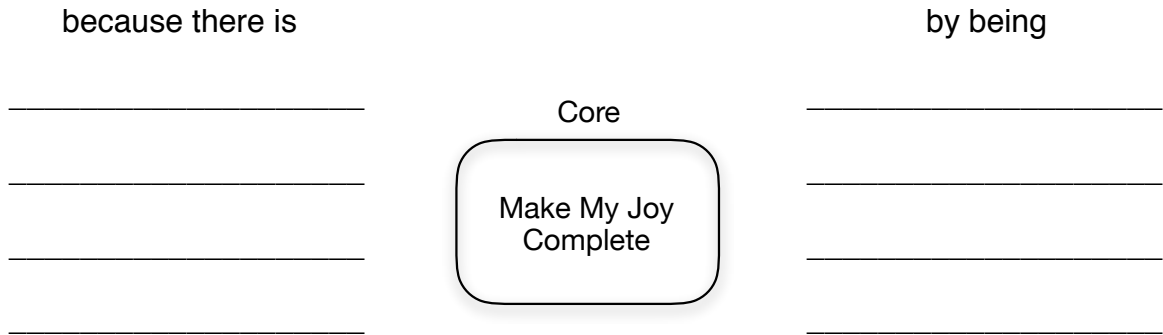
1. Read Philippians 2:1-2 several times. These two verses make up one sentence. What is the focal point of this sentence?

2. Read these next two statements carefully. When you have finished, read these verses again and see if you understand how these two statements relate to these verses. Record your insights.
 - a) Behavior is based on belief.
 - b) Doctrine is fundamental to duty.

3. In Philippians 2:1, the word "if" is a first-class condition and doesn't mean maybe but indicates a certainty or a reality. It is better translated "since." It means "because there is." I am going to rewrite the verses below place that statement "because there is" in the verse. Read the verses now.

Therefore because there is encouragement from being united with Christ, because there is comfort from his love, because there is common sharing in the Spirit, because there is tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind.

4. Take the information from that verse and fill in the chart below. We start by looking at the core of that sentence - "Make my joy complete." So on one side of the chart we are going to fill in the "because there is," and the other side will be the "by being" in verse two.



5. Take time to meditate on that chart. Prayerfully examine your heart. Do you live according to this standard in your life?
6. If you have access to word study tools, find out what the words encouragement, consolation, fellowship of spirit, and affection and compassion mean. Then you can take a little time to look at Philippians 2:1-2 in a commentary. **DON'T GO BEYOND THESE TWO VERSES.** Record what you learn below and then look at verse two and record your responsibility.

DAY FIVE

1. Today we are going to focus on the great verses of Philippians 2:5-11. Start by beginning to memorize them. Write them on an index card and begin repeating them out loud at least three times a day. Before you know it, they will be committed to memory.
2. Draw a picture of these verses. You can use stick figures and some words, but draw it out. This will help you be able to picture these verses in your mind and make it easier to memorize them.
3. Think through what these verses mean to you, to your salvation, to your everyday life. We will look into these verses next week so stay away from any commentaries right now. Give yourself a chance to reflect on these verses yourself. They are powerful!

Philippians 2:5-11. It has been debated, discussed, diagrammed, and deliberated. Theologians disagree and books have been written and sold. These are some powerful verses about the incarnation of Jesus Christ - Christ taking on the form of man - God Himself coming to walk on this earth. How can that be? We can see Christ's majesty, His humility, His love, and His obedience. The last three are characteristics that we should be using as our example, but we can only do that when we see His majesty and realize what He did, what He was willing to suffer on our behalf. We are called to let His mind be in us. How does that live itself out in our day to day lives. This is what you will be thinking and meditating on this week. What a rich study is in store for you. Study well!

DAY ONE

Prayerfully and carefully read Philippians 2:5-11 several times. Then answer the following questions about the passage.

1. What does this passage teach you about Christ before He came to this world as a man?
2. What did He do in order to become a man?
3. When He came to earth, what position did He hold? How is He described?
4. Contrast His position in heaven with His position on earth.
5. Describe the extent of His obedience.

6. What was His attitude that allowed Him to be obedient?

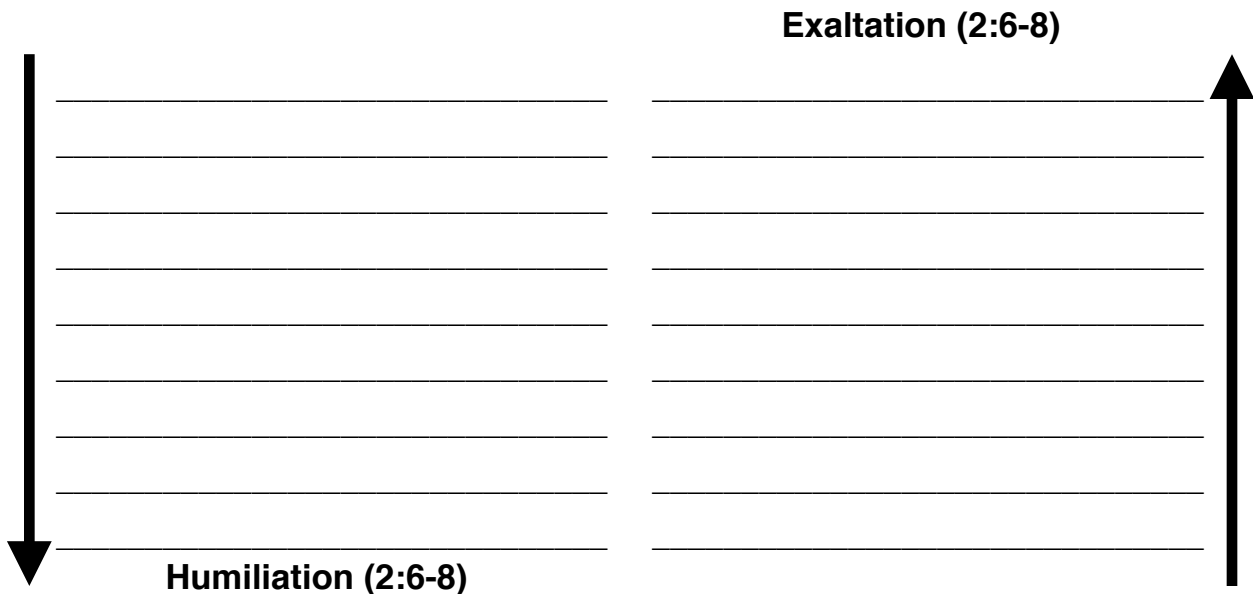
7. What was God's response to Christ's obedience?

