

BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE FELLOWSHIP

PHILIPPIANS



Answer Key

CHAPTER ONE

“For to me to live is Christ and to die gain (Philippians 1:21).”

This book was written about the same time as Ephesians and Colossians. The city received its name “Philippi” by Philip, the father of Alexander the Great. The area around this city was exceptionally fertile soil and was rich in minerals. Philippi was populated mostly by Romans. Few Jews lived there and there was no synagogue. Philippians is a letter of correction--a letter of Christian appreciation and exhortation.

One of the rules of a good Bible student is to find out who is speaking and who is being spoken to.

1. (v. 1) To whom is this letter (epistle) written? **The Saints in Christ at Philippi**

2. (v. 2) Paul greets the Philippians with what greeting? _____
Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ

3. (vv. 3-5) Why did Paul thank God for the Philippians? _____
Because of their partnership (fellowship) in the gospel from the first until now

4. (v. 6) In your own words, tell what Paul was confident of? **That He who began a good work in you**
will carry it on to completion until the day of our Lord (Answer's will vary)

5. (v. 6) Who had begun a good work in them? **God**

6. (vv. 7-8) Why did Paul feel it was OK for him to feel this way toward the Philippians? _____
Because Paul had them in his heart **All of them share in God's grace with him**

7. (v. 9) What did Paul pray for? **The Philippians love would increase more and more in depth of**
insight and knowledge

Note: The translation that is rendered for verse 10 is not true to the Greek. It should read “unto the end that you may prove the things differing (or that differ), that you may be sincere and without offense (sin) unto the day of Christ.”

8. (vv. 10) In your own word tell us what Paul wanted them to approve (discern)? _____

The things that are excellent

9. What is the “day of Christ” mentioned in this verse? **The Rapture**

10. (v. 11) What did he desire for them to be filled with? **The fruits of righteousness**

Notice carefully: The Philippians fellowshiped with Paul by sharing with him in his need. They sent financial and/or material (food, clothing) aid to help to him. They did this since the first day he knew them. Because of that fellowship, he had them “in his heart.” He thanked God for them and prayed for them.

Be sure you understand his prayer for them:

- (a) That their love should abound more and more in knowledge and judgment.
- (b) That they should approve the things which are excellent.
- (c) That they should be sincere and without offense.
- (d) That they should be filled with the fruits of righteousness.

Believers today need these same spiritual qualities which Paul prayed for the Philippians!

11. (vv. 12-13) Tell in your own words who had heard that Paul was in prison (bonds)? (Acts 28:30)

The entire palace (guard – NIV) and many others

12. (v. 14) Describe the attitude of many of the brethren because of Paul’s bonds (chains)? _____

They were more confident to preach the Word of God

13. (v. 15-20) What was Paul’s attitude toward those who preached Christ out of wrong motives?

Paul rejoiced because Christ was being preached

14. (v. 20) What did Paul want done through his body? **That Christ would be exalted**

The main thing is for CHRIST TO BE PRAISED. Paul was in prison. Because of this, some preached Christ out of love for Paul. Others preached Christ out of envy and strife over Paul. What did Paul say? "I therein rejoice, and will rejoice."

When others preach Christ in the way of truth in accordance with the Word of God, we should rejoice. We must not forget that everyone needs to hear the Gospel of Christ Jesus. If others are doing it too, according to God's Word, let us rejoice.

Also, we need to remember that the word "salvation" (as in verse 19) does not always mean the salvation of the soul. Paul was in prison. He waited for salvation. Which salvation? The salvation or deliverance, of his body out of the prison by their prayers and the intercession of the Holy Spirit in Christ Jesus. When we read about salvation in any given passage, we must find out what kind of salvation is being discussed.

15. (vv. 21-26) Using you own words write out Paul's desire. **Paul looked forward to death when he would be in the presence of Christ, but for the time being it was more important for him to be alive so that he could help the believers (answers will vary)**

16. (vv. 27-28) What did Paul want to hear about the Philippians? **That they were standing together, unified, striving for the gospel**

17. (vv. 29-30) What did Paul say about suffering and the Christian? **It can be expected for those that believe**

CHAPTER. TWO

"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus (Philippians 2:5)."

As we study the second chapter, the first word "if" confronts us. This word used here and in other scriptures (Rom.6: 5; 8:31; Gal.5: 25; Col.3:1) should be translated "For as much as," "In view of the fact," or "Seeing that." The word assumes the hypothesis stated is an actual fact. With this thought in mind, let us rejoice in the things we know for sure we have in Christ.

