

# Philippians — The Epistle of Christian Joy

*This is a self-study course  
designed to help you discover  
for yourself, from the Bible,  
some important basic truths about  
living the Christian life.*

## how to study the lesson

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1. Try to find a quiet spot free from distractions and noise.
2. Read the entire Scripture lesson; read it several times to help you absorb its content.
3. Read each question carefully. Then look up the Scripture reference given after each question. Make sure you have found the correct Scripture passage. For example, sometimes you may find yourself looking up JOHN 1:1 instead of I JOHN 1:1.
4. Answer the question from the appropriate Bible passage. Write, in your own words, a phrase or sentence to answer the question. In questions that can be answered with a “yes” or “no” always give the reason for your answer . . . “Yes, because. . . .”
5. If possible, keep a dictionary handy in order to look up words you don’t understand.

6. Pray for God's help. You *need* God's help in order to understand what you study in the Bible. Psalm 119:18 would be an appropriate verse for you to take to God in prayer.

7. *Class teachers using this course for group study will find some helpful suggestions on page 47.*

## how to take the self-check tests

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Each lesson is concluded with a test designed to help you evaluate what you have learned.

1. Review the lesson carefully in the light of the self-check test questions.

2. If there are any questions in the self-check test you cannot answer, perhaps you have written into your lesson the wrong answer from your Bible. Go over your work carefully to make sure you have filled in the blanks correctly.

3. When you think you are ready to take the self-check test, do so without looking up the answers.

4. Check your answers to the self-check test carefully with the answer key given on page 48.

5. If you have any questions wrong, your answer key will tell you where to find the correct answer in your lesson. Go back and locate the right answers. Learn by your mistakes!

## apply what you have learned to your own life

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In this connection, read carefully JAMES 1:22-25. It is only as you apply your lessons to your own life that you will really grow in grace and increase in the knowledge of God.

## *Introduction to Philippians*

It was a moment fraught with far-reaching consequences when Paul heard the Macedonian call while at Troas (AcTs 16:9). As a result, Europe heard the gospel for the first time.

Paul and his party dropped anchor at Neapolis, the port of Philippi on the other side of the mountain, and took the road to this city recognized by Philip of Macedon as a gateway to be strongly guarded. To remember this is to get new light on many expressions in this epistle.

Here, ten years before the date of this epistle, began friendships unbroken through the years, particularly with Timothy, a youth of exemplary ability and piety. It is the most personal of all Paul's church epistles.

It was written at Rome while Paul, a prisoner, was in Caesar's household (4:22) where the "whole praetorian guard" (A.S.V.) was found (1:13).

### *Outline*

- I. A Christian Salutation 1:1-11
- II. A Prison Witness 1:12-30
- III. The Mind of Christ 2:1-11
- IV. The Outworkings of Salvation 2:12-30
- V. Warnings Against Judaism 3:1-11
- VI. The Christian Walk 3:12-21
- VII. A Christian Exhortation 4:1-9
- VIII. A Christian's Giving 4:10-23



# A Christian's Salutation

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1:1-11

1. How does Paul show his profound personal appropriation of God?

1:3 \_\_\_\_\_

2. How is his special attachment for the believers at Philippi indicated?

1:4 \_\_\_\_\_

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3. What did Paul experience as he made requests for them?

1:4 \_\_\_\_\_

It gives a minister peculiar joy to pray for some people. He can overlook many shortcomings when he can think of them as loyal, helpful, prayerful, and desiring only to advance the cause of Christ.

4. What was Paul's feeling of certainty about these believers?

1:6 \_\_\_\_\_

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In verse 6, the opening words are literally, "You can rely on this."

5. If we are now the sons of God, what can we know?

I JOHN 3:2 \_\_\_\_\_

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6. What is Jesus Christ besides being the Author of our salvation?

HEBREWS 12:1, 2 \_\_\_\_\_

7. Why is He able to save *unto* the uttermost (limit of time) even faulty believers?

HEBREWS 7:25 \_\_\_\_\_

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8. Because of His intercession, what is assured to a truly born-again person?

