

Bible Studies

Philippians

We are going to do a verse by verse study of Philippians. The object of this study is not just to understand what Paul writes but also to help us to read the Bible better.

The opening of the letter contains the elements you expect of an Epistle, (from, to grace, prayer).

What three groups does Paul identify in Philippi? v1
Who were each of these groups?

How did the Gospel come to Philippi? Acts 16v11-40
Was it a long visit or a short one?
How did they leave?

Most people believe this letter was written from Rome at the end of Paul's time in prison. If so Paul is writing 12 to 15 years after he briefly visited them.



Philippians 1v3-9

What does v3-4 tell us about Paul's prayer life?

Paul's letters are occasional, He had reasons for writing them, he eludes to three reasons in this next paragraph.



What gave Paul Joy?
What was the Philippians 'partnership in the Gospel'? 4v15
Why was Paul writing? 4v18
What partnership in the Gospel are we involved in?

being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. Philippians 1:6



What does this verse mean?
What is the Good Work began?
What is the completion?
How does this apply to us?

To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy— Jude 1:24

Why was Paul writing?

How does Paul's prayer in v9-11 fit with verse 6?
What does he pray for

Why do we need these things?

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The fruit of righteousness will be peace; the effect of righteousness will be quietness and confidence forever. Isa 32:17



Philippians 1v 7-8

Where was Paul when he wrote Philippians?



Why did he write to them?

How did Paul see his imprisonment? V12

What two results did he see from it?

Paul saw everything that happened to him as an opportunity for the advancement of the Gospel. He really believed what he wrote in Romans;

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. Rom 8:28

He also believed in;

making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Eph 5:16



Philippians 1v15-18

What are the two ways that people preach the Gospel?

What was the difference between the two groups?

Was the problem with their message or their motivation?

Are motives important?

Why did some people want to stir up trouble for Paul? 3v2

What wrong motives do people preach the Gospel today?

Does this stop God using them?

What does this passage teach us about accepting other churches?



Philippians 1v19-26

What is Paul discussing in this section?

What two outcomes does he foresee?

How can he be so philosophical about the idea of death?

What did happen?

For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. Philippians 1:21

What does it mean?

What would the result of his continued ministry be?

What would the result of his death be?



Philippians 1v27-30

What does Paul mean “conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the Gospel”?

What three things does he identify with this?

This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved—and that by God. Philippians 1:28

Perhaps there is an echo here of Christ's words; *“By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”* John 13:35, or maybe it was the courage they showed in the face of persecution.

What did the sign mean to believers and unbelievers? 2 Cor 2:16

How does Paul see suffering? Rom 8:17-18, Phil 3:10, 1 Pet 2:21

To what does Paul's own reference to suffering refer? 1 Thes 2:2

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Why was Paul writing? 4v18
What partnership in the Gospel are we involved in?
(Missions, God, Church)

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Love

knowledge

discernment

pure and blameless

Fruit of Righteousness

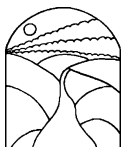
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Philippians 1v27-30

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What three things does he identify with this?

Stand firm in one spirit

Contending as one man for the faith of the Gospel

Without fear despite those who oppose

This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved—and that by God. Philippians 1:28

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Philippians 1a



Read Philippians 2v1-11

Paul's Greek is not generally held to be an outstanding example of the language, Shakespeare he was not. But from time to time he can turn a phrase that strikes the heart. This is one such passage.

What does Paul invoke?

What are these things?

The Greek word translated 'if' does not imply that there is any doubt about these things. It could be translated 'since'.

What point is Paul making?

What he is saying is if being a Christian has had any effect in your life, if it hasn't been in vain then....

What does Paul call for?

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When we read a passage like this we always ask why did Paul write this, or what was the reason Paul needed to write this? We can only assume these were things that were contested in Philippi.

Do you think these two sets of four connect together in any way?

At the very least Paul is saying *if these are the things you have received from God should they not effect the way you treat each other?*

The NIV fails to translate the First Greek word of this chapter, it is 'Therefore'.

What connection does therefore imply between chapter 1 and 2?