1. What are four benefits of being in Christ given in verse 1?

(1.) **Consolation (KJV) Encouragement (NIV)**

(2.) **Comfort**

(3.) **Fellowship with the Spirit**

(4.) **Bowels and mercies (KJV) Tenderness and compassion (NIV)**

2. (vv. 2) What are the virtues that would fulfill Paul's joy for the Philippians? _____
That they would be likeminded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose

Are these virtues valid for Christians today? Yes

3. (v. 3) They should do nothing through what? Strife or vainglory (KJV) Selfish ambition or vain conceit

4. (v. 3) What attitude should they have toward each other? Esteem one another better than themselves

5. (v. 4) What should each one do regarding oneself and others? Each person should not be concerned about themselves but they should be concerned about others

6. (v. 6) What does this verse say about Christ? He was in the form of God but did not consider His equality with God something to be grasped (NIV); Thought it not robbery to be equal with God (KJ)

7. Using your own words write out what you think verse 7 & 8 say about Christ. _____
He humbled himself, gave up all his glory and became a servant and was obedient even to death on the cross

Note: Each believer should think of others as better than himself. Yes, it is difficult; but look at Christ Jesus! He was God, yet He humbled himself, became a man, and died for us sinners. Therefore, we ought to humble ourselves and to think of others, not self.

8. (v. 9-10) What did God do for Jesus? God exalted Him and gave Him the name above all names

9. (v. 11) Someday what will every tongue confess? Jesus Christ is Lord

Note: We see here that everyone will some day bow before Christ, confessing him as LORD! Not everyone will do this by faith in Christ. Millions will only do it because they will be forced to do it. Everyone will do it because He is LORD of all.

10. (v. 12) What were the Philippians to do in Paul's absence? _____

Work out their salvation with fear and trembling

What do you think the term “work out your salvation” means here? Answers will vary

11. Express the thought of vs. 13 in your own words. God is working through us to accomplish His will

12. (v. 15-16) What 5 qualities were they to have as the Sons of God (Christians)?

(1.) Blameless

(2.) Harmless (KJV) Pure (NIV)

(3.) Without rebuke (KJV) Without fault (NIV)

(4.) Shine like stars

(5.) Hold forth the Word of Life

Note: In verses 12-16 we have human responsibility and divine enablement, a perfect balance, which must be kept if the Christian life is to be lived at its best. It is not a “let go and let God” affair but rather it is “participate with God.” It is mutual cooperation with the Holy Spirit in interests and activities which are the things of God.

13. (v. 16) What would make Paul rejoice (boast)? When the believers live out the qualities expressed in the previous verses.

14. (v. 16) When would Paul rejoice? In the day of Christ

15. (vv. 17-18) Paul states that even if his imprisonment results in being put to death, he will be glad and rejoice with them. What does Paul ask them to do? Rejoice with him

Note: There are two “days” or periods of time in scripture that need explanation. The “Day of Christ” relates entirely to the reward and blessing of saints at His coming in the air (1 Thess.4:13-18; Titus 2:13; Philippians. 1:6,10).

The “Day of the Lord” has to do with Christ’s second coming to the earth. There will be signs to herald His coming. The “Day of Christ” is a secret (without a sign) coming. The “Day of the Lord” is preeminently the time when Jesus Christ will be revealed to the universe as King of kings and Lord of lords.

16. (v. 19-20)What did Paul find in Timothy that he could not find in other Christians? _____

A concern for the condition of others

17. (v.21) What was the problem others Paul worked with? They seek their own interest first and not

the things of Christ

18. (v. 27-30) Epaphroditus was sick close to death, but God had mercy on him. Why, or for what reason was he in this condition? (v.30) Because he was doing the work of Christ. He was delivering the

Philippians' gift to Paul

19. Search verses 20-30 for examples of being like Christ in Timothy and Ephroditus. List 4 of these character qualities:

- (1.) Concern for others and things of Christ
- (2.) He served with Paul in preaching the gospel
- (3.) They were willing to sacrifice for the cause of Christ
- (4.) Epaphroditus was concerned that the Philippians were worried about him

CHAPTER THREE

“That I may know him and the power of his resurrection (Philippians 3:10a)”

In this chapter we should look for the blessedness of finding our complete satisfaction in Christ. Paul demonstrates this in presenting all he was in the Jewish religion, and then concludes by placing it on the scrap pile. Let’s examine our own life as we go through this chapter.

1. (v .1) What did Paul want the Philippians to do? Rejoice in the Lord
2. (v. 2) What were the Philippians to beware of? Dogs, evil workers concision (the Judaizers)

What does Paul mean by the phrase “mutilators of the flesh”(NIV) or “concision” (KJV)? _____

The Judaizers that want to force the Gentiles to be circumcised

3. (v. 3) Name three virtues of Christians, the true circumcision.
 - (1.) Worship God in the spirit
 - (2.) Rejoice in Christ Jesus
 - (3.) Have no confidence in the flesh

Note: Christ is the true fulfillment in life. He alone brings genuine joy. All real rejoicing concentrates on Him and what He has done. It is not tedious for the apostle Paul to point out and warn against spiritual counterfeits which steal away the Philippians joy.

