

# Study Questions

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## *For New Testament Books of the Bible*

### **Philippians**

#### Chapter 1

1. Who was the author of Philippians? When was this letter written? Where was the author writing from and to whom was this letter written? What was the purpose of this letter? Why did the author write this letter?
2. Where can we find Paul's first trip to Philippi in Scripture? What event triggered Paul's decision to travel to Philippi during his second missionary journey?
3. **GEOGRAPHY:** Where is Philippi located?
4. **CHAPTER REVIEW:** Notice Paul doesn't use any Old Testament quotes in his letter to the Philippians. Why?
5. **REFLECTION:** When Paul wrote Philippians, he was under house arrest in Rome. How could Paul write such an upbeat and joyful letter when he (himself) was in prison? What lesson(s) can we learn from; the way Paul handled adversity; the example of his jubilance while imprisoned in Rome?
6. How did Paul's imprisonment help the spread of the gospel?
7. **REFLECTION:** In verse 6, Paul writes about God beginning and finishing a work within us. In your opinion, **when** does God begin and when will He finish that work within us?
8. Why did Paul want the Philippi believers' love to overflow for one another (v.9)?
9. What is the fruit of your salvation? (v. 11)
10. **REFLECTION:** Paul told the Philippians to live as "citizens of heaven" (v.27). What does it mean to live as a citizen of heaven?

## Philippians Chapter 2

1. In this section of Paul's letter to the Philippians, he stresses unity and humility in the church. Why?
2. **BIBLE SEARCH:** Name at least one person, mentioned in the Bible, who was a member of the church at Philippi.
3. Paul says our attitude should be the same as Christ Jesus (v.5). What attitude was Paul speaking of?
4. In verse 2, Paul tells the Philippians to agree wholeheartedly with each other, love one another and work together with one mind and one purpose. What makes it difficult for Christians to have the kind of unity and singleness of purpose that Paul describes?
5. Why does Paul say God raised Christ Jesus to the heights of heaven and gave Him a name above all other names (v.9).
6. **PERSONAL REFLECTION:** In verse 13, Paul says God is working in Christians, giving us the desire to obey and the power to execute His commands. Have you yielded your will to God's. Explain.
7. Paul told the Philippians, *"In everything you do, stay away from complaining and arguing, so that no one can speak a word of blame against you. You are to live clean, innocent lives as children of God in a dark world full of crooked and perverse people. Let your lives shine brightly before them (v.14-15)."* Why did Paul give the Philippians this admonishment?
8. **REFLECTION:** During political seasons when tempers run short and Christians in the same church may be divided politically, what practical steps should Christ-followers take to adhere to Paul's admonishments in verses 14 and 15?
9. **BIBLE/COMMENTARY SEARCH:** At the end of Philippians 2, Paul mentions Timothy and Epaphroditus. Briefly recap, who were Timothy and Epaphroditus?
10. What did Paul mean when he said that unlike Timothy, all the others care only for themselves and not for what matters to Christ (v.20-21).
11. **REFLECTION:** Today's world honors movie stars and sports figures. Who does Paul tell us to honor (v.29)?

## Philippians Chapter 3

1. What does Paul mean in verse 1 when he says, “Whatever happens ....?”
2. Who was Paul referring to in verse 2?
3. What did Paul mean when he said, “*For we who worship God in the spirit are the only ones who are truly circumcised.*” (v.3)
4. Why did Paul indicate he could have more confidence in his own efforts than anyone else could have in theirs (v.4)?
5. In verses 5 and 6 Paul cites his Jewish credentials that made him an authentic Jew. Give Paul’s Jewish credentials.
6. Why did Paul describe his credentials in verses 5 and 6, i.e., what point was he making?
7. **PERSONAL REFLECTION:** Do you have “credentials” (e.g., child of a minister, belong to a nonchristian church, etc.) that prevents you from becoming a fully devoted follower of Christ?
8. How does Paul say we are made right with God (v.9)?
9. **REFLECTION:** Paul said he kept working toward the day he would be everything Christ wanted him to be (v.12). Do you think Paul ever achieved that goal of meeting Christ’s expectation for himself?
10. What does Paul say that he focuses on in verses 13-14? Why does he focus on this?
11. **REFLECTION:** How do you think Paul would define what a “mature Christian” is (v.15).
12. **REFLECTION:** What do you think Paul meant in verse 17, when he said, “.....learn **from** those who follow our example.” (Author’s bold underline)

## Philippians Chapter 4

1. In verses 1, Paul admonishes the Philippians and all Christ-followers to “*stay true to the Lord.*” How does one stay true to the Lord?
2. From Paul’s statements in this chapter (v.2,3) who can we surmise Euodia and Syntyche were and what can we surmise was the nature of their relationship? What appeal did Paul make to these two women?
3. **REFLECTION:** Do you have a broken relationship with a fellow Christian that needs to be mended? Explain. When and how do you intend to mend this relationship?
4. **BIBLE/COMMENTARY SEARCH:** What is the “Book of Life” (v.3)? What Scriptural references can you find describing or referring to the Book of Life.
5. **PERSONAL REFLECTION:** Is your name in the “Book of Life?” Why or Why not?
6. Why does Paul tell us not to worry about anything, but to pray about everything (v.6)?
7. **REFLECTION:** How does praying help us to experience God’s peace? Describe a time that praying helped you to experience God’s peace.
8. List the things Paul admonishes us to think about (see verse 8).
9. What can we conclude from Paul’s statement in verse 9?
10. What was Paul’s “secret of living” (v.12)?
11. According to Paul, how did the Philippians help him in a way that the other churches did not (v.15-16)?
12. Who was Paul referring to when he said all the other Christians send their greetings, ***especially those who work in Caesar’s palace*** (v.22)? (Author’s bold italics)