8. How will all mankind respond to Jesus some day?

9. How does this response affect the Father?

10. Fill in the following chart which will help you see, in picture form, what Christ gave up, His humiliation on earth, and the exaltation He received. Don't feel that you need to fill in every line. These are there for your ease of recording the information.

Before Christ Came to Earth (Hebrews 1:3)



3. There are two reasons for His coming in Mark 10:45. Read this verse carefully. Record the two reasons below (one will be a repeat of Hebrews 2).

4. This next step in reasoning through the purpose of Christ's incarnation is vitally important. It is necessary to take your time and let these Scriptures soak into your heart and mind. Are you ready to be blessed by the truths of God's Word?

Christ came to this earth as a baby. He was born to die so that man might live. The purpose of His birth was the cross. Think about that the next time you want to grumble or complain about your circumstances! His birth, life, and death would become the only means of our salvation.

In order to fully understand Christ's humiliation, obedience, and laying aside of His glory, read Isaiah 52:13-53:12 and Psalm 22. Record what you learn below. Take your time and let His Word wash over you. Let the full impact of these truths take root in your soul. Look upon the Lamb of God who was slain for you. Notice the attitude of Christ.

Christ's Humiliation

Christ's Attitude

You have much to be thankful for. Take your praise and thanksgiving before the throne of the Father. Then ask Him what it means for you to have this same mind, this same attitude which was also in Christ Jesus.

c) Proverbs 15:33

d) Proverbs 16:18

e) Proverbs 22:4

f) Proverbs 25:6-7

g) Isaiah 57:15

h) Matthew 11:29

i) Matthew 20:26-27

j) Matthew 23:12

k) James 4:6

4. Isaiah 14:12-15 is a passage that many believe (with good reason) is a reference to Satan (Lucifer). On the chart below contrast what you learn about Jesus in Philippians 2:5-11 and Satan in Isaiah 14:12-15.

Philippians 2:5-11	Isaiah 14:12-15

5. Looking at this chart, which column best describes your attitude? Is your's a servant's mind thinking of others before yourself, or is it an "I will," "it is all about me," "I am the master of my own destiny" mindset? This is the time to be honest with yourself and be honest before the Lord. If there are mindsets that need to be corrected, there is no time like the present. Spend the rest of the time today in prayer seeking truth, forgiveness, and willingness for God to change your attitude.

DAY FOUR - DAY FIVE

Philippians 2:5-8 is called the “Kenosis” passage. “Kenosis” means the renunciation of the divine nature, at least in part, by Christ in the Incarnation. This assignment will be some heavy theological thinking on your part. Don’t let this assignment intimidate you and don’t shrug your shoulders, say I have no idea, and walk away. Wrestle with these couple of questions and think through them. Bring in every Scripture you know. Feel free to use study tools to help you find verses, but DO NOT USE COMMENTARIES to find out what someone else believes. This is a time to find out what you believe and what you know. Compare Scripture with Scripture. Ask God to show you His truth. Record your insights with Scripture references.

Here are the two questions. When Christ became man, when He “emptied” Himself, did He stop being God and did He lose any of His attributes as God?

Now is the time that you can consult commentaries on Philippians 2:5-11.

Christ emptied Himself taking on the form of a bondservant, humbling Himself even to the point of death on a cross. You are to have this same attitude in yourself. In humility, you are to look at others as more important than yourself. As you live in obedience to your Lord and humility towards others, you are called to work out your salvation with fear and trembling because God is at work in you. As God works in your life, you are going to see attributes that will prove that you are a child of God and above reproach.

This week, you are going to learn what it means to have this same attitude in yourself, and what that will look like as you appear as lights in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation. By the time you complete this lesson, you should know what it means to work out your salvation and how it is that you prove yourself blameless and innocent.

Study well and apply what you learn.

DAY ONE

This week is going to begin with some word studies. I will walk you through the first one and leave you to do the rest on your own.

Read through Philippians 2:12-13 several times. Verse 12 has confused many people. Is it saying that we have to work for our salvation? Isn't salvation by faith alone? If I am supposed to work out my salvation with fear and trembling, does that mean I am supposed to be afraid of God?

Understanding and obeying the interpretation of these verses can change your lives. Remember that there can be only one true interpretation. It needs to be interpreted as the author, through the Holy Spirit, intended these verses to be understood.

1. Let's observe Philippians 2:12-13. Read these two verses again. Answer the following questions.
 - a. Who is to do the work in verse 12?
 - b. Who is doing the work in verse 13?
 - c. **Verse 12 shows man's responsibility to work out what God works in him in verse 13.**

2. There are two things that God is working in us. What are they?
3. For what purpose is He working these things?
4. What should our attitude be through this process?
5. Now it is time to do some word studies. You can use a concordance, Vine's Dictionary, word study books, the internet, or anything that is available to you. This verse seems to contradict other Scripture. Ephesians 2:8-9 says, "For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast." Whenever we read one portion of Scripture that seems to contradict another, there is a misunderstanding on our part, so we begin looking at the words in the original language to help us view the verse from the author's viewpoint. Let's see if getting a clearer definition of the words used will help us have a better understanding of what the author was trying to communicate in Philippians 2:12.