It is clear that Paul is saying what he's saying because of what he has just said.

So what is it in chapter 1 that prompts him to make this appeal?

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Philippians 2:3-4

Judging from these verses what is the problem among the Philippians?

Paraphrase what Paul is saying.



How should Christians behave?

Based on these verses

How do you need to change?

How does the Church need to change?

Is it wrong to look to your own interests?

Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Philippians 2v5

Paul is about to tell us what Christ's attitude was. He has already given us some fairly broad hints

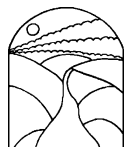
Why does Paul say our attitude not our actions?

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It has long been suggested that this next section was not written by Paul but was in fact part of an early church hymn/poem/creed. This is possible but there is no hard evidence, nor is there any reason Paul could not have written it.

1 Timothy 3v16 could be another example of this.

If so what does it tell us of the early church?

Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped,

What does this verse tell us about Jesus?



but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

What does this verse tell us about Jesus?

Made himself nothing translated literally is emptied himself

Of what did Jesus empty himself?

What did he not empty himself of?

And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross!

What does this verse tell us about Jesus?

Why does it say ‘even death on a cross?’

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.



Is Christ’s exaltation past or future? What occasioned it?

Are verses 10-11 past present or future?

A clear fulfilment of this is found in Revelation chapter 5v13

What do heaven, earth and under the earth represent?

What is the final outcome of Jesus exaltation?

These verses describe three periods of Christ’s existence what are they?

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What marks each period?

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich. 2 Corinthians 8:9

These Verses describe two states of existence what are they?

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This is sometimes called the hypostatic union. That during his time on earth Christ existed both as man and God without compromising or diluting either (he was wholly God and wholly man). Or dividing the two, (Scripture does not assign Jesus miracles to his deity and his normal life to His humanity). All that it is to be God Jesus is, All it was to be human Jesus was. This is a mystery.

For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, Colossians 1:19

As is so often the case, while we study a passage like this to understand what it can tell us about Christ, such theology was incidental to Paul’s purpose. (he did not write this to explain who Jesus is, that is just a by-product.)

What is the point Paul wants to make?

What does this tell us of the road to glory? For Christ and us.

Was Jesus aware of this? Matthew 20:28; Matthew 23:11-12

If Christ emptied himself to serve what do I need to empty myself of?

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What does Paul invoke?

encouragement from being united with Christ,

comfort from his love,

fellowship with the Spirit,

if any tenderness and compassion,

What are these things?

The Greek word translated 'if' does not imply that there is any doubt about these things. I could be translated 'since'.

What point is Paul making?

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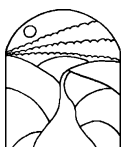
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Pre incarnation - incarnation - Post incarnation

What marks each period?

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These Verses describe two states of existence what are they?

Deity

humanity

This is sometimes called the hypostatic union. That during his time on earth Christ existed both as man and God without compromising or diluting either (he was wholly God and wholly man). Or dividing the two, (Scripture does not assign Jesus miracles to his deity and his normal life to His humanity). All that it is to be God Jesus is, All it was to be human Jesus was. This is a mystery.

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Philippians IIb

It is hardly surprising that following such an emotive and powerful passage as 2v5-11 Paul should wish to push home his point. If this is how Christ acted, if this is who Christ is then this is what we should do...



Read Philippians 2v12-18

This passage suffers from two problems, firstly an obvious but persistent misinterpretation, and secondly that it is usually divorced from its context.

Should we act differently according to who is around?

Who is Paul calling the Philippians to obey?

Has there been any other reference to obedience in Philippians?

Paul certainly expected the Churches to obey not only what he taught them face to face but also what he wrote to them. *2 Thessalonians 3:14*. It seems to have been his practice to appeal rather than order. *Philemon v8-9*.

Should we obey our leaders? Hebrews 13v7

It seems more likely that Paul is calling us to be obedient the same way Christ was obedient, not only in action but in attitude. Paul likes to use phrases like; obeying the teaching, Romans 6:17, obeying the truth, Galatians 5:7, obeying the gospel, 2 Thessalonians 1:8. He very clearly proclaimed that the Gospel he preached did not originate with him.

