

A woman with long, wavy brown hair is wearing a white, pleated dress. She is holding a large, ornate crown with a silver base and gold accents, adorned with numerous clear and blue gemstones. The background is dark and out of focus.

Christ

OUR TREASURE

SUMMIT POINT CHURCH WOMEN'S STUDY

Schedule

DISCUSSION GROUPS

9:15-9:50/6:30-7:05

MOVE TO WORSHIP CENTER

9:50-9:55/7:05-7:10

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

9:55-10:00/7:10-7:15

MESSAGE

10:00-10:45/7:15-8:00

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Discussion Questions — Week One

CHRIST, OUR TREASURE



1. Introduce yourself to the group:
 - a. Please share your name with the group.
 - b. Please share one thing that has surprised you about life in the last 6 months.

2. Schedule:
 - a. Please look over the schedule in the front of your notebook.
 - b. For in-person, Jonna will give a 3-5 minute warning before you need to close in prayer.
 - c. Please be sensitive to times, especially because we will now be livestreaming the messages and have to be accurate to our start time.
 - d. If at all possible, please come a few minutes early so that you can enjoy the time in your groups to the fullest extent.

3. Homework:
 - a. Please start each homework day with prayer so that we can invite the Lord to be part of our study time.
 - b. We will have 5 days of homework. Please try to do the homework each day, rather than trying to get it in all at once. Please try and let the “catch up” plan be the exception and not the rule.
 - c. As you go through the homework, please write down any questions you may have. Toward the end of the study, we’ll ask you to share your questions so that we can prepare for our panel discussion on the last day of the study.
 - d. Homework questions with asterisks (*) will be the discussion questions for the coming week.

4. Getting our hearts ready for the study:
 - a. What is one thing you already know about the book of Philippians, even before getting started with this study?
 - b. When you think of the verse “Rejoice in the Lord always,” what immediately comes to your mind?
 - c. If you could look forward 6 weeks from now, how will you know that this study was meaningful to your relationship with Christ?
 - d. How do you think a relationship with Jesus impacts relationships with other people?

5. Please close this time in prayer.
 - a. Please ask the Lord to prepare your heart for the message you’re about to hear.
 - b. Please ask the Lord to help you to open your heart and mind to what the next 6 weeks will bring.

3. To _____ is Christ, to die is gain...join in _____ Paul's example. (Overview of Philippians)

Homework — Week One

HAVING A MIND FOR HIM INTRODUCTION



DAY ONE

Pray: Please offer this time to the Lord, and ask Him to reveal His truth to you.

Memorize: Philippians 2:5 “Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus.” Please repeat this verse several times, stressing a different word each time you say it.

Study: The book of Philippians was written by the apostle Paul. He was the only apostle of Jesus Christ who did not spend three years with Jesus. Before jumping into his letter to the Philippians, let’s take a closer look at who he is. We’ll look at the explanation of how he came to follow Jesus. Please read Acts 9:1-22. Don’t let his name fool you. His Hebrew name is Saul, but the Greek translation is Paul.

1. What was Paul’s attitude about Jesus before meeting Him on the road to Damascus? What do you think changed Paul’s mind?

2. *How has your understanding of Jesus progressed as you’ve gotten to know Him better?

3. What does Paul’s conversion tell you about the role we play in our salvation?

4. What does this passage teach you about God’s authority versus man’s authority?

5. What did God say that gave Ananias confidence to go to Paul?

6. *Please read Paul's account of his suffering in 2 Corinthians 11:23-28. Before the road to Damascus, Paul wanted to make Christians suffer. Now, in 2 Corinthians, we see that Paul is willing to undergo great suffering to proclaim the Gospel himself. What do you think happened to Paul that made him willing to go through so much for Jesus, whom he hated before his salvation?

7. Please close this time in prayer, and tell the Lord one big thing from this passage that stirs you to worship Him more.

DAY TWO

Pray: Please offer this time to the Lord, remembering what you learned in day one. Ask Him to make you ready to learn from today's passage.

Memorize: Philippians 2:5. Please unscramble the words, and write them in the correct order:

Mind yourselves Christ have yours among this is which Jesus in

Study: Yesterday, we looked at Paul's conversion to Christianity. Before getting an overview of the book of Philippians, let's take a look at Paul's heart for Christ. He wrote the letter to the Philippians from prison. Let's look at a few passages that help show his heart for the Lord and see what we can learn from him.

1. Please read 2 Corinthians 5:14-21, a passage from Paul's second recorded letter to the church at Corinth. Incidentally, he probably wrote this letter while in Philippi.

a. Around the time Paul was writing 2 Corinthians, Paul was also speaking with the Ephesian elders, as recorded in Acts 20. He says in Acts 20 that the Spirit was revealing to him that he was about to face imprisonment and affliction. In verse 24 of this passage, he said, "But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God." This is a pretty amazing statement. Looking at 2 Corinthians 5:14-21 for guidance, what reasons can you find for Paul to make this kind of statement?

b. What do you think “controlled” or compelled Paul before becoming a follower of Christ?

c. According to 2 Corinthians 5, what was the ministry that Paul had received from God?

d. *Please write down the definition of “ambassador” and explain what you think would qualify someone as an exemplary ambassador versus what would qualify them as a deficient ambassador.

2. What insight do the following verses from the book of Philippians give you about Paul?

a. Philippians 1:8

b. Philippians 1:18-21

c. Philippians 3:8

d. Philippians 4:11-13

3. *On a scale of 1 to 10, how would you say you’re doing in “joining in imitating” Paul’s example as he lives this life out for Christ? Why did you give yourself that rating?

4. Please close this time in prayer, and tell the Lord what you learned from Paul’s example. Tell him where you feel like you need to grow in order to be able to say, “For me to live is Christ, to die is gain.” Ask him to grow you in that.

