

**STUDY OF PHILIPPIANS
LESSON 1
THE JOY OF FELLOWSHIP IN CHRIST**

KEY VERSE: PHILIPPIANS 1:4 – IN ALL MY PRAYERS FOR ALL OF YOU, I ALWAYS PRAY WITH JOY.

A. PAUSE FOR PRAYER!

a. AFTER THE JEWS RETURNED FROM THE BABYLONIAN CAPTIVITY IN ABOUT 450 B.C., THERE WAS A GREAT NEED TO REINSTATE THE LAW OF GOD IN THE LAND.

b. BUT WHEN THE PEOPLE HEARD THE AWESOME POWER OF THE WORD, THEY BEGAN TO WEEP AND MOURN, FOR THEY HAD ALLOWED THE BIBLE TO FADE FROM MEMORY. SO NEHEMIAH EXHORTED THE PEOPLE TO SORROW NO MORE:

***NEHEMIAH 8: 10 – THE JOY OF OUR LORD IS YOUR STRENGTH!**

c. FROM THIS TIME ON, THE JEWS FORTIFIED THE CITY OF JERUSALEM – REINSTATED THE LAW OF GOD IN THEIR HEARTS AND REBUILT THE TEMPLE – WHEN WE REALLY UNDERSTAND GODS WORD, IT IS AN OCCASION FOR REJOICING. WE ALSO NEED TO UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE GIVES US STRENGTH & HOPE TO ACCOMPLISH GOD’S WILL ON A NUMBER OF LEVELS.

***NEHEMIAH 8: 12**

d. PAUL UNDERSTOOD THAT THE JOY OF THE LORD BRINGS US STRENGTH

***PHIL 4: 13**

***PHIL 1: 1 – 14**

B. DISCOVER

a. WHEN WE LITERALLY UNVEIL OR UNCOVER THE GOSPEL. THE TRUTH OF GOD’S WORD WILL BEGIN TO SHINE FORTH

***THE GREEK WORD; ALETHEIA ALSO MEANS TO UN – COVER**

b. SO WE ARE TO DIS – COVER OR UN – COVER THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THE BIBLE

***DISCOVER – THE OPERATION WORD FOR THE DISCOVER STEP IS OBSERVATION**

c. WE ARE TO OBSERVE ALL OF THE SPECIAL WORDS & IMAGES CONTAINED IN THE PASSAGES OF SCRIPTURE

***WE CANNOT JUST SKIM OVER THE PASSAGES**

d. PAUL IDENTIFIES HIMSELF AS AN APOSTLE IN EVERY ONE OF HIS EPISTLE

***PAUL DEFENDS HIS APOSTOLIC AUTHORITY, BUT MANY CHURCHES SUCH AS IN CORINTH, DIDN'T EXCEPT PAUL AS A TRUE APOSTLE. THE CHURCH AT PHILIPPI WAS HIS MOST TROUBLE FREE CONGREGATION AND THEY LOVED THE APOSTLE PAUL.**

e. PAUL ACKNOWLEDGES THE ORGANIZED CHURCH AND DEACON.

