

Grade 6, Lesson 30  
Bible Background

The letter to the Philippian church was written around 61-62 AD, along with Ephesians and Colossians, while Paul was a prisoner in Rome. He was not in an actual prison cell but was under house arrest (Acts 28:14-31), living in his own rented house, chained to a Roman soldier and not permitted to preach in public. Yet for two years he was free to impart the gospel by letters and to all who came to visit him. These were not harsh conditions, but his case was coming up shortly, and he might be acquitted or he might be beheaded.

From the letter itself, it is hard to imagine such words of joy and peace and assurance from one whose freedom and days are limited. But those characteristics of the Christian faith are abundantly clear in this letter, in which Paul presents a very clear testimony of his life and faith (3:4-16). Days and years pass, and time and life go on in spite of the failures or successes we experience. But as this and other letters make clear, there remain these historical landmark testimonies of faith and love and hope that will never be diminished or lost by the passage of time.

The city of Philippi was named after King Philip II of Macedon, father of Alexander the Great. It was a prosperous Roman colony so the people were also citizens of Rome. They took pride in this, dressing like Romans and even speaking Latin at times. This might have been the reason Paul speaks of a believer's heavenly citizenship as a reminder for them to keep that in mind (3:17-21). As a gifted writer under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, Paul knew his audience well and wrote accordingly. Many of the Philippians were retired military men who were given land here so there would be a strong military presence in the city. In this Roman colony with a Roman military presence, there were not enough Jews to establish a synagogue, and this might be why Paul does not quote the Old Testament anywhere in this letter.

He writes to thank the Philippian church for their participation in the gospel (1:5) and for the gifts they sent him when they learned of his situation (4:10-19). He uses that opportunity to address how he has survived in all circumstances and learned to be content (11-12) and that he is "amply supplied" (18). In these words, and throughout the letter, Paul bears witness to God's all-sufficient grace (1:6, 21; 2:13; 3:8; 4:6-7, 13).

### Answers for Quarter 3, Lesson 30

1. Paul's circumstances turned out for the greater progress of the gospel because his imprisonment became well known throughout the whole praetorian guard, and because most of the brethren, trusting in the Lord because of his imprisonment, had far more courage to speak the word of God without fear.
2. God would be exalted through Paul's fruitful labor helping the Philippians to have progress and joy in the faith. (v. 22, 25)
3. Death would be "gain" for Paul because he would depart this life on earth and be with Christ.
4. Jesus didn't hold His heavenly position tightly in his hands, but rather laid aside His power and privileges as God and gave Himself up for us. **THINK ABOUT IT:** Jesus was Almighty God, the Creator of everything, with unlimited power and authority. Yet He gave up all His rights of being God to put on a human body, to be limited by time and space, to become a helpless baby who needed to be fed and dressed. He experienced all the struggles, emotions, and pain of living on this earth, yet he never sinned. We can't understand this, but then the GOD/man DIED. The eternal God, who has always existed, submitted Himself to experiencing death—the utter shame of dying as a criminal—the worst, most painful and cruel kind of death possible. He had to experience the wages of sin for us.
5. Jesus humbled Himself.
6. Christ emptied himself  
He took the form of a bond-servant  
He was made in the likeness of men  
He became obedient to the point of death on the cross.
7. God has bestowed on Him the name that is above every name  
so that at the name of Jesus every knee would bow  
and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord  
to the glory of God the Father
8. Paul considers all things to be "loss" and "rubbish" compared to knowing Christ. He says that "knowing Jesus" is the most important thing in life.
9. Individual answers will vary. Help the students to realize that at one point in Paul's life his religious achievements and other "things" were very important to him but as he put his faith in Jesus he realized that Jesus was the one he needed and not anything else.
10. Knowing someone personally provides opportunity for a more intimate and open relationship in terms of communication, expressions of love, confessions of need, etc.
11. Encourage discussion. Help students to apply the benefits listed under #10 to Jesus and our relationship to Him.
12. 4:4 instructs us to (*rejoice*).  
4:5 encourages us to display a (*gentle*) spirit.

4:6 tells us to bring (*everything*) to the Lord in prayer with (*thanksgiving*)

13. Whatever is true,  
honorable,  
right,  
pure,  
lovely,  
of good repute,  
any excellence  
anything worthy of praise..
14. To be content is to have all of one's desires fulfilled. *Help students realize that the secret in contentment is not in the "having" but in the proper fulfillment of one's desires.*
15. "My God will supply (*all*) your (*needs*) according to (*His*) riches (*in glory*) in (*Christ Jesus*)."

### **Catechism Corner**

1. I pray that God would give us daily bread.
2. By daily bread is meant everything that is required to satisfy our bodily needs, such as food and clothing, home and property, etc.
3. That I am to be content and satisfied with what God gives me day by day.
4. Individual answers will vary. Give students some possible examples to help them get started (i.e. the pressures of advertising, the possessions of friends, the cravings of our own sinful hearts).

# Memory Verse Quiz

Using the list of words provided below, fill in the blanks to complete the memory verse for this week. Not all the words will be used.



Christ	guard	supplication
known	worried	worship
tomorrow	God	surpasses
thanksgiving	Son	peace
prayer	hearts	requests
ears	comprehension	meditation
anxious	bless	minds
Philippians	everything	nothing

Be \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_, but in \_\_\_\_\_  
by \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ with  
\_\_\_\_\_ let your \_\_\_\_\_ be made  
\_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_. And the \_\_\_\_\_ of God, which  
\_\_\_\_\_ all \_\_\_\_\_, will  
\_\_\_\_\_ your \_\_\_\_\_ and your \_\_\_\_\_ in  
\_\_\_\_\_ Jesus. \_\_\_\_\_ 4:6-7

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Be anxious for nothing, but in everything  
by prayer and supplication with  
thanksgiving let your requests be made  
known to God. And the peace of God, which  
surpasses all comprehension, will  
guard your hearts and your minds in  
Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6-7



# Walk As Jesus Walked

Look up the Scripture reference below in the NASB and fill in the missing words to discover more of Paul's instructions to the Philippians.

## Philippians 2:1-5

Therefore if there is any \_\_\_\_\_ in Christ, if there is any \_\_\_\_\_ of love, if there is any \_\_\_\_\_ of the Spirit, if any \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, make my joy \_\_\_\_\_ by being of the same \_\_\_\_\_, maintaining the same \_\_\_\_\_, united in \_\_\_\_\_, intent on one \_\_\_\_\_.

Do nothing from \_\_\_\_\_ or empty \_\_\_\_\_, but with \_\_\_\_\_ of mind \_\_\_\_\_ one another as more \_\_\_\_\_ than yourselves; do not merely \_\_\_\_\_ out for your own \_\_\_\_\_ interests, but also for the \_\_\_\_\_ of others.

Have this \_\_\_\_\_ in yourselves which was also in \_\_\_\_\_.



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## Philippians 2:1-5

Therefore if there is any e n c o u r a g e m e n t in Christ, if there is any c o n s o l a t i o n of love, if there is any f e l l o w s h i p of the Spirit, if any a f f e c t i o n and c o m p a s s i o n, make my joy c o m p l e t e by being of the same m i n d, maintaining the same l o v e, united in s p i r i t, intent on one p u r p o s e.

Do nothing from s e l f i s h n e s s or empty c o n c e i t, but with h u m i l i t y of mind r e g a r d one another as more i m p o r t a n t than yourselves; do not merely l o o k out for your own p e r s o n a l interests, but also for the i n t e r e s t s of others.

Have this a t t i t u d e in yourselves which was also in C h r i s t J e s u s.