Pray: Today we'll learn about the first people to come to know Christ in the church of Philippi. Please ask the Lord to show you what He'd like to teach you through their story.

Memorize: Philippians 2:5 – Please fill in the blanks:

Have this _____ among _____, which is yours in _____ Jesus.

Study: Today we'll take a look at the town of Philippi. This was Paul's first stop in Macedonia on his second missionary journey. The first people Paul met there were interesting and very diverse. Let's take a look at Acts 16:11-34.

Upon arriving in Philippi and because it was the Sabbath, Paul went down by the river. When a city had less than ten Jewish men, instead of having a synagogue, the people would meet by the river to learn about God

1. Lydia (vs. 11-15) –

a. Who did Paul find when he went down by the river? Why do you think there were no men there?

b. What details do you learn about Lydia? How would you describe her personality based on this passage?

c. * Many people say they've always believed in God yet didn't have a true relationship or really "know" God deeply. How is Lydia's story similar? When did she actually become a Christian, and what does the passage say that helped you come to that conclusion?

d. How long would you say that you had been "seeking" God before you actually had a relationship with Him?

i. What helped you take that step into a relationship with Him? Or if you were saved at a young age, what helped you to go deeper in your relationship with Him?

ii. What obstacles did you have to overcome?

iii. What obstacles still get in the way of your relationship with Him?

2. The slave girl (vs. 16-23) –

a. Why do you think the slave girl annoyed Paul?

b. Please describe what happened to Paul and Silas after they cast out the demon. What do you think would have been “fair” to them in this situation?

c. How would you expect Paul to respond to being beaten for casting out the demon?

3. The jailer (vs. 23-34) –

a. How did Paul and Silas respond to being thrown into prison and shackled with their feet in stocks? How would you have responded?

b. Why do you think God caused the earthquake?

4. Lydia was seeking God, the slave girl was acting from the power of the demon inside her, and the jailer originally had no interest in God at all. Try to picture this passage from God’s perspective. What do you see about His character, purpose, and attitude toward:

a. Lydia

b. The Slave Girl (especially in contrast to her slave owners)

c. The Jailer

5. *Which person from this story do you most relate to personally? Why?

6. Please close this time in prayer, and tell the Lord what you see about Him in this passage.

DAY FOUR

Pray: Today and tomorrow we'll be reading the letter to the Philippians in its entirety. Please open this time in prayer, asking the Lord to show you more of who He is.

Memorize: Philippians 2:5 – Please fill in the blanks:

_____ this mind _____ yourselves, _____ is _____ in Christ _____.

Study: Paul's letter to the Philippians is four chapters long. In this letter, Paul speaks very tenderly about his love for the Lord. Please read through the whole letter and write down:

1. *Attributes or character traits of the Lord that impact you. What do you see that matters to the heart of God?

2. *Questions you have about the passage.

3. Something you see that God might want you to apply in your walk with Him.

4. Please close this time in prayer, specifically asking the Lord to reveal answers to your questions about the book of Philippians

DAY FIVE

Pray: Please open this time in prayer, and ask the Lord to give insight about how we can suffer and rejoice at the same time.

Memorize: Philippians 2:5 – Please write out the verse from memory:

Study: Let's read the letter to the Philippians one more time. Today, please focus on what Paul says about rejoicing and suffering. Keep in mind, he was in prison when he wrote this letter.

1. *Imagine that you were one of the church members hearing this letter read. Knowing that Paul was in prison and hearing the tenderness of his letter to this church, how would that impact the way you received his words?

2. *What is one thing that you learned or were reminded of regarding rejoicing and suffering?

3. Please close this time in prayer. Tell the Lord which verse is your favorite so far from this letter, and tell him why you like it.

Discussion Questions — Week Two

HAVING A MIND FOR HIM INTRODUCTION



1. What impacted you from last week's message?
2. How has your understanding of Jesus progressed as you've gotten to know Him better?
3. Please read Paul's account of his suffering in 2 Corinthians 11:23-28. Before the road to Damascus, Paul wanted to make Christians suffer. Now, in 2 Corinthians, we see that Paul is willing to undergo great suffering to proclaim the Gospel himself. What do you think happened to Paul that made him willing to go through so much for Jesus, whom he hated before his salvation?
4. Please write down the definition of "ambassador" and explain what you think would qualify someone as an exemplary ambassador vs. what would qualify them as a deficient ambassador.
5. On a scale of 1 to 10, how would you say you're doing in "joining in imitating" Paul's example as he lives this life out for Christ? Why did you give yourself that rating?
6. Many people say they've always believed in God yet didn't have a true relationship or really "know" God deeply. How is Lydia's story similar? When did she actually become a Christian, and what does the passage say that helped you come to that conclusion?
7. Which person from this story do you most relate to personally? Why?
8. Attributes or character traits of the Lord that impact you. What do you see that matters to the heart of God?
9. Questions you have about the passage.
10. Imagine that you were one of the church members hearing this letter read. Knowing that Paul was in prison and hearing the tenderness of his letter to this church, how would that impact the way you received his words?
11. What is one thing that you learned or were reminded of regarding rejoicing and suffering?

Close in prayer.

Listening Guide — Week Two

CHRIST OUR LIFE, SINGLE-MINDED FOR HIM
PHILIPPIANS 1



1. Our single-minded gospel focus _____ the _____ we have with one another through joyful thanksgiving, intimate bonds, and purposeful prayer. (1-11)

2. Our single-minded gospel focus gives _____ and _____ to the circumstances of life as we seek to advance the gospel. (12-20)

3. Our single-minded gospel focus allows us to _____ Christ through fruitful ministry and _____ as citizens of His kingdom. (21-30)

Homework Week Two

CHRIST OUR LIFE, SINGLE-MINDED FOR HIM
PHILIPPIANS 1



DAY ONE

Pray: As you begin studying today, ask the Lord to give you a deeper understanding of the life you have in Him.