***ACTS 14: 23**

***PHILIPPIANS 1: 4 – PAUL IS VERY THANKFUL FOR THE SAINTS**

***PHILIPPIANS 1: 5 – THANKFUL FOR THE FELLOWSHIP HE SHARES WITH THE PHILIPPIANS**

***THE WORD FOR FELLOWSHIP IN GREEK IS KOINONIA**

***1 CORINTHIANS 1: 9 – DRAWN IN BY THIS FELLOWSHIP IN THE LORD**

***2 CORINTHIANS 13: 14 – HE LOVES THE FELLOWSHIP WITH THE H.S.**

***PHILIPPIANS 1: 4 PAUL MINGLES TOGETHER THE MOST IMPORTANT CONCEPTS OF PRAYER – JOY**

f. PAULS JOYOUS PRAYER ENJOYED A CLOSE, PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PHILIPPIANS

***PAUL HAD JOY IN PRAYER AND INTERPERSONAL RELATIONSHIP**

***JOY AND KOINONIA ARE INTERDEPENDENT**

***FELLOWSHIP AND PARTNERSHIP IS OFTEN RENDERED SHARE IN SOME TRANSLATION**

***ACTS 16: 14 – 15 – HOW DID LYDIA OFFER FELLOWSHIP? THE MINISTRY OF HOSPITALITY IS VALUABLE IN THE CHURCH. IT IS PART OF LOVE.**

h. PHILIPPIANS 1: 1 – 14 PAUL USE TERM OF LOVE & AFFECTION

***QUESTIONS: WHY DO YOU FEEL PAUL CONNECTS LOVE IN V. 9 WITH KNOWLEDGE – INSIGHT – AND THE ABILITY TO DISCERN V. 10?**

i. FOR THE JEWS AND THE EARLY CHURCH KNOWLEDGE ALWAYS INVOLVED INTERPERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS

***THOUGHT – COULD THIS MEAN THAT KNOWLEDGE FOR THE BELIEVER IS NOT SO MUCH FACTS, IN OUR BRAINS AS THE RIGHT SPIRITUAL ATTITUDE IN OUR HEARTS?**

***PHILIPPIANS 1: 6 HOW DOES IT APPLY TO HIS EXPERIENCE AS SET FORTH IN 1; 12 – 14**

***QUESTION! ROMANS 8: 28 – WHAT DO HIS WORDS TELL US ABOUT HIS BELIEF IN DIVINE SOVEREIGNTY OR THE CONFIDENCE THAT GOD IS IN CONTROL**

C. DISCERN

a. DISCERN STEP CONCENTRATES ON WHAT THE SCRIPTURE MEANS AS DISCOVER STEP IS FOCUSED ON WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS

b. IN THE DISCERN STEP – YOU ARE CLEARLY TO IDENTIFY KEY WORDS – PHRASES & SPECIAL FEATURES OF THE BIBLE

***JOY IS A CENTRAL THEME OF THE EPISTLE. IF JOY IS CONSISTENTLY JOINED TO PRAYER, THEN THE MESSAGE IS CLEAR THERE CAN BE NO TRUE JOY OF THE LORD APART FROM PRAYER**

***THE ONLY WAY TO STUDY THE BIBLE, TO DISCOVER WHAT IT SAYS**

***DISCERN WHAT IT MEANS AND SEEK GENUINE CHANGE THROUGH THE WORD. LET THE WORD DISCIPLE YOU**

c. THE ONLY WAY TO BE DISCIPLED IS THROUGH THE SPIRIT OF GOD. DISCERNING OF SPIRITS IS ONE OF THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS LISTED IN 1 COR. 12: 10

***THE GREEK WORD USED FOR DISCERNING HERE IS DIAKXISEIS AND MEANS TO MAKE AN INFORMAL DISTINCTION**

***DISCERN STEP IS ABOUT INTERPRETATION AND THIS TO BE, IS AN IMPORTANT ASPECT OF THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

***1 COR. 12: 10**

d. PAUL USES THE WORD HERMENEIA FROM WHICH WE GET THE WORD HERMENEUTICS – THE ART OF INTERPRETATION

***THE CORE MEANING OF THE WORD HERMENEIA IS TO UNSEAL**

***1 COR. 12: 30 & 14: 13, 27 PAUL USES A STRONGER FORM OF THE WORD MEANING TO (THOUGHLY UNSEAL)**

***AGAIN ONLY THE HOLY SPIRIT CAN HELP YOU (THOROUGHLY UNSEAL)**

***JAMES 1: 6 – SINCERE, FAITH – FILLED PRAYER IS REQUIRED TO RECEIVE ANYTHING FROM THE LORD**

***GODS WORD IS REALLY A JOURNEY INTO THE VERY HEART GOD**

1 COR. 2: 1 – 14

e. WE MUST REMEMBER, IT IS THE H.S. THAT TEACHES US, ABOUT THE HEART OF GOD – THE H.S. THAT ENABLES US TO DISCERN THE THINGS OF GOD – THE H. S. WILL GRANT THE KIND OF DISCERNMENT THAT WILL EMPOWER US TO FULLY INTERPRET HIS WORD