In your search, you will want to record the Strong's number, the transliteration, if it is a verb, the mood, tense, and voice, and the word's definition - be as thorough as possible with each word.

a. Work out - #2716

Transliteration - Katergazesthe (Greek letters translated to English)

Verb - **present** (tense) **imperative** (mood) **middle or passive** (voice) **2nd person** (you)

Present tense - continual, habitual action

Imperative mood - a command that brooks no argument - needs to be followed

Passive voice - the action is being done to the subject by an outside force of by the subject acting on itself (middle voice)

Roots - comes from kata and ergazomai

Definition - to work fully; accomplish; by implication, to finish, fashion

b. Fear

c. Trembling

d. To will

e. To work (to do - KJV)

6. Philippians 2:12 starts with the premise that the recipients are living in obedience to the Lord. They were not living one way when Paul was in their presence, but this was a habit of life. Because obedience was a way of life for them, Paul told them that they were to be working out their salvation. Disobedience to this command would impact their life just as it impacts yours. Read Ephesians 4:30 and I Thessalonians 5:19. Make sure to read them both in their contexts. Ephesians warns about grieving the Holy Spirit and Thessalonians warns of quenching the Holy Spirit. Are these the same or different things? Record what you learn from each of these verses and do word studies on the words quenching and grieving.

7. At this point in time, you can check your commentaries and see what they have to say about Philippians 2:12-13. Please go no further than verse 13.

8. We will finish up today with two personal applications.
 - a. How would you explain Philippians 2:12-13 to another person? Write it out below.

- b. By way of a prayer of thanksgiving, personalize these two verses and pray them back to your Heavenly Father.

3. You are going to complete a more in depth word study on the concept of grumbling. Look for other places this word shows up in the New Testament. A Strong's concordance can be your best friend in this type of study. You need to look up any form of the word grumbling (grumble, grumbler, grumbled) and record the verse and what you learn about grumbling.

DAY THREE

1. Today you are going to do the same thing with grumbling as you did yesterday, but this time you will be looking in the Old Testament. Most of these references will be found in Exodus and Numbers. Read enough to find out why these people were grumbling. Record what you learn.

DAY FIVE

The Philippians are called to hold fast the word of life so that in the day of Christ Paul will have reason to glory because his work was not in vain. They stayed the course, even when faced with opposition and persecution. Today you are going to spend time looking at the term “in the day of Christ.”

1. Paul uses the phrase “in the day of Christ” in Philippians and in his letters to the church in Corinth. Read the following verses and record what you learn about this phrase. Don't forget to check the context of these verses.

- a. I Corinthians 1:8

- b. I Corinthians 5:5

- c. II Corinthians 1:13-14

- d. Philippians 1:6

- e. Philippians 1:10

- f. Philippians 2:16

2. "The day of Christ" seems to be connected to believers and the coming of Christ. It also seems to be linked with those who have been proven to be blameless and innocent - proven character that allows Paul, and by extension - Christ, to glory over them. Read the following passages and record anything that you learn about the time we meet Christ.

- a. I Thessalonians 2:19-20

- b. I Thessalonians 3:12-13

- c. I Thessalonians 5:23

- d. I John 3:1-3

Paul said that for the Philippian people to hold fast would bring him reason to glory, not in his accomplishment, but that the gospel was being lived out in their lives, and then he will know that his hard work was not in vain. The word "toil" means to be fatigued, to be weary.

3. How do you think Philippians 2:17-18 fit in at this point? Record your insights below.

4. Since all Scripture is useful for learning and admonition, what can you learn about your life from Philippians 2:16-18. Are you pouring your life out as a drink offering to the service of the King? How much of your time and energy are being poured out to further the gospel? How much of your time is being spent with earthly pursuits - television, newspaper, sports, job, etc.? Be honest. He knows the thoughts and intentions of your heart. Lay your life at His feet and ask Him to transform you.

5. You can check what the commentaries have to say about Philippians 2:14-18. Please don't read ahead.

This all seems so overwhelming! It is impossible to live this way; I just can't do it. That mindset opens the door to defeat. Nothing is impossible with God. We have the Holy Spirit living in our hearts, directing our feet, transforming us by the renewing of our minds through the Word of life. I believe that is why the Scripture is replete with illustrations of people who have overcome the obstacles, who have held fast and appeared as lights in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation. Jesus lived among us and we have His life's story written across the pages of time for us to read and emulate. Paul offers his life as an example for us to follow. In Philippians 2:19-30 Paul shares with us two fellow bondservants who pour out their lives to further the gospel: Timothy and Epaphroditus.

DAY ONE

1. Read through Philippians 2 at least twice before proceeding.
2. On the chart below, list the description of the mind (attitude) of Christ in the first column. Then show how this same mind, this same attitude, was demonstrated in each man's life. If possible, list how the man lived this out opposite of the same characteristic you see in Christ.

Living Demonstrations of the Mind of Christ

Mind of Christ Philippians 2:5-8	Paul Everything you studied	Timothy Philippians 2:19-24	Epaphroditus Philippians 2:25-30

3. Take time to reflect on what you have seen on the chart you just completed. Ask God to examine your life and show you places that your thoughts, attitudes, or actions need to be changed.

DAY TWO

I would encourage you to take the time to read Philippians 1 and 2 several times. These words should be a comfort to you by now. You should know them intimately. They should be familiar and speak to your heart and stir you to walk in a manner worthy of the gospel.

Today, you can go to the commentaries and see what they have to say about Philippians 2:19-30.