ROMANS 8:33, 34 \_\_\_\_\_

9. In spite of our many shortcomings, what will He confirm (lit. “guarantee”)?

I CORINTHIANS 1:8 \_\_\_\_\_

10. What did our Lord say of all whom the Father had given Him through regeneration?

JOHN 6:39 \_\_\_\_\_

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The merits of the atoning death of our Lord, plus His high priestly work, cannot fail a true child of God so that he will slip out of God’s hands.

11. What did Jesus say about the security of the believer?

JOHN 10:28, 29 \_\_\_\_\_

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12. While a child of God is expected to “work out” or manifest the implanted life, who works in him?

PHILIPPIANS 2:13 \_\_\_\_\_

13. What is the condition of the true Christian who falls by the wayside?

I CORINTHIANS 11:32; cf. PSALM 37:24 \_\_\_\_\_

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A Christian is far more victorious in his life when he comes to believe in the *fidelity of God*. Dr. Hodge writes: “The apostle’s confidence in the steadfastness and final perseverance of these believers was founded neither on their strength or their purpose to persevere, nor on any assumption that the principle of religion in their hearts was indestructible; but simply on the fidelity of God. If God has promised to give certain persons to His Son as His inheritance, to deliver them from sin and condemnation and to make them partakers of eternal life, it is certain He will not allow them to perish. This is plain enough; but how did the apostle know that those to whom he wrote were included in the number of those given to Christ and that the fidelity of God was pledged to their salvation? It was because they were called. Whom He calls, them He also justifies; and whom He justifies, them He also glorifies (ROMANS 8:30). The call intended is the effectual call of the Holy Spirit by which the soul is renewed and translated from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of light. The only evidence of election is therefore vocation, and the only evidence of vocation is holiness of heart and life, for we are called into the fellowship of His Son.”

14. During Paul’s days of imprisonment, for what group did he especially long?

1:8 \_\_\_\_\_

The word translated “bowels” is one that in Greek classics stood for the “nobler vitals.” The translators conceived of the “bowels” as the seat of tender feelings. In our day we would refer to the “heart” instead. A modern translation gives: “I long after you in the very heart-root in Christ.”

15. For what did Paul especially pray on their behalf?

1:9 \_\_\_\_\_

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16. In this prayer, what was Paul’s concern about the genuineness of their Christian profession?

1:10 \_\_\_\_\_

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The Greek word for “sincere” is one that means “sun-tested.” In making of porcelain ware, cracks needing wax filling were revealed by holding the pieces up to the sunlight. Hypocrisy is a wax that some people use to try to hide the imperfections of character.

17. What is the only way one can be filled with the acceptable fruits of righteousness?

1:11; cf. ROMANS 10:1-3 \_\_\_\_\_

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## check-up time No. 1

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*You have just studied some important truths from Philippians 1:1-11. Review your study by rereading the questions and your written answers. If you wish, you may use the self-check test as an aid in reviewing your lesson. If you aren't sure of an answer, reread the Scripture portion given to see if you can find the answer. Then take this test to see how well you understand important truths you have studied.*

*In the right-hand margin write "True" or "False" after each of the following statements.*

1. Timothy was with Paul when he was in Rome. \_\_\_\_\_
2. The church in Philippi had no organization. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Paul often remembered the saints of Philippi. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Paul often prayed for the saints of Philippi. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Even though God saves us, He leaves our Christian growth entirely in our hands. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Paul was released from prison before he wrote this letter to the Philippians. \_\_\_\_\_
7. Paul was always ready to defend his faith. \_\_\_\_\_
8. Paul prayed that the Philippians would grow in the knowledge of Christ. \_\_\_\_\_
9. The Philippians were to be concerned about their Christian character. \_\_\_\_\_
10. Christians can bring forth fruits of righteousness if they try hard enough. \_\_\_\_\_

*Turn to page 48 and check your answers.*