Memorize: This week we will be memorizing Philippians 2:6. Write the verse on a notecard or on the lines below. If you use a notecard, place the notecard where you can read over it at least once a day this week.

Study: There are some key themes found in Philippians 1, and they can be summed up in verse 21, "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain." When our lives are truly focused on Christ, we will find joy and purpose even in the midst of difficulty. This is Paul's experience and example for us throughout the first chapter of Philippians. Begin by reading Philippians 1, and then answer the following questions.

1. Let's take a look at some keywords that can be found in Philippians 1, and count how many times you see each of the words used below.

a. Christ/Jesus/Lord (or a combination of these words): _____

b. Joy/rejoice: _____

c. Gospel: _____

2. *What do you think the theme of this chapter is? How does the repetition of these words help you in understanding the theme of this chapter?

3. Close in prayer by thanking God for the life and joy you have in Christ.

DAY TWO

Pray: Before you begin studying, pray that your love for the church would be deepened by a greater understanding of the life that you have in Christ.

Memorize: Refer to your notecard or to yesterday's homework. Read Philippians 2:6. Say the verse out loud a few times, emphasizing a different word each time

Study: One result of Paul's single-minded focus on Christ and the gospel was a deep love and fellowship with the Philippian believers. Begin by reading Philippians 1:1-11. As you read, think about Paul's example of love and devotion and how his example can influence your own love and devotion for the believers you have fellowship with.

1. Look at verses 3-6:

a. How often is Paul thankful for the Philippians?

b. How is this thankfulness expressed?

c. Why is Paul thankful for the Philippian believers?

2. *From verses 7-8, Paul says that he and the Philippians share in God's grace. How does sharing in God's grace create fellowship among believers?

3. Finally look at verses 9-11:

a. What does Paul pray for the Philippians?

b. Why does he pray this for them?

4. Close by praying the prayer of Paul in verses 9-11 for yourself and for another believer that you have close fellowship with. Ask the Lord to give you a heart of love and devotion for your local church family.

DAY THREE

Pray: Ask the Lord to give you renewed purpose and boldness in sharing the gospel as a result of studying His Word today.

Memorize: Refer to your memory verse. Turn Philippians 2:6 into a prayer to the Lord. Then try to say it from memory.

Study: What is your primary goal in life? Paul had a clear answer: to live for Christ by advancing the gospel. Paul kept this focus even in the midst of the most difficult circumstances that many thought would hinder his ability to preach and share the gospel. Begin by reading Philippians 1:12-20, and then answer the following questions.

1. In verse 12, what circumstances was Paul referring to that had served to advance the gospel?

2. From verses 13-14, how had the gospel advanced? Who heard about Christ? Who was encouraged by Paul's boldness?

3. What situation does Paul refer to in verses 15-18 and what was his response? What does this response tell you about Paul's purpose?

4. *From verses 19-20, Why was Paul hopeful in the midst of his difficulty and what was his goal? How did these things shape his perspective and purpose?

5. Close in prayer as you ask the Lord to give you a renewed boldness in sharing the gospel. Thank the Lord for the example of other believers who courageously and faithfully live for Christ and share the gospel through their words and lives.

DAY FOUR

Pray: Ask the Lord to show you how you can better live as a citizen of His kingdom through your study of Philippians 1 today.

Memorize: Refer to your memory verse. Try to say Philippians 2:6 from memory. Review any portion of the verse that trips you up

Study: The city of Philippi was a Roman colony. Many Philippians lived in Philippi but were Roman citizens and answered to the law and rule of Rome, even though they had never seen or been to Rome. In the same way we, as believers and followers of Christ, live in this world but are citizens of heaven. We answer to the rule of the heavenly kingdom governed by Jesus Christ though we have not seen it or been there yet. As you study today, look for ways that you can better live as a citizen of the heavenly kingdom in this world.

1. Look at verses 21-24:

a. *As a citizen of the heavenly kingdom, who do you live for?

b. *What are the benefits found in living and dying as a citizen of the heavenly kingdom?

2. According to verses 25-26, how should you relate to others as a citizen of the heavenly kingdom?

3. Refer to verses 27-30:

a. *What do you think it means to live in a manner worthy of the gospel?

b. How does living for the heavenly kingdom shape your response to struggles?

4. Close in prayer. Talk to the Lord about one way you need his help to better live as a citizen of his kingdom here on earth.

Pray: Ask the Lord to open your eyes to any ways that you need to live with single-minded devotion to Him as you wrap up your study of Philippians 1.

Memorize: Write your memory verse, Philippians 2:6, on the lines below. Try to write it from memory.

Study: Paul's single-minded devotion to Christ and the gospel shaped how he lived in this world. Do Christ and the gospel shape the way you live in this world? What keeps you from single-minded devotion to Him? As you study today, be willing to humbly repent of anything that takes your eyes off of Christ and the gospel.

1. *One result of Paul's single-minded devotion to Christ and the gospel was a genuine love for other believers. Look back at Philippians 1:3-11 and think about Paul's example. How can you better love your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ? What steps do you need to take to pray for them as Paul prayed for the Philippians? How could you focus on God's grace so that a spirit of thanksgiving permeates how you relate to other believers?

2. *A second result of Paul's single-minded devotion to Christ and the gospel was purposeful living through the advancement of the gospel. Look back at verses 12-20. Do you actively look for ways to share the gospel with others? Do you allow the gospel and its advancement to shape how you respond to difficulties? What in your life and mindset needs to change in order for the advancement of the gospel to be top priority?

3. *A third result of Paul's single-minded devotion to Christ and the gospel was kingdom citizenship. Paul lived in this world but he answered to the Lord Jesus Christ. Look back at verses 21-30. Do you live as Paul did, able to say, "For me to live is Christ and to die is gain?" Or does the fruit of your life demonstrate that you live by the motto, "For me to live is self and to die is loss?" Is Christ exalted and glorified by the way you live? How do you need to put the kingdom of Christ at the forefront of your thinking and living?