DAY THREE - FIVE

Your job is to complete a thorough observation of chapter 3. Start by reading through the chapter several times. Just read, nothing else.

If you need a reminder of the steps you can go back to lesson 3 and review pages 30-34. You have three days to complete this process. Take it slowly, thoughtfully, and prayerfully.

Remember observation takes time, and that time needs to be guided by the Spirit that dwells within. Pray for understanding. Many times we shut down when we begin to be convicted for something in our life. Let the Spirit do His work in your heart!

Look around those who make up the average church. What do you see? If you would ask those people what the goal of their life was, what would they say? What would they say about their Christian walk. And how would they base that decision?

What about you? What would you say about yourself? What do you trust in, or where is your confidence?

We need to evaluate our lives and Galatians 3 is going to help us.

DAY ONE

1. Read Philippians 3:1-7. When you get to verse three and four, you will see the statement of putting confidence in the flesh. What does Paul mean by having “confidence in the flesh?”

2. On the chart below, in the left-hand column, list the things that Paul could have put his confidence in. In the right-hand column list the parallels of where a church-going person might put his/her confidence.

Where Paul Could Have Put Confidence	Where Religious Person Could Put Confidence

DAY TWO

Yesterday we looked at the dogs and the evil workers. Today we want to focus on the contrast that Paul makes between the false circumcision and the true circumcision. So we need to start with some background. We need to understand why people would put confidence in circumcision. What was it? Why was it important? How did it all begin? How can there be a false circumcision and a true circumcision?

1. If you don't understand what circumcision is, look it up in a dictionary or on line.
2. Genesis 17 is the first mention of circumcision. Read this chapter and record everything you learn about circumcision.
3. Circumcision was a sign of a covenant made between God and Abraham and his descendants. Read Genesis 15:6 and Romans 4:3-13 then answer the following questions.
 - a. Explain the relationship between Abraham and God when circumcision was instituted.
 - b. What did circumcision show in relationship to Abraham's salvation?
 - c. What was Paul's issue with circumcision in Romans?

DAY FOUR

Yesterday we saw that Paul had a goal, and he hadn't attained it yet. Would he be able to attain his goal? Can we? That is our question for today.

1. Start by reading Philippians 3:7-16 several times. Remember that our goal is to understand the goal!
2. Look at verse 9-10. Where does Paul's focus need to be and where can it not be? Remember who Paul is and that he was a Pharisee.
3. Use whatever tools you have available to do word studies on the following words.
 - a. Know - 3:10
 - b. Fellowship - 3:10
 - c. Conformed (made conformable, KJV) - 3:10

DAY FIVE

1. Remembering what you have seen in Philippians 3:10-16, how do the last verses, Philippians 3:17-21, relate to the topic at hand?

2. Let's do a couple of word studies again.
 - a. Join in following (be followers together, KJV) - 3:17

 - b. Pattern (ensample, KJV) - 3:17

 - c. Observe (mark, KJV) - 3:17

 - d. Shame - 3:19

 - e. Citizenship (conversation, KJV) - 3:20

Do you know someone who is looking for peace? Are you seeking peace in your own life?

This chapter is one of the most practical chapters in the Word of God. Following the principles in this chapter will change your life. You will be able to walk in a manner worthy of your calling and live victoriously in any and every circumstance. We are going to spend three weeks in this chapter. Finish strong, my friend.

DAY ONE - DAY THREE

We have come to the most amazing chapter. Take your time and do a thorough chapter study on Philippians 4. Give this chapter time to sink deep into your heart.

This chapter deals with some of the most common problems facing Christians today. As you take time to meditate on this chapter, reflect on the issues presented and the solutions to those problems.

There are portions of this chapter that you would do well to memorize. Think about memorizing Philippians 4:6-9, 19. These are life verses! Become doers of the Word and not hearers only.

DAY FIVE

Yesterday, you saw that there seemed to be some kind of problem going on in the church between these two women. Paul calls the others to help them learn to live in harmony - be of the same mind. We are going to look at the unity of believers today, but let's step back in time for a moment.

Paul was in prison in Rome. They did not have CNN or Fox News in those days. Nor did they have internet, emails, texts, snapchat, or any other social media. Somehow, this dispute/fight/brawl must have been big and public. People were talking and the news was spreading. "Have you heard about these women?" "I thought they were supposed to be Christians!" Is that what Christians are like, if so I don't want any part of them?" Can you hear the rumors flying? Can you see the reputation of the church in Philippi being damaged? This dispute made itself all the way to Paul over 800 miles away. That was one big disagreement, don't you think?

This chasm needed crossed. Harmony needed to be restored. The church needed to pull together to save these women and the reputation of the body of Christ. Let's learn the importance of unity and how to work at restoring that which was given to us through the Holy Spirit - one spirit, one mind, and the same love, children of one Father.

Read through the following Scriptures carefully and prayerfully. Examine your thought life and your love life. Can someone look at you and see John 13:35 lived out? "By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

Living in Unity and Love

1. Psalms 133:1
2. John 17:23
3. I Corinthians 1:10

4. I Corinthians 12:12-13

5. Ephesians 4:3

6. Eph 4:11-16

7. Philippians 2:2

8. I John 4:7-12

Mindset of Unity and Love

1. John 13:34-35

2. Romans 12:16-18

3. Ephesians 4:31-32

4. Philippians 2:3-4

5. Philippians 2:14

6. Colossians 3:12-17

7. Heb 10:24-25

8. I Peter 3:8-9

Sum up what you have learned about living in unity with fellow believers.

What a privilege we have to sit at God's feet and soak in His life giving words. The verses we are about to study will change your life forever if you take hold of them and put them to work in your life. Can you imagine living a life free from anxiety and fear? Can you fathom a life where God's peace rules in your heart when the storms outside rage all around you?

