

Philippians 1:12-14, 19-30

Introduction to Philippians

1. When and where do we believe that Paul wrote this Epistle?
2. Joy is a major theme flowing from Paul in this letter to the Philippian congregation. As we study these passages, look for the source of Paul's (and our) joy.
3. Paul uses a standard format for the construction of this letter, following the customs of the day. We still uses some aspects of this in letter writing today.

Read Philippians 1:12-14

4. What has happened to Paul at this point that has served to advance the Gospel?
5. Despite being held in captivity Paul continues to preach. He continues to tell anyone and everyone he can about Jesus, showing a confidence that encouraged others in that day and continues to provide encouragement to us today.

Read Philippians 1:18b-26

6. Here we see the joy that Paul has, even in the face of suffering. He knows that he could very easily be put to death, yet he is joyful and eager for either outcome. How does this serve as "faith in action" demonstrating what Paul wrote in Romans 8:28?
7. How is Christ honored by either Paul's life or death?
8. What responsibility causes Paul to recognize that in this instance it would be better for him to stay alive?

Read Philippians 1:27-30

9. Verses 27 and 28 serve as the overall theme of this letter to the Philippians. How should our lives as Christians look to one viewing us from the outside?
10. Though we may suffer all sorts of trials in our lives we know that our lives are bound up with Christ. In Him we have life and breath, and it is through Christ that we can survive the trials, conflict, and suffering that we may face.