

### INTRODUCTORY QUESTIONS

1. At one sitting, read the Philippian epistle. As you finish each chapter, write a summary of eight words or less.

1	
2	
3	
4	

2. Reread the Philippian epistle. Read more carefully this time. There are at least 54 statements about the Philippian Christians in these four chapters. Write down the location and a brief summary of each piece of information.
3. Study this list:
  - a. What problems does Paul address in these 54 pieces of information? Please search for these and write them down. If you do not find them all, don't worry. They are included in the Introduction that follows.
  - b. On the basis of this list, how would you describe the spiritual condition of the Philippian church?
4. Read the Philippian epistle once more. There are 56 commands in this epistle.
  - a. Write down the location and content summary for each command.
  - b. Now, study your list. On the basis of the commands Paul gave, identify the areas of concern he addressed.
  - c. Look at your list again. On the following table, list the number of commands you find in each chapter.

CHAPTER	1	2	3	4
COMMANDS				

- d. Observe this table for a few moments. What observation can you make on the basis of this brief study?

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 1

PAUL GREETED THE PHILIPPIAN CHRISTIANS

PHILIPPIANS 1:1 – 30

1. There are three paragraphs in the first chapter of the Philippian epistle. On the following table, write a summary of eight words or less for each paragraph.

1:1, 2	
1:3-11	
1:12-30	

2. In 1:1, 2, Paul greeted his friends in the Philippian church.
  - a. There is good reason to believe that Paul very carefully identified himself in each epistle he wrote, other than I and II Thessalonians. How did Paul identify himself in Philippians?
  - b. In what other epistles did Paul identify himself in the same way?
  - c. In 1:2, Paul stated his benediction upon the recipients of the epistle. What did he request from God on their behalf? Why would this request be so important to these Christians?
3. In 1:5, Paul spoke of their "participation in the Gospel." In what ways had they participated?
4. In 1:6, Paul said, "He who began a good work in you will perfect it." What did Paul mean by his use of the word "perfect"?
5. In 1:7-9, Paul described his feelings concerning these Philippian Christians.
  - a. Describe this relationship in your own words.
  - b. Why would Paul's feeling for them be so strong?
6. In 1:10, 11, Paul described some spiritual growth to which he would encourage them.
  - a. Read 1:7-9, again, to see if you can discover the background out of which this growth comes.
  - b. How would you describe the "fruit of righteousness" which Paul mentioned in 1:11?
7. In 1:12-14, you find a single sentence.
  - a. In verse 12, Paul referred to these Philippian Christians as "brethren." What do you understand the meaning of this address to be?
  - b. Read these verses again. How would you describe Paul's understanding of his imprisonment?
8. In verse 14, Paul spoke of "the brethren, trusting in the Lord because of my imprisonment."

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- a. What does Paul mean by this?
  - b. Read verse 14 again. Why would this statement be true?
9. Verses 15 – 17 form a single sentence. In this sentence, Paul described the motives of those who preach the Gospel while he is in prison.
- a. Spell out what Paul meant by the motives he identified.
  - b. How can one "preach Christ out of envy and strife?"
10. In verses 18-20, Paul expressed his reaction to the situation he described in verses 15-17. What was Paul's reaction?
11. In 1:21-25, Paul described his view of life as a Christian. In your own words, describe what he said.
12. In 1:26, Paul saluted their "proud confidence in me (Paul)." What does he mean by this?
13. In 1:27, 28, Paul gave four exhortations.
- a. What are these exhortations?
  - b. What inference can we draw from these exhortations?
14. Verses 29, 30, form a single sentence. In this sentence, Paul drew a parallel.
- a. What two things does Paul portray in parallel?
  - b. What message does he convey with this literary tool?
15. Review your study of chapter one.
- a. What did you learn?
  - b. What parallel can you draw between what Paul said to these believers and the way we live and serve God today?

QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 2

COMMENDING THE MIND OF CHRIST IN HARMONY

PHILIPPIANS 2:1 – 30

1. There are three paragraphs in Philippians chapter two. On the following table, write a summary of eight words or less for each paragraph.