The answers are in this chapter. Run well as you finish the race. There is a prize as we strive for the upward call of Christ. Enjoy the journey, and walk the walk in a manner worthy of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

DAY ONE

Our focus today will be Philippians 4:4-7. These verses hold the key of how to handle worry/anxiety in your life.

1. According to verse 4, where does the key to handling anxiety start? Why do you think it starts here?

At the end of this lesson, pages 129-130, there is an assignment paper that would be beneficial for you to incorporate into your life. It is an exercise that is geared to change your mindset and your focus. Start each day for the next week recording four things that you are thankful for. Make them different each day. Consider making this a habit in your life. It is something that I am going to put into practice for myself. I would appreciate your prayers for me, and I will pray for you as we strive to make thankfulness a part of our lives.

2. Why and how do we accomplish that according to verse 5? Explain what that means.

3. We are going to start with a couple of word studies. Look up the following words with your study tools and record what you learn about them.

a) be anxious for nothing (be careful for nothing - KJV)

b) peace

c) guard (keep - KJV)

4. List each instruction believers are given in verses 4-6 and personalize what it means and how you are going to accomplish that in your life. Note - there should be six.

d) Isaiah 43:1-2

e) Matthew 6:24-34

f) Hebrews 13:5-6

g) I Peter 5:6-7

We have learned that the cure for anxiety is trust. When we were studying “Torn Between Two Masters - Sermon on the Mount” - we came across this definition of trust. I want to share this with you as we end today’s study. My suggestion is to write this out, post it everywhere you can, memorize it, and make this part of your life. Here it is.

Trust means to attach oneself, to trust, confide in, feel safe, be confident, secure.

Its basic idea is associated with firmness or solidity. This type of hope is a confident expectation, not a constant anxiety.

We can truly relax when we know God is in control.

It strongly contrasts the folly of relying upon any other type of security instead of depending on God alone.

Anxiety is the opposite of trust. Anxiety is the epitome of arrogance. It is thinking that we have control of the circumstance and God does not!

Anxiety doesn’t come from thinking about the future. It comes from thinking we can control the future.

3. How does the story in II Chronicles compare to the Philippians 4:6?

DAY THREE

1. Read through Philippians 4 in its entirety. Read through II Chronicles 20 to refresh your memory from yesterday. Look over #3 in yesterday's lesson. Is there anything that you would like to add to the comparison of these Scriptures?
2. In II Chronicles 20:15, you find the statement "the battle is not yours but God's." Those are some powerful words that we want to contemplate today. Let's start by reading two other passages. As you read, jot down what you learn that relates to our study about casting our cares on God and not being anxious in the situation that faces us.

a) I Samuel 17:31-51

b) Psalm 33:16-22

DAY FOUR

For the next two days you are going to be studying your mind and that battle that rages there each and every day. Don't short cut this study! It is tremendously important to understand what is going on and why as well as understanding what we can do to safe guard our mind. Our spiritual health and walk are dependent on what we are about to cover.

1. Read through Philippians 4:4-9. Remember that all this begins by rejoicing in and acknowledging what we have in Jesus Christ. Where is your focus? A correct focus facilitates a correct walk.
2. There is a promise in verse 9 that can only be attained when the conditions in verses 8 and 9 are met. Record the conditions and the promise in the space below.
3. Using whatever study tools are available to you, check the verb tense of "*practice*" in verse 9.
4. Now let's do a word study on the words in verse 8. Record what you learn and then write a summary in your own words. You want to be able to explain these to someone else in a way they can understand them.

a) true

b) honorable (honest - KJV)

c) right (just - KJV)

d) pure

e) lovely

f) good repute (good report - KJV)

g) excellence (virtue - KJV)

h) praise

i) dwell (think - KJV) - be sure to look at the tense of this word as well.

d) Matthew 15:18-20

e) I Corinthians 2:16

2. Read II Corinthians 10:3-5 several times. Record all that you learn from these verses in a personal way. Here is an example.

- *I walk in this world in the flesh, but the battle I am fighting is a spiritual battle not a fleshly one*

3. You can use any study tools you have to look further into II Corinthians 10:3-5. Dig deep, these are wonderful verses!

4. Now how does this look when you put this into practice in your life. You want to put into practice Philippians 4:8 and II Corinthians 10:3-5 to guard your mind and keep it right before God. If you do that, what would have to change in your life in the following areas?
- a) reading

 - b) television

 - c) movies

 - d) listening

 - e) conversations

 - f) thought life

Remember growth hurts. As we press on to maturity, there is a lot of flesh that needs to be cut away. It isn't pleasant to look in the mirror and behold our earthly (fleshy) reflection. That is why God sometimes needs to turn the heat up. He needs to get rid of the dross (junk) in our lives. Let Him do His cleansing work in you!

I am thankful to God for . . .

Today's Date:

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We have come to our final week of study. I hope this book has ministered to your life as much as it has to mine. There are two important topics that Paul still needs to address. These are vital topics that need to be understood and applied to our lives.

Philippians 4 began by showing the importance of unity within the body of Christ and what we portray to the world when that unity is lacking. It is a unity that can only come from true humility that buries self and allows Christ to be the head, leading His body in the direction He wills.

From there Paul gives the recipe for peace. True peace can only come when we completely trust God with EVERY aspect of our life. True trust takes away anxiety because we understand that we can leave our burdens at the foot of the cross and walk away. We have no control over what happens, but we know the God of the universe who sits on the throne and is in complete control. As He walks us through our trials and pains, we can work out our salvation by pouring out of ourselves all that He has poured into us. Part of our responsibility in that process is to protect our minds and fill them with all that Philippians 4:8 commands. With that total trust in our loving Heavenly Father and the guarding of our minds, we can have a peace that surpasses anything this world could comprehend.

