Bible Study

Philippians: Living with Joy

Chapter 1

OUTLINE OF PHILIPPIANS

(Warren Wiersbe)

I. THE SINGLE MIND—chapter 1

A. The fellowship of the Gospel—1:1–11

B. The furtherance of the Gospel—1:12–26

C. The faith of the Gospel—1:27–30

**DISCUSSION**

The epistle (letter) to the Philippian church was written by the Apostle Paul, while he was in prison.

Paul encourages the Philippian believers to live their lives for Christ with joy – despite negative conditions and circumstances that may happen to them.

We have discovered, thus far, that we are servants sharing in the furtherance of the Gospel (Phil. 1:12–26); but we are also soldiers defending the faith of the Gospel.

**DISCOVERY**

The Single Mind (chapter 1)

* The Fellowship of the Gospel (1-11)
* The Furtherance of the Gospel (12-26)
* **The Faith of the Gospel (27-30)**

The Faith of the Gospel (27-30)

**DIRECTION**

**Conduct (v. 27)**

The KJV uses the word “*conversation*”. This comes from a Greek word which means “to **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** as a citizen”.

The CSB says “…*live your life…*” The Berkeley Version of the New Testament says, “*Be sure to conduct yourselves as citizens of Christ…*”

The point here is that our **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** should demonstrate that we belong to God’s family.

**Acts 23:1; Ephesians 5:15-16; Colossians 4:5-6**

\*Why is it *necessary* that our conduct demonstrate to the world that we belong to God’s family?

A man in the army of Alexander the Great who was also named Alexander, was accused of cowardly actions. He was brought before Alexander, who asked what his name was. He replied softly, “Alexander.” “I can’t hear you,” the ruler stated. The man again said, a little louder, “Alexander.” The process was repeated one more time, after which Alexander the Great commented, “Either change your name or change your conduct.” – Source Unknown

Christ followers are citizens of heaven; therefore, while we are on earth we should behave like citizens of heaven.

**Consistency (v. 27)**

Paul admonishes them to “…live your life ***worthy*** of the gospel of Christ.”

The Greek word that is used here indicates that our lives should “fit” the gospel of Christ. In other words, our lives should be **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** with the gospel of Christ.

**1 Corinthians 15:58; Colossians 3:23**

\*What are some elements/attributes present in a life that is consistent with the gospel of Christ?

What we believe determines how we behave, and wrong belief ultimately means a wrong life.

Warren W. Wiersbe, The Bible Exposition Commentary, vol. 2

The most important weapon against the enemy is not a stirring sermon or a powerful book; it is the consistent life of believers.

Warren W. Wiersbe, The Bible Exposition Commentary, vol. 2

Paul raises this idea again in ch. 3:20. We must **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** what we **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**.

**Cooperation (v. 27)**

It is Paul’s hope to hear of them standing firm in one spirit, in one accord contending together for the faith.

Unity and consistency create the correct atmosphere for **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**.

The word translated “striving together” or “contending together” gives us our English word “athletics.” Paul pictures the church as a team, and he reminds them that it is teamwork that wins victories.

\*What in your opinion is the most important dynamic in a successful team?

In ch. 4, Paul speaks to the division within the congregation which is focuses on two women. This precipitated people “taking sides”. We must guard against this in the life of the church.

Division hinders the growth and forward progress of the church.

The important word here is “**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**”: standing firmly *together* in one spirit, striving *together* against the enemy, and doing it with **one mind and heart**.

Each person has his assigned place and job, and if each one is doing his job, it helps all the others.

1 Corinthians 12:12-31

We are members of the same “team” and should work cooperatively.

**Confidence (v. 28-30)**

Don’t be naïve! As Christ followers we will face **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**. Do not misrepresent what the Bible is saying here. This is a very definite opposition to and against the ministry of the gospel of Christ.

**1 Peter 4:12-19**

Every Christ follower must reconcile the fact that **\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** is as connected to this life as believing is.

**1 Peter 3:14**

“Suffering may appear to be a strange gift, but it’s not. Suffering for the sake of Christ is purposeful, not purposeless. He allows it for our good and for his glory – and that makes all the difference. – Rev. Dr. Tony Evans

Paul reminds the Philippians that he is going through the same difficulties they are experiencing hundreds of miles from Rome!

We must always remember that we are not alone in this struggle. There are other Christ followers in other parts of the city, state, country, world, who are engaged in the same struggle.

Knowing that my fellow believers are also sharing in the battle is an encouragement for me to keep going and to pray for them as I pray for myself.

**DIRECTION**

Read Philippians 2

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