4. Close in prayer. Tell the Lord one way that you will live differently as a result of what you have studied this week.

Discussion Questions — Week Three

CHRIST OUR LIFE, SINGLE-MINDED FOR HIM
PHILIPPIANS 1



1. What impacted you from last week's message?
2. What do you think the theme of this chapter is? How does the repetition of these words help you in understanding the theme of this chapter?
3. From verses 7-8, Paul says that he and the Philippians share in God's grace. How does sharing in God's grace create fellowship among believers?
4. From verses 19-20, Why was Paul hopeful in the midst of his difficulty and what was his goal? How did these things shape his perspective and purpose?
5. As a citizen of the heavenly kingdom, who do you live for?
6. What are the benefits found in living and dying as a citizen of the heavenly kingdom?
7. What do you think it means to live in a manner worthy of the gospel?
8. One result of Paul's single-minded devotion to Christ and the gospel was a genuine love for other believers. Look back at Philippians 1: 3-11 and think about Paul's example. How can you better love your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ? What steps do you need to take to pray for them as Paul prayed for the Philippians? How could you focus on God's grace so that a spirit of thanksgiving permeates how you relate to other believers?
9. A second result of Paul's single-minded devotion to Christ and the gospel was purposeful living through the advancement of the gospel. Look back at verses 12-20. Do you actively look for ways to share the gospel with others? Do you allow the gospel and its advancement to shape how you respond to difficulties? What in your life and mindset needs to change in order for the advancement of the gospel to be top priority?
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Close in prayer.

Listening Guide ~ Week Three

CHRIST OUR PATTERN, SERVANT-MINDED FOR HIM
PHILIPPIANS 2



1. The _____ (1-4)

2. The _____ (5-11)

Homework — Week Three

CHRIST OUR PATTERN, SERVANT-MINDED FOR HIM
PHILIPPIANS 2



DAY ONE

Pray: Before you begin today ask the Lord to help you learn from His example this week as you study Philippians chapter two.

Memorize: This week we will memorize Philippians 2:7. Write the memory verse on the lines below or on a notecard to use for reference and meditation throughout this week.

Study: In chapter two Paul continues to encourage the church to unity. In chapter one he encouraged the believers to stand firm together when faced with opposition to the gospel from the outside. Now he exhorts each believer to pursue harmony by examining his own heart and mind.

1. Please read Philippians chapter 2.

2. Paul covers several big ideas in this chapter. On the lines below list a few of these themes that you noticed from your reading.

3. *Choose one of the themes that you wrote down in question two. Which verse best illustrates that idea to you? Why does this verse speak to you?

4. What do you find most encouraging in this chapter?

5. Philippians 2:5 says, "Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus." As you close in prayer today commit yourself to learning in new ways what it means to follow the example of Christ. Ask Him to renew your mind in the area of being servant-hearted.

Pray: As you start your time in the Word today, ask God to change the motivations of your heart so that you can better serve Him and others.

Memorize: Read or say Philippians 2:7 out loud several times. On the lines below write out this verse using your own words.

Study: Philippians 2:1-4 continues on the theme of 1:27 - challenging the church to live in a "manner worthy of the gospel of Christ." In our study today we will consider what it means to strive for unity as we serve one another with servant-minded hearts.

1. Please read Philippians 2:1-4. In verse 1 Paul gives us four realities of life in Christ that should motivate us to servant-hearted unity. Respond to the questions below as you reflect on this verse:

a. How are you encouraged by all you have in Christ?

b. How does the love of Christ comfort you?

c. In what ways do you see the participation or fellowship of the Spirit in your life?

d. How does the mercy or sympathy you have been given in Christ impact your interaction with others?

2. In verse 2, what gives Paul joy? Why do you think this is important for believers?

3. *How does an understanding of verses one and two help you live out the instructions in verses three and four?

4. Consider how the following relationships might change if you were faithfully living out Philippians 2:3-4. Some of these may not apply to your life; respond as the Lord leads for those that do.

Marriage, children, in-laws/extended family, co-workers/boss, neighborhood, community, church, any other relationships that God brings to mind.

5. As you close your time in the Word, commit these relationships to the Lord. Share with Him how these verses have brought conviction to your heart.

DAY THREE

Pray: Before you begin your study today ask the Lord to renew your affection for Christ and your appreciation for His humble, saving sacrifice.

Memorize: Please read Philippians 2:7 or say it from memory out loud. Emphasize the words that are most impactful to you. Review Philippians 2:5-7 together.

Study: In Philippians 2:5-11 we have a theologically rich, Christ-elevating hymn of worship. One of the themes of this letter is "imitation", and in these verses we are challenged to behold and imitate Christ, our perfect pattern.

1. Read Philippians 2:5-11. As you read, record the words that describe the mind-set of Christ. Which of these words or phrases means the most to you? Why?

2. *From verses 6-8, how does Christ exemplify the instructions in verses three and four?

3. Consider the following questions as you reflect on the example of Christ. Record any thoughts God brings to mind:

a. Is there any area of my life that I “grasp” onto which keeps me from humble service?

b. Is there anything that I need to “empty” myself of so that I can adopt the mind of Christ?

c. Is there any way in which I am struggling to be obedient to the leading of God?

d. Am I willing to follow this pattern of Christ, bow my knee before Him, and confess Him as Lord over every part of my life?

4. *Why is it important that we see Christ as not only the perfect example of a humble servant, but also as the exalted One before whom every knee will bow?

5. As you close in prayer, spend a few minutes exalting the name of Jesus. Praise Him for this example of humility and ask Him to show you how you can better follow Him so that “this mind may be yours in Christ Jesus.”

