

Digging into God's Word



Philippians



written by: Shelli Locke

Copyright © 2025 Shelli Locke

All rights reserved.

Permission is granted to reproduce or copy portions of this material for personal use or individual or small group study. However, this material may **not** be shared, distributed, sold, or used for commercial purposes without express written consent from the author.

Scripture notes, unless otherwise noted, are taken from ***Holman Christian Standard Version***. (Holman Christian Standard Bible Copyright © 1999, 2000, 2002, 2003, 2009 by Holman Bible Publishers).

Published by:

Self-published by Shelli Locke

shelli@helpandhopellc.com

Digging Into the Word

I am so glad you are taking time to dig into the Word of God. What an amazing opportunity we have to grow in our understanding of God Himself and learn about the life and sacrifice of Christ. I hope you enjoy taking time to go verse by verse and chapter by chapter. I pray that you will grow in your faith and experience the love of the Savior whose biggest desire is to have a relationship with you.

Acknowledgment

I would like to thank Bradie Peebles for designing the cover of this study. Her gifts and talents are greatly appreciated!

Sources

For all 'Bible Notes', I used my study Bible which is the ***Holman Christian Standard Bible***. All websites used are noted within the text for additional study resources.

God Bless!

Philippians

Paul names himself as the author of the letter. He wrote this letter to the believers in the city of Philippi. The Philippian church, founded by Paul on his second missionary journey in A.D. 50s, bears the distinction of being the first church in Europe. Clearly from the book itself one notes that Paul was in prison awaiting sentence when he wrote the letter (1:7, 13-14, 17, 20, 30; 2:17), and it was most likely written during Paul's first imprisonment in Rome A.D. 60-62 (Acts 28:30-31). – Bible Notes.

Philippi was a cosmopolitan city founded in 359 B.C. by Philip of Macedon (the father of Alexander the Great) and then made into a Roman military colony in 42 B.C. When Paul arrived in Philippi, he saw a “miniature Rome”, made up of privileged people who were diverse in nationality and social position (See Acts 16:13-40). - Bible Notes.

Chapter 1:

Vs. 1- Who does Paul say is with him?

To whom is he addressing this letter?

(Bible Notes: The term saints (Gk *hagiois*, “holy or set apart ones”) indicates the privilege of being recipients of Christ's saving work and a responsibility to live holy lives, set apart for His use. (1 Pt 1:15-16)

[What is an overseer in the church? | GotQuestions.org](http://GotQuestions.org)

[What are the qualifications of elders and deacons? | GotQuestions.org](http://GotQuestions.org)

Vs. 3-8- As you read these verses, remember that he is in prison:

What brings him joy?

Vs.6- Jot this down to remember:

What assurance does this verse give to believers?

Vs. 9-11- What does Paul pray over the believers?

Are our prayers earnest in seeking these kinds of things?

Vs. 12-13- How is Paul viewing his imprisonment?

Can we see positive outcomes through our difficult circumstances?

Vs. 14- What was the result of Paul's imprisonment?

Vs. 15-18- How does Paul react to the people sharing about Christ with ulterior motives?

Vs. 20- Here is a clear depiction of Paul's character. What can we learn from this verse?

Vs. 21- He says, "For me, living is _____ and dying is _____."

Vs. 22-24- What pressures Paul?

Vs. 25-26- What obligation does Paul feel for his fellow believers?

Vs. 27- Jot this down:

[What does it mean to conduct yourself in a manner worthy of the gospel \(Philippians 1:27\)? | GotQuestions.org](http://GotQuestions.org)

How can we live worthy of the gospel of Christ?

Are you walking alongside people, as Paul did, with the same intentions in mind? We have to remember, every person we meet is someone Jesus died for.

Vs. 27-28- How can believers unite?

Vs. 29- What does Paul clarify here?

Some teach and believe that life with Christ will only bring peace, happiness, prosperity, health, wealth, etc. How does Paul explain a Christian walk in this world?