2:1-11	
2:12-18	
2:19-30	

2. In 2:1-11, Paul gave us an insightful picture of the mind of Christ.
  - a. In 2:1, 2, Paul wrote a long conditional statement. (conditional statements can be identified by the use of "IF...THEN..." statements.)
    1. There are four conditions (IF statements) and four consequences ("THEN" statements) which in this sentence are inferred rather than being spelled out. What is the relationship of the "condition" (IF) statements to the "consequence" (THEN) statements?
    2. Describe what Paul meant by:
      - a. "Any encouragement in Christ"
      - b. "Any consolation of love"
      - c. Any fellowship of the Spirit"
      - d. "Any affection and compassion"
    3. Describe what Paul meant by:
      - a. "Being of the same mind"
      - b. "Maintaining the same love"
      - c. "United in spirit"
      - d. "Intent on one purpose"
    4. Review your answers to the two previous questions. What inferences can you draw from these statements?
  - b. Read 2:3 very carefully.
    1. In view of the fact that Paul gave these instructions, what logical assumptions can we draw from this verse?
    2. Paul said, "let each of you regard one another as more important than himself."
      - a. How would you deal with the suggestion that this instruction is self-demeaning?
      - b. How would you deal with the suggestion that some make – "If everyone in the church did this, then the church would be made up of people who are out of touch with themselves"?
  - c. In 2:4, Paul described a personal outlook that is both biblically and socially sound. How would you deal with the suggestion made by some that this is a self-contradictory command?
  - d. In 2:5-7, Paul dealt with Jesus as a role model or illustration of the truth that he was teaching.

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1. Read 2:5, 6, again. What truth does this statement illustrate?
  2. Read 2:7 again. What message was Paul trying to illustrate with this statement?
  - e. In 2:8, Paul described Jesus' attitude toward His mission. How would you explain how becoming "obedient to the point of death" was "a humbling of Himself"?
  - f. In 2:9-11, Paul described the Father's response to the obedient humbling of Jesus. What did Paul say?
3. In 2:12-18, Paul gives an application of what he said about Jesus in 2:1-11.
- a. In 2:12, 13, there is a single sentence.
    1. In 2:12, Paul said, "work out your salvation with fear and trembling." What did he mean by this statement?
    2. Again, in 2:13, Paul said, "It is God who is at work in you..." How would you deal with the apparent contradiction between the statements in 2:12 and 2:13?
  - b. In 2:14-16, Paul gave a series of instructions.
    1. In 2:14, Paul instructed them to refrain from "grumbling and disputing." What inference can we draw from this instruction?
    2. In 2:15, Paul drew a contrast between the believers and the world. What did he say about each group?
    3. In 2:16, Paul spoke of "the day of Christ." How would you explain this to a new believer?
  - c. In 2:17, Paul described his own situation. What was he saying about his ministry?
  - d. In 2:18, Paul urged them to follow his example. What was he really saying?
4. In 2:19-30, Paul shifted his attention to the two men he sent to Philippi.
- a. In 2:19-23, Paul talked about Timothy.
    1. Paul made at least six statements and inferences about Timothy in these verses.
    2. What statements did Paul make?
    3. What picture of Timothy has Paul presented?
  - b. In 2:24, Paul spoke of what he trusted would happen to him. Historically, we know that this did not happen. How can we explain this?
  - c. In 2:25-30, Paul turned his attention to Epaphroditus.
    1. In 2:25, Paul used five phrases to describe Epaphroditus.
      - a. What did Paul say?
      - b. In your own words, how would you describe Epaphroditus?
    2. In 2:26-28, Paul explained why he was so set on sending Epaphroditus to Philippi. Explain Paul's reasoning as expressed in 2:26-28.
    3. In 2:29, Paul gave two instructions concerning their reception of Epaphroditus
      - a. What instructions did Paul give?
      - b. Why would Paul have to say, "Hold men like him in high regard"?
  - d. In 2:30, Paul tied the service of Epaphroditus to the Philippian congregation.
    1. How did Paul do this?
    2. What difference would this make?
5. Review your study of chapter two.
- a. Paul began the chapter describing the self-sacrifice of Jesus for the sake of the Gospel. He concluded the chapter describing the self-sacrifice of Epaphroditus for

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- the sake of the Gospel. What is the relationship between these two parts of the chapter.
- b. Reflect upon this chapter in view of your own service to God. What did you discover?

**QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 3**  
**MAKING CHRIST THE PRIORITY**  
**PHILIPPIANS 3:1 – 21**

1. There are only two paragraphs in Philippians chapter three. On the following table, write a summary of eight words or less for each paragraph.

3:1-16	
3:17-21	

2. In 3:1-16, Paul dealt with his own Jewish heritage.
- a. In 3:1, Paul urged the Philippian believers to rejoice and at the same time hinted of trouble ahead. How does one deal with such an apparent contradiction?
  - b. In 3:2, Paul identified three groups these Christians should beware of:
    - 1. Who are these groups?
    - 2. What threat does each group represent?
  - c. In 3:3, Paul identified the meaning of "the true circumcision." What did he say?
  - d. In 3:4-6, Paul listed his own Jewish pedigree.
    - 1. How did Paul describe the importance Jewish people would place on his heritage?
    - 2. What emphasis can you see as you study Paul's heritage?
    - 3. How can we explain Paul's statement, in 3:6, "as to the righteousness which is in the Law, found blameless"?
  - e. In 3:7, 8, Paul described his reaction to his own heritage.
    - 1. What was his reaction?
    - 2. Read the two verses again. What means did Paul use to add strong emphasis to his statement?
    - 3. In 3:8, Paul said, "for whom (Christ) I have suffered the loss of all things..." What could Paul mean by this statement?
  - f. In 3:9, Paul presented an important contrast.
    - 1. What two things did he contrast?
    - 2. What does he say about each one?
  - g. In 3:10, 11, Paul spelled out his own hopes and spiritual agenda. There are five parts he described.
    - 1. What are the five concerns?
    - 2. How would you summarize these concerns in one simple statement?
  - h. In 3:12-14, Paul issued a series of carefully worded disclaimers.
    - 1. What reasons can you suggest that would make this appropriate for him to offer?
    - 2. What was he saying in his disclaimers?
  - i. In 3:15, 16, Paul gave some serious instructions.
    - 1. How would you explain the apparent impossible statement Paul made when he said, "as many as are perfect..."?
    - 2. In verse 15, Paul contrasted two "attitudes."
      - a. Identify and describe each one.

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- b. Paul said, "If in anything you have a different attitude, God will reveal that also to you." This manner of dealing with an opposing view seems totally uncharacteristic of Paul. How would you explain this situation?
    - c. In 3:16, Paul added a statement that seems to reinforce the "attitude" to which he was committed. How would you describe the intent of this verse?
- 3. In 3:17-21, Paul gave a picture of the believers situation here and now.
  - a. In 3:17, Paul exhorted his fellow Christians to follow his example. To some Christians, this would seem like the height of arrogance. How would you describe it? Why?
  - b. In 3:18, 19, you have a single sentence. This is a very emotional statement.
    - 1. In 3:18, Paul spoke of "enemies of the cross." He spoke of them in such a way that it appears that they present themselves as Christians, but are not. Reflect on this statement.
    - 2. In these two verses, Paul used five phrases to describe these impostors:
      - a. How does he describe them?
      - b. What does each phrase mean?
  - c. In 3:20, 21, Paul explained his attack on these pretenders to the faith.
    - 1. In these verses, Paul clearly identified two things that Jesus will do. What are they?
    - 2. In verse 21, Paul described our present and future situation. How does he describe them?
    - 3. Paul also identified the means by which Jesus will accomplish this miracle in our lives. What means did he suggest?
- 4. Review your study of chapter three.
  - a. What commands did Paul give these Christians?
  - b. What effect does he promise will result from such obedience?
  - c. In view of your study of this chapter:
    - 1. What was Paul saying you need to do in order to be obedient and faithful to God?
    - 2. What difference can we expect this to make in our lives and ministry?