DAY FOUR

Pray: Thank the Lord today for the example of Christ's sacrifice. Ask Him to show you ways that you can follow Him each day.

Memorize: Try to recall the entire verse (Philippians 2:7) from memory without looking first!

Study: Yesterday we were challenged to worship and follow Christ's perfect example of servant-minded sacrifice. In our study today we will look at the practical implications of "The Servant Song" for our everyday lives. What should it look like for each of us to live the servant life?

1. Please read Philippians 2:12-18. At first glance it may appear that these verses teach that you can work for your salvation. What key words or phrases in verses twelve & thirteen show that we are saved by the grace of God, not by our own effort?

2. *How does it comfort you to know that God is at work in you (verse 13)?

3. *As we "work out our salvation" (which means we are following the example of Christ more and more) what do these verses say that we will and will not be doing? Which of these is most challenging to you right now?

4. What do you learn from Paul's example in verses 16-18?

5. Close your time of study by sharing with the Lord what you have learned today. Prayerfully commit to obedience as you seek to live your life poured out for Him.

DAY FIVE

Pray: As you finish your study of Philippians chapter two ask God to open your heart to areas of your life that need to be transformed so that you can better follow His perfect pattern.

Memorize: Review Philippians 2:5-7. Please write out all 3 verses below without looking if possible:

Study: Philippians 2:19-30 - At first glance this section appears to be a personal note regarding travel plans for Timothy & Epaphroditus, but further study shows that these two believers are living examples of Christ-like service. Although Jesus is the perfect servant and the only saving sacrifice, there is much we can learn from the sacrificial examples of these two believers.

1. Please read Philippians 2:19-30. In what ways do you see Timothy & Epaphroditus following the Christ-like actions and attitudes that you have studied this week?

2. From verses 19-24 what qualities made Timothy such a good companion for Paul?

3. What are some practical lessons you can learn from Epaphroditus' experience in verses 25-30?

4. *Who in your life models the example of Christ for you? What qualities do you see in that person?

5. Based upon what you have studied this week, how can you foster servant-minded attitudes and actions in your life?

6. As you complete your study of Philippians chapter two praise God for the perfect example of Christ's serving, saving life. Prayerfully commit yourself to following His example in the specific ways He has shown you this week.

Discussion Questions — Week Four

CHRIST OUR PATTERN, SERVANT-MINDED FOR HIM
PHILIPPIANS 2



1. What impacted you from last week's message?
2. Choose one of the themes that you wrote down in question two. Which verse best illustrates that idea to you? Why does this verse speak to you?
3. How does an understanding of verses one and two help you live out the instructions in verses three and four?
4. From verses 6-8, how does Christ exemplify the instructions in verses three and four?
5. Why is it important that we see Christ as not only the perfect example of a humble servant, but also as the exalted One before whom every knee will bow?
6. How does it comfort you to know that God is at work in you (verse 13)?
7. As we "work out our salvation" (which means we are following the example of Christ more and more) what do these verses say that we will and will not be doing? Which of these is most challenging to you right now?
8. Who in your life models the example of Christ for you? What qualities do you see in that person?

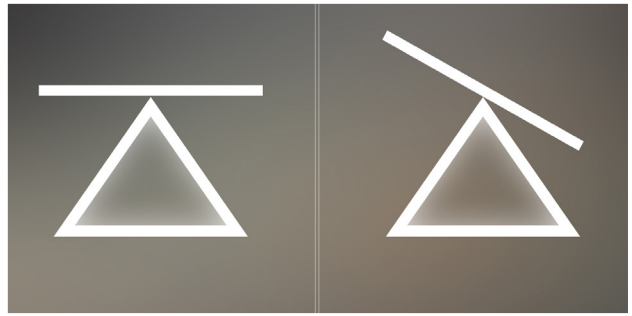
Close in prayer.

Listening Guide ~ Week Four

CHRIST OUR GOAL...SURRENDERED TO HIM
PHILIPPIANS 3



1. Count all the _____ as loss for the sake of _____ Christ. (1-11)



2. Press on toward the _____ and hold _____ to what you've attained. (12-16)

Homework — Week Four

CHRIST OUR GOAL...SURRENDERED TO HIM
PHILIPPIANS 3



DAY ONE

Pray: Please open this time in prayer, and ask the Lord to open your mind and heart to what He wants to teach you.

Memorize: Philippians 2:8 – Please read the verse out loud several times, stressing different words each time.

“And being found in human form, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”

Study: Today we’ll take a look at Philippians 3:1-3. You’ll see a warning from Paul about those who “mutilate the flesh.” In those days, the Jews were called “the circumcision” and Gentiles were called “the uncircumcision.” Some Jews who claimed to be followers of Christ were following Paul to the churches to demand that salvation would only come by faith and circumcision instead of by faith alone. Let’s see what God wants to teach us about the “true circumcision.”

1. Knowing that Paul was in prison when he wrote this letter, how would you receive his directive to “rejoice in the Lord,” as compared to someone who had an easy life?

2. *What is different about rejoicing “in the Lord” than rejoicing in other things? What other things are you tempted to look to in order to find your joy?

3. Why do you think Paul says it’s “safe” to keep reminding believers to rejoice?

4. In vs. 2, Paul is telling the Philippian believers to “look out for evildoers.” These are people in the church he’s warning the Philippians about. They were trying to force circumcision for salvation—the Jesus and plan. What “Jesus and” plans do you need to be careful not to fall into today?

5. *In vs. 3, Paul defines the “true circumcision.”

a. What insight does 2 Corinthians 3:18 give you about worshiping “by the Spirit of God”?

b. Glory can be defined as “significance.” What does it mean to find significance in Christ Jesus over finding it in other things?

c. In what ways are you tempted to “put your confidence” in your flesh?