How can we use these Biblical truths from Paul to face challenges differently?

Pause and reflect on Jesus's time on earth. What comforts and luxuries did He pursue?

What was His motive?

Go back to verse 6 and remember who is always working with us in this life, no matter what!

Chapter 2:

Vs. 1-4- Paul begins here with some high expectations of believers. Summarize these verses:

Vs. 5- Jot this down:

How is it possible for us to have an attitude like Christ's?

[What does the Bible say about attitude? | GotQuestions.org](http://GotQuestions.org)

Vs. 6- Profound verse! Who is Jesus?

[Is the deity of Christ biblical? | GotQuestions.org](http://GotQuestions.org)

Vs. 7-8- What did Jesus do?

Vs. 9-11- What came of this selfless act of Christ?

Now, re-read these verses one more time. Write down what resonates with you the most:

Vs. 12- When we read this verse, read it in context with Paul's complete message. It is often taken out of context and leads people to fear their security in salvation given to them through Christ.

[What does it mean to work out salvation with fear and trembling \(Philippians 2:12\)? | GotQuestions.org](#)

Vs. 13- This verse clarifies immediately. Jot this down:

Who can we depend on for our salvation, work, and equipping us for our purpose?

Vs. 14-15- What should believers avoid and why?

Vs. 16- What does Paul urge believers to do?

What is the message of life?

Vs. 19-24- Who was Paul sending to Philippi?

How does he describe their relationship?

Vs. 25-30- Who else will Paul be sending?

He sounds like an amazing guy! What do we learn about him?

Chapter 3:

Vs. 1-3- Paul warns believers to watch out for anyone who would mislead them. Believers need to remember not to have confidence in their flesh (earthly accomplishments), but rather all the boasting needs to be in _____.

(Bible Notes: God's people are not constituted by circumcision of the flesh but by the circumcision of the heart through faith (Dt. 10:16, Jr. 4:4, Rm 2:29, Gl 5:1-6, 6-15).

[What is circumcision of the heart? | GotQuestions.org](#)

Vs. 4-7- Paul's credentials as an upstanding, prominent Jew were obvious, yet how did he view all of that since knowing Christ?

Vs. 8-11- Paul continues, “I consider everything to be a loss in view of the surpassing _____ Christ Jesus my Lord.

Vs. 9- What does Paul say is the source of righteousness? (Jot this down)

Vs. 10-11 – What is Paul’s goal?

How can we seek to know Christ more deeply like Paul did?

Vs. 15- As believers grow and mature in their faith, who will be revealing things?

Vs. 16-19- Paul encourages believers to imitate him in living their lives in pursuit of serving and knowing Christ. What will happen to those who only live for earthly things?

Do you know people who don’t know Jesus? What can we do to help these people in our lives come to know Christ?

Vs. 20-21- Believers have hope! What do believers have to look forward to?

Chapter 4:

Vs. 4-6- These are powerful verses with specific directions to believers. What does he say in each verse?

- Vs. 4-
- Vs. 5-
- Vs. 6-

Vs. 7- What does this verse promise?

How different can life be if God controls our hearts and minds?

Vs. 8- What kinds of things should we spend our time thinking about? (Jot this down)-

Vs. 9- How do you feel knowing the God of the universe, of all creation, will be with you?

Vs. 12-13- What is the “secret to being content” in any circumstance?

Vs. 14-19- Paul thanks this church of believers for generously helping him with gifts and items to meet his needs as he traveled on his missionary journeys. What does Paul mean when he says, “but I seek the profit that is increasing to your account”?

Vs. 19- What is the promise here?

[Is it true that my God shall supply all my needs \(Philippians 4:19\)? | GotQuestions.org](#)

[What does the Bible say about giving? | GotQuestions.org](#)

Paul gives so many insights into Christian living within these 4 chapters. What is your big takeaway?

[Book of Philippians Summary | Watch an Overview Video \(bibleproject.com\)](#)