

# The Book of Philippians Speaks to Christian Men about Giving and Service

Week Two

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Date:

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## Introduction:

**2Corinthians 9:7** Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, *so let him give*; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.

Author: Paul    Timing: 65-70AD    Audience: The believers at the Church of Philippi

The book of Philippians was written for several reasons. First Paul wanted to express in writing his thanks for the Philippians gifts and unselfish giving. Second, he wanted the Philippians to know why he decided to return Epaphroditus to them, so they would not think his service to Paul had been unsatisfactory. Third, he wanted to inform them about his circumstances at Rome. Forth, he wrote to exhort them to unity. Finally, he wrote to warn them against false teachings.

The underlying theme of the book is the proper motivation for service and giving. Namely a pure heart, a kingdom mentality, and an altruistic view of helping others.

## Chapter 1

**1:1** Paul and Timothy, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:

**1:2** Grace *be* unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and *from* the Lord Jesus Christ.

1. What do we know about Timothy and for how many mission trips he with Paul?

**1:3** I thank my God upon every remembrance of you,

**1:4** Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy,

**1:5** For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now;

**1:6** Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform *it* until the day of Jesus Christ:

2. Paul seems very proud of the Philippians' church, why? What first day? Who began the good work? When is the day of Jesus Christ?

- 1:7 Even as it is meet [proper, worthy, fit] for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart; inasmuch as both in my bonds, and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, ye all are partakers of my grace.
- 1:8 For God is my record, how greatly I long after you all in the bowels [compassionate feelings, tender mercies] of Jesus Christ.
- 1:9 And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and *in* all judgment;

3. What bonds does Paul have? Discuss his perspective and feelings in v7-9.  
*The allusion here is to the sympathy, tenderness, and love of the Redeemer.*
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- 1:10 That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ;
- 1:11 Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God.

4. How do the following verses set Paul's discussion of service and giving?
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- 1:12 But I would ye should understand, brethren, that the things *which happened* unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel;
- 1:13 So that my bonds in Christ are manifest in all the palace, and in all other *places*;
- 1:14 And many of the brethren in the Lord, waxing confident by my bonds, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

5. Where is Paul at this writing? Discuss what he is doing and to what effect?
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- 1:15 Some indeed preach Christ even of envy and strife; and some also of good will:
- 1:16 The one preach Christ of contention, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my bonds:
- 1:17 But the other of love, knowing that I am set for the defense of the gospel.

6. Discuss Romans 8:28 in the context of the verses to follow.
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- 1:18 What then? notwithstanding, every way, whether in pretense, or in truth, Christ is preached; and I therein do rejoice, yea, and will rejoice.
- 1:19 For I know that this shall turn to my salvation through your prayer, and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,
- 1:20 According to my earnest expectation and *my* hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but *that* with all boldness, as always, *so* now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether *it be* by life, or by death.

7. Discuss service & giving in the context below? Is Paul being encouraging? How?

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

1:22 But if I live in the flesh, this *is* the fruit of my labor: yet what I shall choose I wot not.

1:23 For I am in a strait between two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better:

1:24 Nevertheless to abide in the flesh *is* more needful for you.

1:25 And having this confidence, I know that I shall abide and continue with you all for your furtherance and joy of faith;

1:26 That your rejoicing may be more abundant in Jesus Christ for me by my coming to you again.

8. What does it mean to live *is* Christ? What is it to live in flesh? Discuss 2Cor 5:8.

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1:27 Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;

1:28 And in nothing terrified by your adversaries: which is to them an evident token of perdition [final state of ruin and punishment], but to you of salvation, and that of God.

1:29 For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake;

1:30 Having the same conflict which ye saw in me, and now hear *to be* in me.

9. Stand fast in the spirit; explain? How do we need to suffer for Christ's sake? Should that create sorrow in us?

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Summary:

This 1<sup>st</sup> chapter of the book of Philippians has described how the believers of the Philippians church had the heart of giving and service. This attitude toward giving and service is shown to have a great impact on the ministry of Paul and an example to all in the region. But like all church where man has choice Paul need to help them do some fine tuning. To remind them the lasting joy is based on sacrifice toward the furtherment of selflessness.

Thank you for attending,

Pat Turner