6. Please close this time in prayer, asking the Lord to help you to better understand true circumcision in your life. Confess areas of your life that you’re tempted to put your confidence in the flesh.

DAY TWO

Pray: Please open this time in prayer, and ask the Lord to show you where real confidence can be found.

Memorize: Philippians 2:8 – Please unscramble the verse.

And humbled cross death human point form in by to found on death a being the even of obedient He Himself becoming

Study: Today we’re going to look at Philippians 3:4-8. In this passage, Paul talks about not putting confidence in the flesh. What is this flesh? Is it purely physical? The flesh definitely can be defined as our physical bodies, but it also goes deeper than that. In this passage, Paul is talking about our flesh as being “any human action or achievement without dependence upon the Holy Spirit and without glorying in, exalting, trusting, treasuring, and valuing Jesus Christ.” To boil it down, the flesh that Paul’s referring to here is “self-reliance with no dependence on the Holy Spirit’s transforming power.”

1. *Please list the reasons that Paul had for having confidence in the flesh. What would your list look like?

2. Why did Paul consider all of the things he listed as a loss?

3. What do the following verses tell you about *how not* to put confidence in the flesh?

a. Galatians 5:16

b. Galatians 6:8

c. Romans 8:13-14

4. What do you think Paul means by the phrase "For the sake of Christ"? (See Psalm 23:3 and Psalm 106:8 for more insight.)

5. *Knowing that Paul was in prison, what do you think that he knew of Jesus' power, wisdom, and love that made him willing to suffer the loss of all things? In which of those three areas do you see a need to grow in your understanding of Him?

6. Please close this time in prayer, telling the Lord where your confidence is and where you want to grow to know Him better.

DAY THREE

Pray: Please open this time in prayer, and ask the Lord to help you to know Him better.

Memorize: Philippians 2:8 – Please fill in the blanks.

And being _____ in human form, He _____ Himself by becoming _____ to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Study: Psalm 63:3 says, “Because Your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise You.” This verse is a great summary of the passage we’re about to study. Somehow, as a literal prisoner for Christ, Paul said that he was not only willing, but he considered it an honor to suffer with Christ... to know Him. What was it about Jesus that made Paul so willing to face all that he went through? What can we learn from his example? Let’s take a look at today’s passage, Philippians 3:7-11, and answer the following questions.

1. Using phrases or words that Paul used in this passage, please explain the difference between knowing about God and knowing God. (For help, think about someone famous... knowing about them, but not necessarily knowing them.)

2. *Please read vs. 9 and compare it with Romans 10:1-4 and Ephesians 2:8-9.

a. Why do you think God values righteousness based on faith over righteousness gained through the law?

b. What’s wrong with trying to gain righteousness through the law (good works)?

3. *Think about something you really value, maybe being able to run a marathon, some type of relationship, or a job.

a. What is that thing, and what about it do you value?

b. What suffering are you willing to go through to gain that thing you value?

c. Why do you think it's hard to accept suffering that we go through as a follower of Christ?

4. Please read this passage (vs. 7-11) with the gospel in mind and as if Jesus were writing these verses.

a. Referring back to 2:5-9, what did Jesus count as loss for us?

b. What did we gain through His sacrifice?

c. What suffering did He experience so that we could attain the resurrection from the dead?

d. How does this impact your worship?

5. As you close this time in prayer, please tell the Lord how you would fill in the blank. Lord, because Your love is better than _____, my lips will praise You (or... please help my lips to praise You).

DAY FOUR

Pray: Please open this time in prayer, and ask the Lord to reveal to you what it means to hold fast to Him.

Memorize: Philippians 2:8 – Please fill in the blanks.

And _____ found in _____ form, He humbled _____ by _____ obedient to the _____ of death, even _____ on a cross.

Study: In today's passage, we see that Paul, who wrote most of the New Testament, knew that he wasn't perfect and hadn't attained perfection, but he did call himself a mature believer. How do we keep growing in Christ and hold fast to Him along the way? Please read Philippians 3:12-16 to gain insight.

1. Paul said in verse 12 that he hadn't obtained "this" and wasn't "already perfect." What is he referring to as "this"? How and why does "this" make us perfect?

2. What was the reason that Paul chose to "press on" in his pursuit of Christ? What is significant about that in your personal relationship with Christ?

3. Why would it be necessary to forget what lies behind in order to press on to what is ahead?

4. *Paul said that those who are mature should think "this way." According to the following passages, what insight can you gain for how the mature think?

a. Philippians 2:5-9

b. Philippians 3:1-11

c. Ephesians 4:13-14

5. Paul said, "If in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you."

a. What part of Paul's "mature thinking" do you have trouble with? Why?

b. What evidence do you see in vs. 15-16 that Paul is *not* condoning an apathetic walk with Christ?

6. *Please compare Philippians 3:3 with vs. 16. What's the difference between:

a. A growing but immature believer who holds fast to the truth

b. A believer who is not holding fast to the truth.

7. Please close this time in prayer, telling the Lord where you think you fit on the spectrum and what you want to do to hold fast to Him...

V2 evildoer → apathetic believer → young believer seeking Christ → mature believer

DAY FIVE

Pray: Please offer yourself to the Lord in prayer, and ask Him to enlighten you to His truth as you study His word.

Memorize: Philippians 2:8 – Please write out the verse from memory:

Study: In these last verses of Philippians 3 (vs. 17-21), Paul draws a pretty clear distinction between someone who is an enemy of the cross of Christ and someone who has embraced it. For context, please read all of Philippians 3, and focus especially on vs. 17-21 to answer today's questions.

1. Please look back over your homework from the last several weeks. What aspects of Paul's life do you see God encouraging you to imitate? What people in your life do you see walking "according to the example you have" in Paul?

2. *Please compare Philippians 3:18 with Romans 9:1-3 and Romans 10:1. Why do you think Paul grieved over enemies of the cross of Christ rather than getting angry? What does this tell you about the heart of God over our sin?