What things might he have been calling the Philippians to obedience in?

continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, Philippians 2:12

Is Paul suggesting that salvation is obtained by working? Ephesians 2v8-9

When is salvation?

Eph 2:5, 2 Tim 1:9

1 Cor 1:18, 2 Cor 2:15

Rom 13:11, Heb 9:28, 1 Pet 1:5

Salvation has three aspects, yet it is a whole, each aspect applies to us, we have been saved, we are being saved and when we meet Christ we are going to be saved.



Do you see a conflict in this?

Which aspect of Salvation is Paul talking about in Philippians 2v12?

So what does he mean by work out your salvation?

I think he means mature in your faith. - Let this salvation permeate though your whole being. - Let the effect of salvation be seen in you. - Act in accordance with your salvation.

Which is the best meaning: work for, work at, out work?

Does fear and trembling suggest that we should be scared that we might loose such a great Gift?

We can if we deliberately turn our backs on God, but that is not the point Paul is making, rather that the awesome example of Christ and the cost of our salvation should motivate our behaviour.

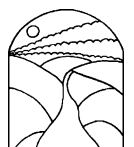
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What does this verse mean?

That God will enable us to work out our salvation.

That in our action God will achieve His purpose.

We do not have to do anything because God will do it all.



This verse is a great comfort to me. It assures me that God will be working through and despite my feeble efforts. Someone pointed out you can only out work when God works in.

Do everything without complaining or arguing, Philippians 2:14

Read Exodus 16v7-9; Numbers 11v1 (1 Cor 10v10, James 5v9, Jude v16)

Again Jesus is the example - he went to the cross without a single complaint.

Were the Philippians grumbling against God or each other?

What is the Result of Grumbling going to be? Against God Against each other?

What is the point of the shine like stars metaphor? 2v15

Stars can be translated "light bearers" or "Light givers", this we can only be when we hold out for the word of truth. There is no place for compromise.

The grammar of verse 17 is difficult in the English.

To what does Paul liken himself and why?

This he seems to feel is a natural requirement of those who preach the gospel. If he is suffering it is because of the Philippians faith, ie it is because of the gospel.

Why should the Philippians be glad and rejoice? 2v18



Timothy

Why is Paul Going to send Timothy to Philippi? Two reasons v19 & v23

Is there a third reason?

What does this passage tell us about Timothy?

I hope in the Lord v19&24 is more than Paul's usually habit of tying everything he does into Jesus. This is the only place he uses it in a travelogue. It implies that he is uncertain of the out come of his imprisonment but that he knows that the outcome will be Christ's will. Yet not knowing God's will he still goes on to give plans for the future.

What does this tell us about the way Paul took his guidance? cf Acts 16v6-10

Paul knew God's general will for him, Acts 9v15, he did not wait to know if a specific step was exactly what God wanted, he did trust God to direct him.

Does this have implications for us?



Epaphroditus

Epaphroditus was probably the man who had brought the gift from Philippi to Paul. It seems that the Philippians had intended he stay with Paul permanently (the word send '**back**' is not in the Greek). However Paul thinks it is best that he return, he is probably carrying this letter.

Perhaps Epaphroditus is unsure what kind of a reception he will receive, will they think he has failed or let them down?

How does Paul describe him?

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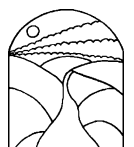
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Is there a third reason?

What does this passage tell us about Timothy?

*Stands out - takes a genuine interest
He looks to the interests of Christ not himself cf 2v4
He has proven himself trust worthy*

I hope in the Lord v19&24 is more than Paul's usually habit of tying everything he does into Jesus. This is the only place he uses it in a travelogue. It implies that he is uncertain of the out come of his imprisonment but that he knows that the outcome will be Christ's will. Yet not knowing God's will he still goes on to give plans for the future.

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Perhaps Epaphroditus is unsure what kind of a reception he will receive, will they think he has failed or let them down?

How does Paul describe him?

my brother, Fellow worker, Fellow soldier, almost died for the work of Christ risked his life. (exposed himself to danger)

How are they to receive him?

