

● Lesson 30

KNOWING CHRIST

Paul began the church in Philippi on his second missionary journey, almost ten years before this letter was written. It was the first church begun in Europe. Lydia was the first convert there (Acts 16:14-21) soon joined by the Philippian jailer and his family (Acts 16:25-40). **Ironically**, Paul wrote this letter, often called “the epistle of joy,” while imprisoned in Rome.

As Paul sat in prison, he had no idea whether or not he would ever be released. He could not be certain about his future. Yet there is no sense of gloom or despair in his tone.

1. How had Paul’s imprisonment actually served the cause of spreading the Gospel? Philippians 1:12-14

With Paul’s imprisonment came the very real possibility that he would be executed. But he wasn’t worried or discouraged. Paul knew that Christ held his life whether he lived or died (vv.20-21).

2. How might God be **exalted** if Paul continued to live? _____

3. Why did Paul write that death would be “gain” for him? vv.21, 23 _____

Memory Verse

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



JESUS HUMBLING HIMSELF

In chapter 2, Paul teaches about Jesus the Son of God. Jesus has always existed as God (v.6) and is equal to the Father in power, honor, and glory. Yet He “did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped” (v.6).

Fast Fact: Praetorian guard

- A military unit created by Caesar Augustus to serve as the Roman Emperor’s bodyguards.
- The only military/police force inside the city of Rome.
- Functioned as intelligence units and interrogators and guarded prisoners (including Paul) awaiting trial before the Emperor.
- Chosen by the generals and considered a prestigious and elite position.
- Paid up to double the pay of a regular soldier and required to serve for only 16 years instead of the 25 years required for a regular soldier. These guards retired wealthy with 5,000 denarii, a land settlement, and a military diploma.
- Became very powerful in the political arena, raising and deposing many of the emperors.

49 A.D.

51 A.D.

52 A.D.

55 A.D.

58 A.D.

.....Paul’s second missionary journey.....

.....Paul’s third missionary journey.....

.....Paul arrives in Rome, imprisoned.....

4. What do you think this means? _____

5. What did He do instead? v.8 _____

6. Philippians 2:7-8 tells us how Christ humbled Himself. List some of those ways here.

Jesus **humbled** Himself to the point of death, but that was not the end of the story! Read Philippians 2:9a and notice what God did next.

7. In what ways did God exalt Jesus according to 2:9-11?

God has bestowed on Him _____

so that at the name of Jesus _____

and that every tongue will confess that _____

to the glory of _____

KNOWING JESUS

The Apostle Paul wanted the believers in Philippi to realize that nothing is more important in life than knowing Jesus. In chapter 3, Paul describes his old life without Christ and his new life in Christ.

8. Read 3:7-8. How does Paul sum up everything in his life (including his successes) compared to knowing Christ?

9. In your own words, what does that mean?

There is a difference between knowing about someone and knowing him personally. You can know things about many people such as the President of the United States, a famous athlete, or a movie star, but most of us never really know them personally.

10. What benefits come from knowing someone personally rather than just knowing about him? _____

When we truly know someone, we have a relationship with him and share in the details of his life. To know Jesus personally as Paul did is to have a relationship with Him. Our relationship with Christ grows through one-on-one **encounters** with Jesus in His Word.

11. Discuss what benefits come from knowing Jesus personally rather than just knowing about Him.

LIVING FOR JESUS

Philippians 2:13 tells us that God is at work in and through us. God desires that our lives show evidence of His work in us. Paul concludes his letter to the believers in Philippi by giving them some practical instruction for godly living.

12. Circle the correct answers:

4:4 instructs us to (*rejoice/complain*).

4:5 encourages us to display a (*mean/gentle*) spirit.

4:6 tells us to bring (*some things/everything*) to the Lord in prayer with (*thanksgiving/suggestions*).

Philippians 4:8 talks about our thoughts. What are some things that have been on your mind in the past few days? Write them in the thought bubbles below.



67 A.D.

68 A.D.

..... Paul & Peter martyred Nero's reign ends

13. What things does Paul tell us to dwell or think on? Philippians 4:8

Whatever is _____ ,
 _____ ,
 _____ ,
 _____ ,
 _____ ,
 _____ ,
 of _____ **repute**,
 any _____
 anything _____ of praise.

Paul encourages the Philippians to have godly thoughts. How do your thoughts compare?

Lastly, Paul tells believers to be **content** in whatever circumstances we find ourselves (v.11).

14. What does it mean to be “content”? Are you content?

Do you remember all the different circumstances Paul had encountered in his life (persecution, shipwreck, prison, beatings, etc.)? He experienced times of being rich and times of being poor, times of being hungry and times of being filled, times of being imprisoned and times of being free (v.12). But Paul could be content no matter what happened because of the promise found in Philippians 4:19.

15. Circle the correct words in Philippians 4:19:

“And my God will supply (*some/all*) your (*wants/needs*) according to (*your/His*) riches (*in glory/on earth*) in (*your hard work/Christ Jesus*).”

Our lives are no different than Paul’s. We have ups and downs, success and failure, joy and sadness. But the promise in 4:19 has not changed. God knows all our needs and will care for each one of us. He will meet our needs according to His perfect plan.

Word Works

Follow the instructions below to reveal a phrase from a familiar prayer. Cross out the words

- in columns C and D that are names of Jesus’ disciples.
- in all columns that are books of the Bible.
- in columns B and C that are related to the Christmas story.
- in column C that have the plural form in column D, and vice versa.
- in columns A and D that are animal names.
- in columns A and B that are directions.
- in all columns that are names of cities in the Bible.

A	B	C	D
Daniel	Give	Peter	Bushes
Us	Oxen	Job	Horse
Genesis	Star	This	Bethlehem
Jerusalem	Hosea	Bush	James
Day	West	Simon	Joel
Corinth	Our	Angel	Promise
Donkey	South	Daily	Cow
North	Proverbs	Promises	Micah
East	Cana	Matthew	Nazareth
Revelation	Stable	Damascus	Bread

Arrange the remaining words into a sentence and write it below.

_____.

Hint: This is the fourth petition of the Lord’s Prayer.

Catechism Corner

1. What do you pray for in the fourth petition [of the Lord’s Prayer]? (Q. 297)

I pray that God would give us daily bread.

2. What is meant by daily bread? (Q. 298)

By daily bread is meant everything that is required to satisfy our bodily needs, such as food and clothing, home and property, etc.

3. Of what does the word “daily” remind you? (Q. 299)

That I am to be content and satisfied with what God gives me day by day.

4. Consider the things that cause you to be discontent. List these things and ask God to change your attitude regarding them.
