
Philippians

Author: Paul

The book of Philippians is Paul's letter to a church (located in modern Macedonia, north of Greece). Originally, Paul led his missionary team there because of a vision ([Acts 16:9-12](#)).

Purpose of the Letter

Paul wrote to thank the Philippians for their help in his hour of need. He also urged them to maintain unity of mind, heart, and purpose ([Php 1:27](#), [Php 2:2](#), [Php 3:16](#), [Php 4:2](#)).

Key Words

Although Paul wrote from prison, this is the epistle of joy and rejoicing (mentioned 16 times).

Key Verse

Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. For me to write the same things to you is not tedious, but for you it is safe. (Php 3:1, NKJV)

High-Level Outline

- A Mind Undivided ([Php 1](#))
- A Mind Submitted to God ([Php 2](#))
- A Spiritual Mind ([Php 3](#))
- A Secure Mind ([Php 4](#))

Personal Reflection and Application

What is the purpose of your life? Do you live for achievement, wealth, fame, or pleasure? Or do you live for something more ([Php 1:21](#))?

When Paul says we are to work out our salvation ([Php 2:12-13](#)), he doesn't mean we are to figure it out. He means we are to live it out by showing the works of salvation. No one can do this for us because God has a unique plan for each of us.

In what ways are you showing the works of salvation?

Contentment comes from finding God's plan for your life and living it as He directs.

Are you spending enough time with Him to discover His plan for your life?

Small Group Conversation Guide

As you grow in Christ, spiritual things become more important as things of the world become less important. How does Paul express this in [Philippians 3:7](#)? Do you begin each day with an urge to know your Savior better? What have you learned about Him so far? Are you beginning to appreciate how much He loves you and that He has a plan specifically for you ([Php 3:12](#))?

Most of us ask God to do things for us when we pray. Sometimes we forget to thank Him and praise Him when we pray ([Php 4:6](#)). Take a few minutes as a group to offer God prayers of thanksgiving and praise.

Leadership Principles from Philippians

Pray for Them

Leader, how often do you pray? When you pray, do you intercede for those under your care? Always? Does praying for them bring you joy?

Php 1:3-4 I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy (NKJV)

Insecurity

We all want to feel secure, even a leader who appears strong to others. One source of insecurity for leaders is a sense of being inadequate for the responsibility of leadership. While viewing this from our own strength, that is a valid concern; however, we don't need to rely on our own strength. We can be confident that Christ will continue to develop us as we lean on Him ([Php 1:6](#)).

Motives of a Leader

The biggest barrier to leading like Jesus is a heart filled with self-interest. Do you look out for the interests of others as Paul advises in [Philippians 2:1-4](#)? What are your motives as a leader? Is it to gain possessions or power or is it because God has called you to use your gifts to serve others?

Press Toward the Mark

[Philippians 3:12-14](#) is a wonderful passage for leaders to memorize. Write out the passage. Make an effort to memorize it. Let it remind you to press toward the mark.

Your Example

As a leader you have a higher level of accountability. One reason is that others look to you as an example. Are you confident that you are setting a good example? Would you be comfortable telling others to do the things they see you do and say the things they hear you say ([Php 4:9](#))?

Something to Find in Each Chapter

As you read through the book, it may help to have something to find in each chapter.
Try these:

O1. What two good desires caused Paul to be conflicted	O2. What Christ did for us which showed great humility
O3. Where Paul said our true citizenship lies	O4. Why Paul believed He had the strength to do anything