Welcome - Great Joy - Honour

Why does he need to go back?

Ill longs for the Philippians, I think Paul feels he is in the wrong place - thats why he is anxious.

Does this passage tell us anything about how we should treat missionaries?

Paul certainly does not feel Epaphroditus has failed, when John Mark quit Paul was very clear about his criticism not so of Epaphroditus.

Will all God's callings be life long or will some be for a time only?

In what way is Epaphroditus an example for us?

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Philippians IIIa



Read Philippians 3v1-4a

When Paul says 'it is no trouble for me to write the same thing again', or 'I do not hesitate to write the same thing'. It is unclear whether he is referring to Rejoicing or what comes next.

In what way could rejoicing be a safeguard?

Paul uses some strong language in these next verses. To grasp the warning he is giving we must understand a little of one of the first century churches biggest problems.



Read Acts 15v1-3

There were a group of people called the Judaizers. They believed that if gentiles wanted to believe in a Jewish Messiah and be included in a Salvation extended to the Jews, they should first become Jewish. This would mean they had to convert to Judaism, be circumcised and keep the law, if they wanted to be saved. Paul taught that salvation came by faith in Jesus to all, irrespective of nationality; it could not be obtained by keeping the law, because no one Jew or gentile could obey the law perfectly.

These Judaizers regularly visited the Churches Paul had planted to 'correct' his teaching. This brought great confusion to the new converts, first they are told all they have to do is believe, then along come these very persuasive people appearing to have the authority of the Jerusalem church behind them telling them they must be circumcised and obey many obscure laws.

In Acts 15 the leaders of the church meet to discuss this issue. Paul's position, (the one we still hold today) was vindicated. This did not stop the Judaizers.

This problem is seen most clearly in the Epistle to the Galatians. This Book was written to counter a visit by the Judaizers.

I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you by the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— 7 which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ. 8 But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let him be eternally condemned!
Galatians 1:6-8 Galatians 3v1-5 & Galatians 5v1-12

Paul felt passionately about this. The very basis of the Gospel was being threatened.



What was the warning Paul was giving to the Philippians?

Why was it so important?

Do people still try to add conditions to the Gospel?

Circumcision could mean three things;

It symbolised of doing away with the old nature. (Similar to Baptism) thus Paul often talks of circumcision of the heart.

It was the sign of the Covenant with Abraham. To be Circumcised was to be part of the Jewish people.

It was used as a summary for keeping the law as a way of being saved. Ie to be circumcised was to keep the law.

Which of these do you think Paul had a problem with?

Did Paul think Circumcision was wrong? Acts 16:3

When Paul says we are the circumcision which meaning is he thinking of?

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When he says we worship by the Spirit, he clearly has Jesus words in **John 4v24** in mind.

Is Paul's context similar to that of Jesus?

What does Glory in Christ Jesus mean?

I think 'Glory in Christ Jesus' means rely exclusively in him for salvation.

What does put confidence in the flesh mean?

Paul goes on to explain that if anyone stands to be saved other than by faith in Jesus it is him.

What does Paul have going for him? V4-6

As for Legalistic righteousness faultless.

Does this mean that Paul never sinned?

What does it mean?

I think Paul is saying that he had kept the law as much as possible, No one could find fault in him or claim to have kept the law better than him. He was the best there was.

Besides there is a big difference between outward and inward compliance.



**How does Paul rate all of his inherent advantages?
Instead what is his greatest privilege?**

What are Paul's Goals?

What does Paul mean by 'Gain Christ' and 'Be found in Christ'?

I think Paul means to be relying on Christ.

What is the difference between a righteousness by faith and one by the law? Romans 3:20-21, 4v3-6

In fact Righteousness by faith is the only true righteousness. Gal 2:21, 3:21, Eph 4:24

What does he mean by the power of his resurrection?

Romans 6:4, Colossians 3:1, Ephesians 2:5-6

And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you. Romans 8:11

Perhaps Paul means the effects of the Resurrection, not only that it vindicated Jesus identity and work but also as he says in Romans 4v25. *He was raised to life for our justification.*

Why on earth does he want to fellowship in Christ sufferings?