Now he moves on to the topics of contentment and giving - important topics to any believer's life. Let's not miss anything that Paul had penned for us. Chapter 4 of Philippians is a life-changing chapter in our Christian walk!

DAY ONE

1. Prayerfully read Philippians 4:10-13 several times. As you read, ask the Spirit to teach you the importance of learning to live by these words. Record anything that God has revealed to your heart.

d) I Samuel 2:7-8

e) I Chronicles 29:11-12

f) Job 12:10

g) Psalm 22:29

h) Psalm 47:2-8

i) Psalm 75:6-7

j) Proverbs 21:31

k) Isaiah 45:7

l) Daniel 2:21

m) Daniel 4:35-37

n) Haggai 2:8

o) John 19:11

p) Acts 17:24-25

DAY TWO

1. Yesterday I referenced Romans 8:28-29. Take time to read those verses now and read over what you recorded from the sovereignty verses you looked up yesterday. In light of the Romans 8:28-29 passage and the verses that demonstrated the sovereignty of God, how do all these verses relate to being content in every circumstance of life?
2. Read I Corinthians 10:13. How do these verses relate to Philippians 4:10-13?

5. Let's take a look at Joseph's life now. Read Genesis 39-42, 45, and 50:19-20. Record what you learn about Joseph's attitude towards his circumstances, his brothers, and God. Then record what you can take from Joseph's life and apply to your own.

6. We will visit one last place and call it a day. Read Hebrews 13:5-6 and meditate on the message. If you have time, you can use your study tools to draw more meaning from these verses.

The secret of contentment is not getting what you want but wanting what you have. If we have Jesus, what more could we possibly want?

- b) In II Corinthians 8:7, what is the gracious work referring to?

 - c) How did the people give according to II Corinthians 8:3-4?

 - d) Where did this desire and longing come from? What did they do first?

 - e) Who does Paul give as an example in II Corinthians 8:9 and 9:15?

 - f) Explain the principle of equality in giving as stated in II Corinthians 8:13-15.
3. Read Deuteronomy 15:7-11 and explain the principles of giving in this passage.
4. Take time to meditate on the the Scripture that you read today. As you do, look at the heart of giving and examine your own heart. Is your hand open, allowing God's gifts to you to flow freely to others as He leads? Pray about this and ask God to reveal anything in your life that needs to change.

DAY FOUR

1. Today I would like you to start by reading the following Scriptures and record what you learn about giving - promises to those who do, warnings to those who don't, commands to be followed, etc.

a) Psalm 41:1

b) Proverbs 3:27

c) Proverbs 11:25

d) Proverbs 25:21-22

e) Proverbs 28:27

f) Luke 3:11

g) I John 3:17

2. Don't let this next assignment scare you. Using pictures, charts, or writing compile all that you have learned about the attitude of giving, commands to give, how to give, and promises that come from giving.

3. **How much do I give?** To save a bit of time, let me give you a bit of Old Testament history. The word "*tithe*" comes from the word tenth. The tithe was a tenth of everything. They tithed from the flock, from their produce, and their money. When synagogues began, there needed to be ten Jewish families to start a new congregation. Why ten? If each family gave their tithe, 10%, then the Rabbi would have the same average income as the families he served, allowing him to give of his time to the congregation while their gifts would supply his needs. So 10% was a place to start to support the spiritual work that was being done by the priests of the temple or the rabbis of the synagogue. Then people were still called to take care of the widows, orphans, and the poor. Does this change in the New Testament times? Believers are called to give (not tithe). Read the following verses. What are we supposed to give?

a) Matthew 19:21-22

b) Luke 3:11

c) Acts 4:32-37

d) II Corinthians 8:2-5

How should a New Testament believer view giving? How should we feel about anything we own? Give these two questions some thought.

4. For years people have asked the question, “**Do I give from my gross income or net?**” I would hear the retort, “Do you want gross blessings or net? I believe that this is a non-issue. What we need to realize is that nothing we have really belongs to us. If God tells you to give something, you give it. We need to approach life with an open hand and be willing to share what God has entrusted to us for a time. We need to generously give whatever we have to whomever God indicates through His Word and His leading in our lives.
5. **What do I give?** We give what we have. Our time, our resources, our money, our tunic. Everything we have is on loan from God. We are called to be good stewards with the resources He has temporarily given to us.

So what does all this mean for New Testament believers? What guidelines should we follow? Am I supposed to tithe or give and what is the difference? This is all so confusing.

I will try to sum up what I believe Scripture is saying. This is my opinion from my study of the Word of God and applying the principles we have learned. Feel free to jot down any thoughts you may have on this topic, and we may have time to discuss it in class.

1. The tithe (10%) of the Old Testament was a command to the people of Israel. This was to be given to the priests to provide for them and their service to God. This was a starting place. The people were also called to give to the poor, widows, and orphans. They were called to help any brother that was in need. The principles are laid out for us - take care of the work of God’s Kingdom and take care of other people that are less fortunate than yourself. When God wanted His tabernacle constructed and the temple built, the people were called to bring their gold and silver for the construction. The people brought so generously that they have an over-abundance.

2. New Testament talks about giving and not tithing. In fact tithing is only mentioned in four places. In Matthew 23:23 and Luke 11:42 Jesus talks to the Pharisees who tithe from wrong motives. In Luke 18:12 the Pharisee is praying (LOUDLY) letting everyone know that he was much holier than the tax collector because of his tithing. In Hebrews 7:8-9 the author referred back to Old Testament tithing. None of those Scriptures deal with a New Testament believer. What Jesus does tell those who are of His kingdom is if you have two tunics give one away. That sounds like 50% not 10%. Then He makes the statement to the rich young ruler, sell all that you have and give it to the poor. That sounds like 100%. The people in Acts were selling their property and giving to those in need so there was an equality among the believers in the church. I believe the principle we learn from this is that we should not have an abundance while other believers have nothing or not enough to house and feed their families.