**QUESTIONS FOR LESSON 4**  
**PAUL URGED HARMONY BETWEEN TWO WOMEN**  
**PHILIPPIANS 4:2 – 23**

1. There are five paragraphs in chapter four of Philippians. On the following table, write a summary of eight words or less for each paragraph.

4:2-7	
4:8, 9	
4:10-14	
4:15-20	
4:21-23	

2. In Philippians 4:2-9, Paul dealt with a rift between Euodia and Syntyche.
- a. Study Philippians 4:2.
    - 1. What is implied by this statement?
    - 2. Why would Paul have to say this?
    - 3. There is conflicting opinion about whether these women were church leaders or just members of the congregation. What answer is suggested by this verse?
  - b. In Philippians 4:3, Paul gave a command concerning these women.
    - 1. What is the command?
    - 2. What does it say concerning the problem?
  - c. In Philippians, Paul repeatedly dealt with the difficult persecution with which the church was confronted.
    - 1. In 4:5, what does Paul really command them?
    - 2. What does he mean by this?
  - d. In 4:6, Paul gave three commands.
    - 1. What are the commands?
    - 2. What are the implications of these commands?
  - e. In Philippians 4:7, Paul gave the promised results of obeying his commands.
    - 1. What did he promise?
    - 2. What are the implications of this promise?
  - f. In 4:8, Paul instructed them to study carefully eight qualities that they needed to emulate.
    - 1. Write each instruction on the following table.

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- a. Define what Paul meant by each quality he mentioned.
- b. Study the way each quality is presented. What did you observe?
- 2. What would happen if the people of a given fellowship took these instructions seriously?
- g. In 4:9, Paul instructed them to practice four tools of discipleship.
  - 1. What are they?
  - 2. What promise does he give concerning them?
- 3. In 4:10-14, Paul deals with his own financial and spiritual situation.
  - a. In 4:10, he described the actions and attitudes of the Philippian church.
    - 1. What did he say?
    - 2. How did he say it?
    - 3. What did he mean?
  - b. In 4:11, a very cautiously worded statement, Paul described his own experience.
    - 1. What did he say?
    - 2. What does this tell us about him?
  - c. In 4:12, Paul expands upon the previous statement.
    - 1. What did he say?
    - 2. What does this add to his statement in 4:11.
  - d. In 4:13, Paul made one of his most memorable and most often quoted statements.
    - 1. What did he say?
    - 2. What did he mean?
  - e. In 4:14, Paul states, again, his attitude toward their gift.
    - 1. What was his attitude?
    - 2. What did he mean by "affliction?"
- 4. In 4:15-20, Paul gives thanks for the gift he received.
  - a. In 4:15, 16, there is a note of praise Paul offered the Philippian church.
    - 1. What did he say?
    - 2. Why was this praiseworthy?

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- b. In 4:17, Paul made a very careful statement. What was he trying to say?
  - c. In 4:18, Paul described his own situation in three different ways:
    - 1. What did he say?
    - 2. Why wasn't any one of these sufficient?
  - d. Again, in 4:18, Paul described their gift in three different ways:
    - 1. What did he say?
    - 2. Why wasn't any one of these sufficient?
  - e. In 4:19, Paul gave them a promise. Why was this necessary?
  - f. In 4:20, Paul erupts in one of his well-known benedictions.
    - 1. How did Paul present this statement?
    - 2. What does this statement have to do with 4:15-19?
5. In Philippians 4:21-23, Paul presented the greetings with which he concluded the epistle.
- a. How does Paul identify the Philippian believers in 4:21?
  - b. Who are "the brethren who are with me" that Paul mentioned in 4:21?
  - c. Think carefully about 4:22
    - 1. What did you learn?
    - 2. Why did he say, "**especially** those of Caesar's household"?
  - d. In 4:23, Paul concluded the epistle.
    - 1. Read 1:2 and 4:23 together. What did you discover?
    - 2. What does 4:23 add to Paul's message?
  - e. In 4:23, the Greek text ends with the word, "amen." This word is omitted in our English text. What would be changed by the addition of this word?
6. Review what you have studied in this chapter.
- a. What has it highlighted in your thinking?
  - b. What difference will it make in your life? In your church?

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