***PHILIPPIANS 1: 1 – 14**

f. PAUL IS VERY POSITIVE, WORDS USED!

- THANK

- JOY

- FELLOWSHIP

- CONFIDENT

- LOVE

- EXCELLENCE

- BOLDNESS

***PHILIPPIANS 1: 6 POINTS TO THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST**

***PHILIPPIANS 3: 20 POINTS TO THE END OF TIME PHIL 1: 10**

***PHILIPPIANS 1: 7 POINTS TO FELLOWSHIP – SHARING OR PARTNERSHIP – WE ARE SEEN DEFENDING – PAUL IS FACING A FINAL TRIAL BEFORE CAESAR IN ROME**

***MUCH LAW COURT LANGUAGE WILL BE USED IN PHILIPPIANS**

***PHILIPPIANS 1: 13 THE WORD PALACE IS THE LATIN TERM PRAITORE TRANSLATED PALACE GUARD. THIS REFERS TO THE PRAETORIAN GUARD OF THE EMPEROR AT THE TIME OF NEW CAESAR – PRAETORIAN GUARD NUMBERED ABOUT 6,000 ELITE SOLDIERS WHO WE COMMITTED TO PROTECTING THE EMPEROR.**

***PAUL REALLY IS PREACHING THE GOSPEL IN ROME ACTS 23: 11 ROM. 1: 15**

***REPETITIONS ARE IMPORTANT IDEAS FOR PAUL & THE PHILIPPIANS**

***IMPORTANT THEME IN PHILIPPIANS – STATE OF MIND**

***ONE THEME PAUL GIVES US GOD IS IN CONTROL**

***PHILIPPIANS 1: 12 – 13**

***WHAT IS GOD SAYING IN PHILIPPIANS?**

***IS GOD SPEAKING TO YOU?**

D. DEVOTE

***THE OPERATIVE WORD FOR DISCOVER STEP WAS OBSERVATION**

***DISCERN STEP WAS INTERPRETATION**

***DEVOTE STEP ARE COMMITMENT AND OBEDIENCE**

***PHILIPPIANS 1: 1 – 14**

a. DEVOTE MEANS TO COMMIT TO THE SPIRITUAL AND MORAL CLAIMS FOUND IN THOSE SCRIPTURES

***WHAT DOES THE LORD WANT ME TO DO?**

***IT'S TIME FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT TO APPLY THE LESSONS OF THESE SCRIPTURES TO YOUR HEART**

b. THROUGHOUT PHILIPPIANS, PAUL IS CONCERNED ABOUT THE CHRISTIAN STATE OF MIND; GOD IS NOT ONLY INTERESTED IN SAVING SOULS, HE IS INTERESTED IN THE HEALTH OF OUR MINDS & EMOTIONS AS WELL

***2 CORINTHIANS 10: 4, 5**

a. JESUS NOT ONLY WANTS TO BE LORD OF OUR SOUL, BUT HE WANTS TO BE LORD OVER OUR HEART AND OUR ATTITUDES AS WELL. PAUL'S CONCERN FOR OUR "INNER WORLD" CAN BE SEEN IN HIS FREQUENT USE OF COMMANDS IN PHILIPPIANS. A GODLY STATE OF MIND IS NOT DIVINE REQUIREMENT

***QUESTION FOR OUR SELF – ALL THESE AREAS OF MY HEART THAT NEED TO COME UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF GOD'S WORD**