Suffering was an accepted part of the Christian walk in Paul's day. 2 Timothy 3:12.

Paul was not a masochist, he did not want to suffer, nor did he see his sufferings as being redemptive. But he knew that remaining true to his convictions was inevitably going to bring suffering. This he did not shrink back from but embraced.

What does he mean to become like him in his death?

1 Corinthians 15:31, Romans 6:4-8, Colossians 2:20.



**What Resurrection does he mean?
Is he doubting that he will in fact be resurrected?**

No, Paul is not doubting this, rather he is expressing his amazement that God should extend to the likes of us, unworthy as we are, such a gift as eternal life.

Bible Studies

Philippians IIIa



Read Philippians 3v1-4a

When Paul says 'it is no trouble for me to write the same thing again', or 'I do not hesitate to write the same thing'. It is unclear whether he is referring to Rejoicing or what comes next.

In what way could rejoicing be a safeguard?

Paul uses some strong language in these next verses. To grasp the warning he is giving we must understand a little of one of the first century churches biggest problems.



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<i>To have a righteousness by faith</i>	<i>To Know Christ</i>
<i>power of his resurrection</i>	<i>fellowship of his suffering</i>
<i>Become like him in his death attain to the resurrection</i>	

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Bible Studies

Philippians IIIb



Read Philippians 3:12-16

What has Paul not yet obtained?

It is significant to note that Paul writes this as a mature believer. He has been saved c25 years. Philippians is one of his later epistles.



What does he mean when he says 'Christ took hold of me'?

Read Acts 26:12-18

What did Christ take hold of Paul for?

How did Paul respond? 3v12

Christ has taken hold of us too, we must respond, we must press on to take hold of our God given callings and duties.

What sort of things might these be?

This was not a one-time thing; Paul having already achieved all that could be expected of him, is still intent to press on. This must be our attitude, we cannot become complacent.

Verses like this give us an insight into Paul's character. When he was saved he went all out for Jesus. Serving Jesus became his passion, his obsession, it filled every part of his life. There was no compromise, no quitting, no slowing down, he just had to get on with his calling. You get the impression that he was unable to understand anyone who took their faith less seriously. One might almost call him a fanatic!

What about you?

Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, Philippians 3:13

What is behind?

Past, achievements, failures, sins, mistakes, bitterness, unfor-

giveness, hurts, habits, pride, temper, doubts, fears,

disappointments, jealousy-envy, wight of your work for

Christ, disobedience, holding out, faithlessness, law Judaism,

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Why do we need to leave these things behind?

What is ahead?

New Work, growth Jesus, perfection, spirituality, sanctifica-

tion, pain suffering

What is Paul's goal and prize?

His reward in heaven, completion of his work,

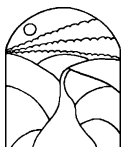
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All of us who are mature should take such a view of things. Philippians 3:15

**Is Paul calling on people to have the same theology as him or the same attitude?
What attitude should we have?**

Paul is not going to harangue those who do not share his commitment and motivation, they are in God's hands. However in verse 17 he does call on people to follow his example.

Only let us live up to what we have already attained. Philippians 3:16

What do you think this verse means?

Most of us have a level of knowledge and maturity in the Lord. It is our habit to live below this level. I.e. we know it is wrong to grumble but we still do. Or, we have seen miraculous answers to prayer but that does not stop us doubting next time we face a challenge.



Read Philippians 3v17- 4v1

What does Paul say here to indicate that there is a distinctive Christian lifestyle?

There is a tendency among Pastor to expect every Christian to live just like them. If they think going to a football match is wrong, then so should everyone else.

Do you think this is the kind of pattern Paul has in mind?

I expect it did contain a fair number of does and don'ts, young believers especially need clear guidelines until they 'discern what is best'. But I think Paul's pattern had more to do with, love and humility, holiness and reaching out.

Verses 18 to 20 describe two different, contradictory lifestyles. The first is a materialistic, humanistic view.

How does Paul describe them?

Enemies of the Cross

Destined for destruction

Their God is their stomach

Their glory is their shame

Their minds are on earthly things

What do these things mean?

How does this contrast with the Christian view?