3. Please explain each aspect that Paul describes of someone who is an enemy of the cross of Christ, why that would make them an enemy of the cross, and what about Jesus they're missing out on.

a. Their end is destruction:

i. Description:

ii. Why it makes them an enemy:

iii. What they're missing about Jesus:

b. Their god is their belly:

i. Description:

ii. Why it makes them an enemy:

iii. What they're missing about Jesus:

c. They glory (find their significance) in their shame:

i. Description:

ii. Why it makes them an enemy:

iii. What they're missing about Jesus:

d. Their minds are set on earthly things:

i. Description:

ii. Why it makes them an enemy:

iii. What they're missing about Jesus:

4. *Please read Philippians 3:20-21. What evidence do you see of:

a. God's power -

b. God's wisdom -

c. God's goodness -

d. The hope that God gives -

e. Perspective for the "earthly things" we face today -

5. As you close this time in prayer, please look back over your answers from this last week's homework, and tell the Lord one thing that you would like Him to help you with in order to draw closer to Him.

Discussion Questions — Week Five

CHRIST OUR GOAL...SURRENDERED TO HIM
PHILIPPIANS 3



1. What impacted you from last week's message?
2. What is different about rejoicing "in the Lord" than rejoicing in other things? What other things are you tempted to look to in order to find your joy?
3. In vs. 3, Paul defines the "true circumcision." a. What insight does 2 Corinthians 3:18 give you about worshiping "by the Spirit of God"? b. Glory can be defined as "significance." What does it mean to find significance in Christ Jesus over finding it in other things? c. In what ways are you tempted to "put your confidence" in your flesh?
4. Please list the reasons that Paul had for having confidence in the flesh. What would your list look like?
5. Knowing that Paul was in prison, what do you think that he knew of Jesus' power, wisdom, and love that made him willing to suffer the loss of all things? In which of those three areas do you see a need to grow in your understanding of Him?
6. Please read vs. 9 and compare it with Romans 10:1-4 and Ephesians 2:8-9. a. Why do you think God values righteousness based on faith over righteousness gained through the law? b. What's wrong with trying to gain righteousness through the law (good works)?
7. Think about something you really value, maybe being able to run a marathon, some type of relationship, or a job. a. What is that thing, and what about it do you value? b. What suffering are you willing to go through to gain that thing you value? c. Why do you think it's hard to accept suffering that we go through as a follower of Christ?
8. Paul said that those who are mature should think "this way." According to the following passages, what insight can you gain for how the mature think? a. Philippians 2:5-9 b. Philippians 3:1-11 c. Ephesians 4:13-14.
9. Please compare Philippians 3:3 with vs. 16. What's the difference between: a. A growing but immature believer who holds fast to the truth b. A believer who is not holding fast to the truth.
10. Please compare Philippians 3:18 with Romans 9:1-3 and Romans 10:1. Why do you think Paul grieved over enemies of the cross of Christ rather than getting angry? What does this tell you about the heart of God over our sin?
11. Please read Philippians 3:20-21. What evidence do you see of: a. God's power. b. God's wisdom. c. God's goodness. d. The hope that God gives. e. Perspective for the "earthly things" we face today.

Close in prayer.



Listening Guide — Week Five

**CHRIST OUR SUFFICIENCY, CONFIDENT MINDED IN HIM
PHILIPPIANS 4**

1. Christ is sufficient: Experience confident _____ through Christ in your relationships, in your heart, and in your thinking. (1-9)

2. Christ is sufficient: Experience confident _____ in Christ as he provides satisfaction in every circumstance. (10-13)

Homework ~ Week Five

CHRIST OUR SUFFICIENCY, CONFIDENT MINDED IN HIM
PHILIPPIANS 4



DAY ONE

Pray: As you begin studying today, ask the Lord to give you a deeper understanding of the sufficiency and security you have in Him.

Memorize: This week we will be reviewing our memory passage from the study. Let's begin with Philippians 2:5. Look back at the verse from week 1 homework and try to say it from memory. Thank the Lord for the treasured truth that you can have the mind of Christ.

Study: As Paul wraps up his letter to the Philippian believers, his theme can be summarized in Philippians 4:19, "And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus." As you study today, think about the vast sufficiency that Christ provides. He gives us ample peace, contentment, and supply in every circumstance! Begin today by reading chapter 4 and then answer the questions.

1. Take a look at chapter 4 and use the chart to note every verb/action that you are commanded to take and every verb/action that God takes.

Verbs/Actions relating to my responsibility	Verbs/Actions relating to God's responsibility

2. *What observations can you make from the chart? What do you notice about your own responsibilities versus God’s responsibilities and promises?

3. Close in prayer by thanking God for specific ways he is sufficient in your life. Ask Him to help you to trust his sufficiency and security in deeper ways as you study this week.

DAY TWO

Pray: Before you begin studying, pray that “the peace of God would guard your heart and mind in Christ Jesus” according to Philippians 4:7.

Memorize: Refer to Philippians 2:6 from week 2 homework. Try to say the verse from memory. Thank the Lord for the treasure and majesty of Christ our Lord, who willingly laid himself down for us.

Study: As Paul closes his letter to the Philippian believers, he focuses on exhortation and encouragement. Begin by reading Philippians 4:1-9. We are going to see today that true peace in our lives and in our hearts is achievable because the God of peace is with us! As you study, be thinking about your own experience of peace and if it matches the biblical peace that Paul describes in this passage.

1. Refer to verses 2-3. Paul calls out a few believers by name.

a. Why does he call them out?

b. What is he asking of them?

c. What unites them in spite of their apparent differences?

2. Refer to verses 4-7.

a. *What commands does Paul exhort the believers to follow?

b. How do these commands relate back to the problem of discord between Euodia and Syntyche?

c. *What promise do we have if we willingly put these commands into practice?