***QUESTION, DO I HARBOR CERTAIN ATTITUDES THAT CONFLICT WITH WHAT GOD HAS SAID IN THIS SECTION OF SCRIPTURE?**

***PHILIPPIANS 1: 3 – 4 PAUL SPEAKS OF THE FOLLOWING QUALITIES:**

1. THANKFULNESS V. 3

2. PRAYERFULNESS V. 4

3. JOY V. 4

4. FELLOWSHIP V. 5

5. CONFIDENCE V. 6

***AS YOU DEVOTE YOURSELF TO THE CLAIM OF THIS TEXT, TAKE STOCK OF YOUR EXPERIENCE MORE JOY IN YOURSELF**

***PHIL. 3: 4 – 6 – PAUL WAS A STRONG & ACCOMPLISHED PERSON, BUT KNEW MINISTRY THAT MINISTERING FOR THE LORD IS A TEAM EFFORT. THAT’S WHY GOD IS SO THANKFUL FOR THOSE THAT HELP HIM IN MINISTRY.**

***ARE YOU A LONE RANGER?**

***PAULS CONFIDENCE IS IN THE LORD, NOT HIMSELF. HOW DO YOU FEEL THAT SUCH CONFIDENCE IN THE LORD WOULD AFFECT THE HELP OF OTHERS?**

***PAULS CONFIDENCE IS IN THE LORD, NOT HIMSELF**

***HOW DO YOU FEEL THAT SUCH CONFIDENCE IN THE LORD WOULD EFFECT YOUR EMOTIONAL & MENTAL ATTITUDE?**

E. DISCIPLE

a. A MAJOR PURPOSE FOR STUDYING THE BIBLE IS TO UNDERGO POSITIVE CHANGE IN THE LORD. THIS IS THE TRUE MEANING OF DISCIPLESHIP. AS THE SPIRIT ACTUALIZES THE WILL OF GOD IN OUR LIVES, WE BECOME MORE LIKE THE IMAGE OF CHRIST

***ROMANS 8: 29**

b. AS WE COME UNDER THE DISCIPLINE OF THE WORD, WE ARE BETTER EQUIPPED TO DISCIPLE OTHERS IN THE LORD

***DISCIPLE STEP IS A CALL TO ACTION**

***QUESTION: WHAT DOES THE SCRIPTURE REQUIRE ME TO DO?**

***THIS WEEKS SCRIPTURE IN PHILIPPIANS CHALLENGES ME TO COMMIT TO:**

1. EXPRESSING THANKS TO GOD AND OTHERS

2. PRAY WITHOUT CEASING

3. STOP DEPENDING ON THE THINGS OF THIS WORLD TO BRING ME JOY – REGARDLESS OF SITUATION, I AM TO TAKE HOLD OF THE JOY OF THE LORD

4. SEEK GODS HELP IN TRUSTING IN HIM MORE REFUSE TO WORRY – SET ASIDE ALL ANXIOUS THOUGHTS AND REPLACE THEN WITH A JOYOUS CONFIDENCE
5. BECOMING MORE OF A TEAM PLAYER RATHER THAN TRYING TO DO EVERYTHING BY MYSELF. I WILL BE PART OF A TEAM AND NOT A SOLO FLIGHT THROUGH THIS WORLD.

***MATTHEW 28: 8 - 20**

a. WE ARE NOT ONLY TO BE TAUGHT, BUT GO AND TEACH OTHERS THROUGH THE WORD

***PEOPLE NEED THE JOY OF THE LORD**

***TEACH PEOPLE ABOUT THE EMPOWERING PRESENCE OF PRAYER**

***LET THEM KNOW THERE IS ALWAYS SOMETHING THEY CAN DO ABOUT THEIR SITUATION IN LIFE – THEY CAN PRAY**

**NEXT STUDY
THE JOY OF SUFFERING FOR THE GOSPEL**