MEMORY VERSE OF THE WEEK: Philippians 4:4-7 *Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. [5] Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; [6] do not be anxious about anything, 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 understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

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MY NOTES

My Insights / My Questions

MONDAY, MAY 16

Read Philippians 1

1. Paul refers to himself and Timothy as *doulos.* The Greek term means what? Are you now a *doulos* of Christ? What exactly does this mean? Does it change your focus? Your behavior?
2. Paul writes about his imprisonment. It _____ the gospel, it is made known that his imprisonment is for _____, others are _____ to speak the word, and Christ is _____. Consequently, he _____. Have you ever been in a situation where your earthly suffering is a blessing for others?
3. "Let your life be worthy of the gospel of Christ." How and when is your life worthy of the gospel? When has it not been? How does God's grace reassure and refresh us?

- **Prayer:** ***Lord, let my thoughts, words, and deeds always be worthy of the gospel.***

TUESDAY, MAY 17

Read Philippians 2

1. Paul draws an implied comparison between Christ's obedience and a believer's obedience. Christ was in the form of God but emptied himself. He was obedient even to death. He was exalted. Paul gives us the answer to how to follow Christ's example. What is it (v13)?
2. Paul calls the Philippians to be shining as lights in the world in midst of a crooked and twisted generation. How do we lovingly shine the light of Christ to today's crooked and twisted generation? Are we willing to suffer for Christ's message?
3. Epaphroditus was probably a leader of the Philippian church who had brought a financial gift to Paul (4:18). He became ill, recovered, but is anxious to return to his congregation. How does this real life, intimate detail, show Paul's and Epaphroditus' concern about their fellow believers? Does this make the epistle more approachable to us today?

- **Prayer:** ***Lord, let me shine Your light to this generation with Your love and gentleness.***

WEDNESDAY, MAY 18

Read Philippians 3

1. What does Paul call his worldly accomplishments (v8)? To what is he comparing worldly accolades?
2. Paul clearly states that our righteousness comes not from the keeping of the law but through what? How does this agree or disagree with his letter to the Galatians?
3. What is the god of the enemies of the cross Paul mentions? Do you see the same worship of the "belly" today? If so, how do we as Christians respond to the societies' pull on our lives?

- **Prayer:** ***Jesus, let me keep my eyes on the goal of Your upward call of God and not to be distracted by or lured into the ways of death and destruction pursued by the world.***

THURSDAY, MAY 19

Read Philippians 4

1. Forms of the word "joy" is found 16 times in Philippians. What is Paul's advice to us when faced with anxiety? What will guard our hearts?
2. The Philippians were commended by Paul for their generous Christian giving. What ministry did their gift support? What ministries do your gifts support?
3. Verse 13 is a well-known verse. What does "all things" mean?

- **Prayer:** ***Lord, help me keep my priorities in line with Your will and that my heart's desire is to serve You with joy, confidence, and thanksgiving.***

FRIDAY, MAY 20

Read Colossians 1

1. Paul encourages the Colossians to be "bearing fruit in every good work". What is the "fruit"? Is there a temptation for people to compare their "fruits", valuing some over others? How can this spiritual "pride" destroy a church?
2. Paul writes that through Christ, all things were created. Where else in the New Testament, by a different author, is this truth shared? (Clue: this author also penned the book of Revelation).
3. In verse 26, Paul describes the "mystery hidden for ages and generations." What is this mystery? To whom does God choose to reveal this mystery (v27). How would this outreach to the non-Jewish believers affect some Jews?

- **Prayer:** ***Lord, let me open my heart to Your Gospel that I might share it freely to all those in my life.***

SATURDAY, MAY 21

Read Colossians 2

1. Where are all treasures of wisdom and knowledge hidden (v3)? How does this compare to the "wisdom and knowledge" of many of today's leaders, politicians, and scientists? (v15)
2. In verse 13, we are described as "dead". How did God raise us from this death?
3. Paul warns the Colossians about false teachings that promote regulations, asceticism, worship of angels, "bragging" about visions. How do we resist these teachings and participate in the growth of the church body that is from God?

- **Prayer:** ***Thank You, Heavenly Father, for revealing the mystery of Christ to me. Guide me to be faithful in my pursuit of Your truth, not the treacherous teachings of man.***