3. Through the clear teaching of Scripture, we are taught that nothing we have is our own. We have been called to be stewards of the blessings that God has given us. He has entrusted money, time, talents, gifts, and property to us so that we can use that to bring glory to His name. His Word has clearly taught that we are to support liberally those who teach us His Word. We are supposed to give to those who go to share the gospel with others like the Philippians and Corinthians did for Paul. We are to provide for those who are widows indeed (I Timothy 5), the orphans, and the poor that are among us, who are truly in need (not those who are lazy or enabling those who have chosen sinful lifestyles).

4. We need to be careful of giving to places where our gifts are not being used properly. Do we really need crystal cathedrals and stained glassed windows to reach the world for Christ? When we give to mission agencies, how much truly goes to the ministry of the Word, to the support of the missionary, and how much goes to pay for the huge building in the US and the hundreds of people with “titles” that are working there? There are some places that keep 20-30% (or more) of the money given to pay their salaries and building expenses. Should we have preachers and evangelists living in multi-million dollar homes with private jets, swimming pools, and tennis courts, while other believers and their children are going hungry or living on the streets? Do you believe that would have been happening in Acts when the believers were selling their property and giving to those in need so there was equality in the body?

5. I believe that we should be giving at least 10% of what we have to God. That is a good place to start, but certainly is not where it should end. I could tell you stories of people who were in debt and said that they couldn't possibly give 10% to God. It would be impossible to live. When being obedient to God and looking to His work and other's needs before looking at ourselves, God's floodgates of blessings begin to flow. Someone once said that we can't out-give God. If we are living in obedience to God, then He promises to care for you.

The idea of giving to God first and trusting Him to take care of your needs can be found in the Israelite laws of First Fruits. I found an article from The South Georgia Conference of The United Methodist Church called Bringing Firstfruits (<https://www.sgaumc.org/newsdetail/may-13-lesson-11277759>) and below is a portion of that teaching which focuses on Firstfruits - what they were and why they were important. (Underlines are mine to emphasize important points.)

Offering Firstfruits (Leviticus 23:9-14)

On leaving Egypt under God's guidance and protection, the Israelites need instructions on how to live in the land that God is going to give them. Since it is God's land, it must be cared for according to God's priorities and instructions.

God says in verse 10, "When you enter the land I am going to give you and you reap its harvest," bringing to the priest a sheaf of the first grain you harvest. Note that to bring a sheaf of the first grain of the harvest is not an option or guideline, but a requirement. As we are informed, the very first portion of the crop to be harvested is known as the firstfruits. It is the part that the farmer is most excited about because it serves as a sort of down payment of the full crop to come.

At any rate, it is decreed that "a sheaf of the first grain you harvest" is to be brought to the Lord to be consecrated by the priest in a ceremony of waving or elevating it before the Lord. A sheaf is a small bundle or armful of barley. And of that portion only a small amount is offered directly to God by being burned up. The larger portion of it goes to the priests to be eaten (Leviticus 2:1-3).

The Aaronic priests depend on the offerings of the people for their livelihood. The reason being is that their devotion to working in the tabernacle prevents them from reaping a regular harvest like everyone else (Numbers 18:8-24). However, providing for the priests is not the primary reason for the firstfruits offering. The primary reason is that the Israelites take time to recognize that it is God who is blessing them by his grace; they have not earned it (Deuteronomy 9:5-6). These Israelites must never forget that it

is God who is the source of all they will enjoy in the promised land. There is no other source, and this includes fictitious fertility gods such as Baal.

Next, the writer of the lesson asked a strategic question, “What portion of the people’s harvest is to constitute the firstfruits offering? The writer suggests that a specific proportion is not mentioned at this point perhaps because the very nature of a firstfruits offering must be calculated. It could only be celebrated after the entire crop is harvested.

*But even so, passages such as Leviticus 27:30; Numbers 18:21-29; 2 Chronicles 31:5; and Nehemiah 10:35-37, 12:44 seem to point out a tithe (10 percent) is intended. However, **God does not want the people to give a set portion legalistically, as if making a mortgage payment. God wants the people to give their fruit part in faith trusting that there will be plenty left to meet “my need and the needs of my family.”***

Upon receiving the firstfruits offering, the priest elevates it above his head to make clear that it is dedicated to God. The people making the offering believe that God’s blessing will result (Proverbs 3:9,10; Ezekiel 44:30).

Giving of Firstfruits showed proved their trust in God. So to finish off our study in Philippians, let’s ask some pointed questions. How much do you trust God? Do you trust Him enough to give of your possessions above and beyond your ability as the Corinthians did? Do you trust Him enough to say that you can be content in any circumstance? Do you trust Him enough to not be anxious? Do you trust Him enough to expose yourself to others by being humble and seeking to maintain the unity that has been given in the Spirit? Do you trust Him enough with your life that you are willing to become His bondservant and abandon your way of life to walk in a manner worthy of the Gospel of Jesus Christ? Do you trust Him enough to know that any circumstance that comes into your life (the life of a believer) has been sifted through His hands of love and will be used of Him for the good to bring glory to His name?

Father, help us to follow in Paul’s example. Help us to have the same mind (same attitude) as Christ. Help us to walk in humility so that we can be exalted by You. You have placed us on this earth to bring glory to Your name by our words, our actions, and our lives. May we be found faithful so we can hear one day, “Well done, good and faithful servant!” AMEN!

Philippians 1

1 Paul and Timothy, bond-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.

3 I thank my God in all my remembrance of you,

4 always offering prayer with joy in my every prayer for you all,

5 in view of your participation in the gospel from the first day until now.

