

Philippians - “The Earthly Walk of a Heavenly People”

(written 62 AD) - Story of Paul’s first visit to Philippi - Acts 16

1:1-11 Opening Prayer

I thank God when I remember you.

I’m Confident that the one who began a good work in you will complete it.

1:12-26 Paul’s Imprisonment

Roman guards all know Paul is in prison for announcing Jesus as risen Lord.

For Paul, life IS the Messiah, and so dying would be a gain. (Presence with Jesus)

But Paul hopes to live even in suffering, in order to serve others and share the Gospel.

1:27-2:18 Following Jesus’ Example

Your life as citizens should be consistent with the good news about the Messiah.

Jesus is Savior and Lord. Therefore serve others in the name of the Lord Jesus.

2:6-11 The Messiah Poem (Isaiah 40-55 Suffering Servant)

Although He existed in the nature of God, He did not regard His equality with God as a thing to be exploited; rather He emptied Himself, taking up the nature of a servant; He was born as a human, & recognized as a human; He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore, God has highly exalted Him, and given Him the name which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, in Heaven, on Earth, or under the Earth, and every tongue will confess: Jesus the Messiah is Lord! To the Glory of God the Father. (The one true God consists of God the Father & the Lord Jesus)
This Poem expresses Paul’s conviction of who Jesus is and offers an example to follow.

2:19-30 Two Examples

Timothy - concerned for the well being of other people, more than his own.

Epaphroditus - came close to death to serve the Messiah.

3:1-4:1 Paul’s Example

Paul gave up his self-righteous past life.

I regard it all as filth in comparison to knowing the Messiah.

Our true citizenship is in Heaven & we are awaiting a royal Savior to come from there.

4:2-9 Challenge to Live the Example

I plead with you to be unified in the Lord.

Make your needs known to the God of Peace who will guard your hearts & mind.

4:10-23 Closing Thanks

In need and prosperity, in poverty & plenty, I’ve learned the secret of contentment: simple dependence on the One who strengthens me. Hardships have become Paul’s greatest teachers: Has come to see his own suffering as participation in the story of Jesus.

A unique window into Paul’s heart & mind:

He saw his life as a reenactment of Jesus’ story.

His awareness of Jesus’ Love & Presence gave him Hope & Humility.

Knowing Jesus is deeply personal & transformative.

<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/philippians/>

Go Deeper

Paul centers his letter to the Philippians around a poem that highlights Jesus' attitude of humility in the face of suffering. His letter invites all readers to consider other people's needs and interests, even when life is hard. Difficult circumstances often make humans want to complain, compete against one another, and hoard resources to meet our own needs. But Paul invites us to remember how Jesus' selfless sacrifice leads to true life. His resurrection gives us a reason to humbly share with others in the most difficult times. Paul's prison chains prove that sharing Jesus' attitude isn't easy, so he encourages the church and reminds them to endure. Now let's take the time to internalize his message and reflect more together.

Read Philippians 2, Genesis 3, Isaiah 45:21-23

1. Compare Philippians 2:5-11 with Genesis 3. Why did Adam and Eve take advantage of the opportunity to be equal to God, and what was the result? Why did Jesus refuse to exploit his equality with God, and what was the result?
2. Read Isaiah 45:21-23 & Philippians 2:9-11. What does Paul want to communicate about the identity of Jesus by quoting from Isaiah's scroll?
3. How does Paul specifically encourage his readers to share Jesus' attitude in Philippians 2:1-3 and 2:12-16?
4. How do Timothy, Epaphroditus, and Paul specifically follow the self-giving example of Jesus (see Philippians 2:19-30)?
5. Take some time to pray. Express gratitude for who Jesus is, **acknowledge any specific mindsets that may be hindering your example**, and pray for Jesus' humble attitude to reshape your life and community.

20 Practical Ways To Kill Sin Every Day

<https://openthebible.org/article/20-practical-ways-to-kill-sin-every-day/>

Sin perplexes us. We love it, and we hate it. We embrace it, and we war against it. We act on it, yet we don't always understand why. Sin is alluring and confusing, pleasurable and destructive. The redeemed heart has been set free from sin's power, yet still wars with sin's presence—and sin distances us from the God who willingly came to rescue us from it.

What does it mean to be a child of God?

<https://www.gotquestions.org/be-a-child-of-God.html>

Many people wrongly believe that everyone is a child of God. Since human beings are created in God's image (Genesis 1:27), aren't we all His children? The Bible says no. Every human being is designed by God and loved by Him, but we can only become His children when we are adopted by Him.