3. Refer to verses 8-9.

a. What kind of thinking does Paul exhort the believers to focus on?

b. *How would Godly thinking promote biblical peace in our lives?

c. Where does true peace come from according to verse 9?

4. Where do you need a deeper experience of Biblical peace in your life? Think about an area of your life that lacks peace. Put into practice Paul's exhortations in verses 4-7. Right now rejoice in the Lord, be reasonable (sweetly gracious and ready to forgive), and commit this area to prayer. Thank the Lord by faith for the peace He is bringing to your heart as you obey Him.

DAY THREE

Pray: Ask the Lord to reveal any areas of your life where you need to experience deeper contentment in Him as you study today.

Memorize: Refer to your memory verse from week 3, Philippians 2:7. Try to say the verse from memory. Thank the Lord for the treasured example we have in Christ, who came as a humble servant.

Study: Contentment and satisfaction are very elusive to so many in our society. Yet Paul says here that he knows the secret to being satisfied and content in every single circumstance! As you study today, be thinking about your own experience of contentment and satisfaction. Have you learned to practice the secret of contentment as Paul had? Begin by reading Philippians 4:10-13 and then answer the questions.

1. What were some of the circumstances in which Paul had learned to be content?

2. *If contentment is something that is not connected to our circumstances as Paul indicates, where does contentment come from?

3. *How do you think that the presence and power of Christ bring contentment?

4. What is your own experience with contentment? Are there circumstances that tend to leave you discontent or unsatisfied?

5. Close in prayer. Tell the Lord about any dissatisfaction or discontentment that you struggle with. Ask the Lord to help you draw on His strength and power so that your contentment and satisfaction are found in Him alone.

DAY FOUR

Pray: Ask the Lord to open your heart and mind to his Word today. Pray that he would reveal any new ways that you can give generously as you trust His sufficient supply.

Memorize: Refer to your memory verse from week 4, Philippians 2:8. Try to say it from memory. Thank the Lord for the treasured example of Christ's complete obedience.

Study: As Paul closes his letter to the Philippians, he emphasizes the spiritual investments they have made as a result of their material generosity. These gifts were not just an obligatory hand-out, rather Paul describes them as "a fragrant offering" and a "sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God". As you study today, think about your own material "investments" and how these connect with confident trust in God's provision. Begin by reading Philippians 4:14-20

1. When and how had the Philippians given to Paul?

2. How does Paul say the Philippian believers benefited from the gifts they gave to him? How had Paul benefitted from their giving?

3. *What is the connection between the Philippians generosity and God's provision promised in verse 19?

4. According to the KJV commentary, Paul is saying in verse 19, "You met my need, and God is going to meet your need. You met one need that I have, but my God will meet all of your needs. You gave out of your poverty, but God will supply your needs out of His riches in glory!" How does this help to explain and give context to this verse instead of seeing this verse as a blank check for material prosperity?

5. Close in prayer by asking the Lord to help you to recognize material "investments" that you can make in the spiritual realm. Thank Him for his generous provision in your life.

DAY FIVE

Pray: As you study today, ask the Lord to encourage your heart with his faithfulness and sufficiency.

Memorize: Let's put together all we have learned over the past few weeks. Try to say Philippians 2: 5-8 from memory. Thank the Father for the treasure of the gospel and his Son!

Study: We have seen this week that because of the sufficiency and security that we have in Christ, we can have peace, contentment, and trusted provision in our lives. As we wrap up our study of chapter 4, let's take a more in-depth look at some application of all that we have learned.

1. Refer to Philippians 4:1-9:

- a. *How do you respond to problems and strife in your life? What can you do to cultivate the Godly response that Paul advocates here: rejoice, be gentle, pray?
-
-

b. *If you ran your choice of television shows, movies, books, and social media through the criteria of right thinking found in verses 8-9, would you need to make some changes in what you are allowing to fill your mind? Are you willing to make those changes? Do you really believe that there is a direct connection to God's peace in doing this?

2. *Refer to Philippians 4:10-13. Where do you struggle to be content? How can you draw on the presence and power of Christ to experience greater contentment in this area?

3. Refer to Philippians 4:14-20.

a. *Are you taking the initiative to invest in the Lord's work and making the most of your opportunities? Do you believe that the Lord will respond with "fruit that increases to your account"?

b. Describe a time you experienced God's generous provision in your life.

4. Close in prayer. Tell the Lord one way that you will live differently as a result of what you have learned this week.

Discussion Questions — Week Six

CHRIST OUR SUFFICIENCY, CONFIDENT MINDED IN HIM
PHILIPPIANS 4



1. What impacted you from last week's message?
2. What observations can you make from the chart? What do you notice about your own responsibilities versus God's responsibilities and promises?
3. What commands does Paul exhort the believers to follow?
4. What promise do we have if we willingly put these commands into practice?
5. How would Godly thinking promote biblical peace in our lives?
6. If contentment is something that is not connected to our circumstances as Paul indicates, where does contentment come from?
7. How do you think that the presence and power of Christ bring contentment?
8. What is the connection between the Philippians generosity and God's provision promised in verse 19?
9. How do you respond to problems and strife in your life? What can you do to cultivate the Godly response that Paul advocates here: rejoice, be gentle, pray?
10. If you ran your choice of television shows, movies, books, and social media through the criteria of right thinking found in verses 8-9, would you need to make some changes in what you are allowing to fill your mind? Are you willing to make those changes? Do you really believe that there is a direct connection to God's peace in doing this?
11. Refer to Philippians 4:10-13. Where do you struggle to be content? How can you draw on the presence and power of Christ to experience greater contentment in this area?
12. Are you taking the initiative to invest in the Lord's work and making the most of your opportunities? Do you believe that the Lord will respond with "fruit that increases to your account"?

Close in prayer.