6 For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in
you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.

7 For it is only right for me to feel this way about you all, because I have you
in my heart, since both in my imprisonment and in the defense and
confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers of grace with me.

8 For God is my witness, how I long for you all with the affection of Christ
Jesus.

9 And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in real
knowledge and all discernment,

10 so that you may approve the things that are excellent, in order to be sincere
and blameless until the day of Christ;

11 having been filled with the fruit of righteousness which comes through
Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

12 Now I want you to know, brethren, that my circumstances have turned out
for the greater progress of the gospel,

13 so that my imprisonment in the cause of Christ has become well known
throughout the whole praetorian guard and to everyone else,

14 and that most of the brethren, trusting in the Lord because of my imprisonment, have far more courage to speak the word of God without fear.

15 Some, to be sure, are preaching Christ even from envy and strife, but some also from good will;

16 the latter do it out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel;

17 the former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition rather than from pure motives, thinking to cause me distress in my imprisonment.

18 What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed; and in this I rejoice.

Yes, and I will rejoice,

19 for I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayers and the provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,

20 according to my earnest expectation and hope, that I will not be put to shame in anything, but that with all boldness, Christ will even now, as always, be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death.

21 For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

22 But if I am to live on in the flesh, this will mean fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which to choose.

23 But I am hard-pressed from both directions, having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for that is very much better;

24 yet to remain on in the flesh is more necessary for your sake.

25 Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy in the faith,

26 so that your proud confidence in me may abound in Christ Jesus through
my coming to you again.

27 Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that
whether I come and see you or remain absent, I will hear of you that you
are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith
of the gospel;

28 in no way alarmed by your opponents—which is a sign of destruction for
them, but of salvation for you, and that too, from God.

29 For to you it has been granted for Christ’s sake, not only to believe in Him,
but also to suffer for His sake,

30 experiencing the same conflict which you saw in me, and now hear to be in
me.

Philippians 2

- 1 Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion,
- 2 make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.
- 3 Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves;
- 4 do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.
- 5 Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus,
- 6 who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped,
- 7 but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men.
- 8 Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.
- 9 For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name,
- 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
- 11 and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.
-
- 12 So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling;

- 13 for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.
- 14 Do all things without grumbling or disputing;
- 15 so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world,
- 16 holding fast the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I will have reason to glory because I did not run in vain nor toil in vain.
- 17 But even if I am being poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I rejoice and share my joy with you all.
- 18 You too, I urge you, rejoice in the same way and share your joy with me.
-
- 19 But I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you shortly, so that I also may be encouraged when I learn of your condition.
- 20 For I have no one else of kindred spirit who will genuinely be concerned for your welfare.
- 21 For they all seek after their own interests, not those of Christ Jesus.
- 22 But you know of his proven worth, that he served with me in the furtherance of the gospel like a child serving his father.
- 23 Therefore I hope to send him immediately, as soon as I see how things go with me;
- 24 and I trust in the Lord that I myself also will be coming shortly.
- 25 But I thought it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother and fellow worker and fellow soldier, who is also your messenger and minister to my need;
- 26 because he was longing for you all and was distressed because you had heard that he was sick.

- 27 For indeed he was sick to the point of death, but God had mercy on him, and not on him only but also on me, so that I would not have sorrow upon sorrow.
- 28 Therefore I have sent him all the more eagerly so that when you see him again you may rejoice and I may be less concerned about you.
- 29 Receive him then in the Lord with all joy, and hold men like him in high regard;
- 30 because he came close to death for the work of Christ, risking his life to complete what was deficient in your service to me.

Philippians 3

- 1 Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things again is no trouble to me, and it is a safeguard for you.
- 2 Beware of the dogs, beware of the evil workers, beware of the false circumcision;
- 3 for we are the true circumcision, who worship in the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh,
- 4 although I myself might have confidence even in the flesh. If anyone else has a mind to put confidence in the flesh, I far more:
- 5 circumcised the eighth day, of the nation of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the Law, a Pharisee;
- 6 as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to the righteousness which is in the Law, found blameless.
- 7 But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ.
- 8 More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ,
- 9 and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith,
- 10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death;
- 11 in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

12 Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus.

13 Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead,

14 I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

15 Let us therefore, as many as are perfect, have this attitude; and if in anything you have a different attitude, God will reveal that also to you;

16 however, let us keep living by that same standard to which we have attained.

17 Brethren, join in following my example, and observe those who walk according to the pattern you have in us.

18 For many walk, of whom I often told you, and now tell you even weeping, that they are enemies of the cross of Christ,

19 whose end is destruction, whose god is their appetite, and whose glory is in their shame, who set their minds on earthly things.

20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ;

21 who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.

Philippians 4

1 Therefore, my beloved brethren whom I long to see, my joy and crown, in this way stand firm in the Lord, my beloved.

2 I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to live in harmony in the Lord.

3 Indeed, true companion, I ask you also to help these women who have shared my struggle in the cause of the gospel, together with Clement also and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.

4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!

5 Let your gentle spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near.

6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

8 Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things.

9 The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

10 But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at last you have revived your concern for me; indeed, you were concerned before, but you lacked opportunity.

11 Not that I speak from want, for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am.

- 12 I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need.
- 13 I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.
- 14 Nevertheless, you have done well to share with me in my affliction.
- 15 You yourselves also know, Philippians, that at the first preaching of the gospel, after I left Macedonia, no church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving but you alone;
- 16 for even in Thessalonica you sent a gift more than once for my needs.
- 17 Not that I seek the gift itself, but I seek for the profit which increases to your account.
- 18 But I have received everything in full and have an abundance; I am amply supplied, having received from Epaphroditus what you have sent, a fragrant aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well-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 the glory forever and ever. Amen.
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- 21 Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The brethren who are with me greet you.
- 22 All the saints greet you, especially those of Caesar's household.
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- 23 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.