

Philippians

CHAPTER 1:1-11

Lesson 1

This week's lesson will be an overview of Philippians chapter one with particular emphasis on verses one through eleven. Here we will discover Paul's heart for those to whom he is writing. Paul was not only a bondservant of the Lord, he was deeply committed to serving those he had ministered to. May his love for our Lord Jesus and his love for the Lord's people touch your heart and inspire you as you study this portion of Philippians.

Read Philippians Chapter 1

1. Philippians is a letter about our Lord Jesus Christ. There are at least sixty references to Him in this short book of only four chapters. Using your Observation Worksheet (the last page of this lesson), mark each reference to Jesus Christ (*Jesus, Christ, Lord*, and any personal pronouns which refer to Him such as *Him*).
 - a. Make a list of what the chapter reveals about Jesus Christ (find each reference you marked and record what it says about Christ). Be sure to record the verse number in parenthesis at the right of each item on your list. Skip the references that mention Christ, but do not really supply pertinent information about Him. As you list each point, use at least one word from the text. We have provided the first item in your list below.
 1. Paul and Timothy were His bondservants (1)

3. Paul did not only pray for the believers in Philippi. Each of his letters reflect his love and concern for those whom he has ministered to. Choose just a few of the following verses to get a glimpse of Paul's intercessory prayer life: Romans 1:9; 1 Corinthians 1:4; Ephesians 1:16; Colossians 1:3; 1 Thessalonians 1:2; 2 Timothy 1:3; Philemon 1:4. How are Paul's prayers an example to you?

Read Philippians 1:6

1. Write Philippians 1:6 below.
2. The word *confident* speaks of the fact that Paul had come to a settled persuasion. In what fact did Paul place his confidence?
 - a. Who is *He who has begun this work*?
 - b. Notice where God began this *work*. The verse does not say *among you* or simply say *began a good work*. Paul, inspired by the Holy Spirit, writes that this *work* has begun *in you*. What is the work that God began *in you*?
 - 1.) What will God do with this *work He began in you*?
3. Explain this verse as you would to someone who is discouraged in their walk, feeling like they will never make any progress spiritually.
4. The process of completing or perfecting the believer is called sanctification. This is the process of Christian growth through which the Holy Spirit makes us like Christ. Since God is the completer of our sanctification, how does the believer's obedience affect their sanctification?
 - a. Since God is faithful to complete you, what is your incentive for obeying Him?

5. How does knowing God will *complete the work He has begun in you* inspire you to continue to run the Christian race?

Read Philippians 1:7,8

1. As you read these two verses, what are your thoughts about Paul's heart for the believers in Philippi?
2. In what ways does adding Paul's words of 1 Thessalonians 2:5 increase your appreciation of his words?
3. How can we personally apply this attitude toward others?

Read Philippians 1:9-11

1. Paul prayed that the believer's love would *abound...in knowledge and all discernment* (verse 9). How often we intend to be loving to others but say the wrong words or do the wrong thing. *Discernment* here involves perceiving with the senses as well as the mind. Senses being the spiritual sense we are given as believers (see I Corinthians 2:12-14). As believers, we have been given this *discernment*. Read Hebrews 5:13,14. How can we practically exercise our senses?
2. According to Philippians 1:10,11, what are the goals of *loving in knowledge and all discernment*?
 - a. The ability to *approve the things that are excellent* is the ability to detect between bad and good—and choose the good. We often like to apply this "gift" in judging others. Why is it important that we apply this personally?

- b. *...that you may be sincere and without offense* indicates a life that is an open book and does not stumble others. *It is good neither to eat meat nor drink wine nor do anything by which your brother stumbles or is offended or is made weak* (Romans 14:21). According to this verse, what are the three possible effects of doing something another Christian might struggle with?

1.) Why do we need to be concerned with another's walk?

- c. *...being filled with the fruits of righteousness.* According to Isaiah 32:17, what is the effect of righteousness?

Review: Read Philippians 1:1-11

1. Share one verse that touched your heart and challenged you in your relationship with the Lord or with others.

All we do, all we are should be "to the glory and praise of God."

- 1 Corinthians 10:31 (paraphrase)

Observation Worksheet

Philippians 1

¹ Paul and Timothy, bondservants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops and deacons: ² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ³ I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, ⁴ always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, ⁵ for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now, ⁶ being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ; ⁷ just as it is right for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart, inasmuch as both in my chains and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers with me of grace. ⁸ For God is my witness, how greatly I long for you all with the affection of Jesus Christ. ⁹ And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, ¹⁰ that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, ¹¹ being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God. ¹² But I want you to know, brethren, that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel, ¹³ so that it has become evident to the whole palace guard, and to all the rest, that my chains are in Christ; ¹⁴ and most of the brethren in the Lord, having become confident by my chains, are much more bold to speak the word without fear. ¹⁵ Some indeed preach Christ even from envy and strife, and some also from good will: ¹⁶ The former preach Christ from selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my chains; ¹⁷ but the latter out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel. ¹⁸ What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is preached; and in this I rejoice, yes, and will rejoice. ¹⁹ For I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayer and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, ²⁰ according to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified 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 live on in the flesh, this will mean fruit from my labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell. ²³ For I am hard pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better. ²⁴ Nevertheless to remain in the flesh is more needful for you. ²⁵ And being confident of this, I know that I shall remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy of faith, ²⁶ that your rejoicing for me may be more abundant in Jesus Christ by my coming to you again. ²⁷ Only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸ and not in any way terrified by your adversaries, which is to them a proof of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that from God. ²⁹ For to you it has been granted

on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake,³⁰ having the same conflict which you saw in me and now hear is in me.