Who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, Philippians 3:21a

Ephesians 1v22

Colossians 1v17

1 Corinthians 15:25

Will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body. Philippians 3:21b

1 Corinthians 15v42-44

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Therefore, my brothers, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, that is how you should stand firm in the Lord, dear friends! Philippians 4:1

How should we stand firm?

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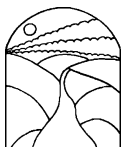
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Bible Studies

Philippians IV



Read Philippians 4v2-5

It has been speculated that Euodia and Syntyche were among the first converts in Philippi. Since they are described as having contended at Paul's side for the gospel, we assume these women were active in the church, if not part of the leadership.

Shock horror they've had a row! It is disconcerting to discover that the problems that are so prevalent in the church today, were found in the NT church as well.

What are Paul's two solutions to this problem?

Even mature believers can fall out.

What effects are likely when two believers fall out?

In all churches of all time people have disagreed on a whole range of things, some of these are doctrinal issues of such importance that to compromise is to deny faith.

Most of the time the issues argued over are of little importance, they might be to do **with priorities or even personalities.**

Do we have to agree about everything?

In such disagreements what is important?

What is the Book of Life? Exodus 32:33, Revelation 3:5, 20:15

Rejoice! is one of the themes of this book, it was also a theme in Paul's life.

What should we rejoice about?

Why should we rejoice?

What does Paul mean by:

Let your gentleness be evident to all mean?

The Lord is near?

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6-7



What is Paul's solution to anxiety?

When does the peace of God guard your heart and mind?

Is there a difference between prayer and petition?

Why should requests be offered with thanksgiving?

Verses like these hold no secrets and present to no difficulty in understanding. The problem is putting them into practice.

How should you put a verse like this into practice?

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. 9 Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you. Philippians 4:8-9

What sort of things is Paul talking about?

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You can look at this verse negatively.

What sort of things does Paul not want us to think about? V19b, Rom 13:14 Why?

This was presumably one of the things Paul taught them.

Paul is calling us to direct our thinking towards things that are positive, away from the negative. I do not believe Paul was advocating positive thinking as such. Ignoring the negative is not a Biblical trait. Paul is calling for a 'Cognitive therapy'. If we dwell on the negative it is likely to lead us to unbelief and unhappiness. Conversely if we dwell on the positive, specifically God and his promises it will build faith.

There is also a timely reminder that the Christian faith needs to be put into practice. It is not a question of knowledge, but action. As Jesus said it is not those who hear the word who are blessed but those who do it.



Read Philippians 4v10-23

This section, which closes the epistle is Paul's thank you note for the gift the Philippians had sent him. It also contains two of the Bible's great promises.

I can do everything through him who gives me strength. Philippians 4:13

Did Paul need the Philippians gift?

To what does Paul intend this verse to apply?

How did Paul's attitude change according to his physical provision?

What is the secret of being content?

What should our attitude be when in want?

What would stop Paul from doing God's will?

What does this verse say to those proclaim "I Can't...?"

Can you do everything in your own strength?

Do you believe this Verse?

It is very easy to equate want, with being out of God's will, and abundance, with God's blessing upon us. But this is too simplistic a theology. Paul did not seem to feel that the trials he faced were God's opposition to him, just part of serving God. His own well-being really didn't seem to matter too much to Paul. The danger is that prosperity too often brings with it greed and spiritual stagnation.



What does Paul mean by 'giving and receiving'?

How does Paul describe the Philippians gift? v18b

What does this tell us about giving?

And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:19

In what context does Paul write this?

What kind of needs is he referring to? (what are our needs?)

By what is God's generosity measured?

How does God meet our needs?

Who evaluates what are needs are?

Do you believe this verse?

The word and (or but) at the start of this verse, suggests that the Philippians gift to Paul was at their own impoverishment.

What things did Jesus tell us about giving to others?

Matthew 6v2, Matthew 25v40, Luke 6v38, Mark 9v42

In both of these verses Paul is not just making ideal promises. These verses were Paul's own experience in serving God.

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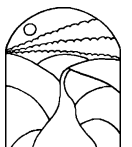
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