4. (v. 5,6) Name seven reasons Paul could have confidence in the flesh.
 - (1.) Circumcised on the eighth day
 - (2.) Of the people of Israel
 - (3.) Of the tribe of Benjamin

(4.) A Hebrew of the Hebrews

(5.) A Pharisee

(6.) Zealous in persecuting the church

(7.) Faultless regarding legalistic righteousness

5. (v. 7-8) All the achievements that Paul gained through the legalistic practice of the Jewish religion he counted as loss. Why did he do this? So that he might gain Christ

6. (v. 9) What did Paul want instead of his own righteousness which was by the law? _____

The righteousness of God by faith

7. (vv. 10-11) Paul writes that he wants to know Christ and the power of His resurrection. To what end was he striving in Christ? To attain to the resurrection from the dead

Note: Charles F. Baker writes: "We must not get the impression that Paul obtained the righteousness of God by his sacrificing and giving up of all things. That would be going back to boasting of one's own works. He completely gave up any merit for his own righteousness based upon law principle, and received as a free gift the righteousness of God, which was based entirely upon the faith principle in Christ. It was Paul's deep appreciation of Christ's work of salvation that produced his great love for Christ and which caused him to sacrifice all for Christ.

8. (v.12) Did Paul consider himself as "having arrived" (or perfect)? Yes _____ No X

Why? He was striving to take hold of that for which Christ took hold of him

Note: Paul shows us that he was full of reasons to praise himself if he wished to do so. Circumcision was an important thing with the Jews, and he had been circumcised the eighth day! The Israelites were God's chosen people, and he was one of them! The tribe of Benjamin was the tribe, which had remained true to God in Israel, and he was one of them! The true Hebrews and the Pharisees were the important people among the Jews, and he was one of them! He had been a Pharisee and had even persecuted the church!

He counted all this as loss, as dung! Why? In order that he might get to know Christ Jesus more and more intimately ! He wanted to be found in Him, to have the righteousness of God by faith, to really know Christ in His resurrection power, his sufferings, and His death.

9. (v.13) What good advice does Paul give concerning life? Forget what is behind and strive

for that which is ahead

10. (v. 14) What was the Apostle Paul's great desire? To win the prize of the high calling of God

11. Read verses 15-21, 1 Cor. 11:1; 14:37, Phil. 3:17; 4:9, Rom. 11:13 and tell who you think we should follow for Christian instruction. Paul

Why? He is the Apostle to the Gentiles

Note: There are different ways of knowing Christ. Paul surely knew Christ as his Savior. He knew him as the Son of God. He knew him as his Lord. Such knowledge was factual but there was another way of knowing Christ, and Paul expresses the desire to know Him in a very intimate and experiential way. A person either knows Christ as Savior or he doesn't know Him at all. But there are degrees of knowing Christ experientially, and Paul felt that he still had room to grow in this area.

12. Do you desire to grow in this area? **This is a personal response**
How do you plan to achieve this Growth? **This is a personal response**

13. Do you know Christ as Savior? **This is a personal response**
14. (v. 19) Using your own words describe the enemies of the cross of Christ? _____
They are self serving and concerned with earthly things

15. Verse 20, 1 Thess 4:15-17, and Titus 2:13 all speak of a certain event. What is that event?
The Rapture of the Church, the Body of Christ
16. Write out verse 20 in your own words (conversation means citizenship KJV). _____
We are citizens of heaven from and look and wait for our savior, Jesus Christ, to come from there

17. What transformation takes place in verse 21? **Our earthly bodies will be changed like His glorious body**

Note: This change from humiliation to glory is going to be accomplished by the power that enables Him to bring all this under His control. Those who have died in Christ will first be raised bodily. Then those who are still alive at the time will be changed into the same glorious body. Salvation includes the whole man: body, soul, and spirit.

CHAPTER FOUR

“I can do all things through Christ which strengthenth me. (Philippians 4:13)”

1. (v. 1) Sandwiched between Ephesians and Colossians, the main theme is said to be that of joy and rejoicing. This chapter starts out with the Apostle Paul expressing himself in terms of gentleness and love to the believers in Philippi.
What words did he use? **Brothers, beloved, longed for, my joy and crown**

In the previous chapter he warned them of those who were enemies of the cross. What words of exhortation did he give them? **Stand fast in the Lord**

2. (v. 2) What did Paul say in this verse to indicate there was trouble between Euodia and Syntyche?

He pleads with them to agree with one another

3. (v. 2) Paul is saying this to these two women personally, even as he had similarly instructed the church previously. Write the phrases indicating this from the following chapters and verses:

(1.) (1:27-30) ...stand fast in one spirit with one mind

(2.) (2: 1-4) ...that ye be likeminded having the same love

(3.) (2:5-8) Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus

When there is disharmony and disagreement, it is difficult or impossible to rejoice. Rejoicing is a prominent word in the epistle, but true rejoicing is impossible apart from the mind of Christ. Paul is emphatic: "I will say it again, Rejoice!" Christians can rejoice when there is pressure and opposition from the outside. In fact, Peter says to count it all joy when we suffer for Christ's sake (1 Pet.4:13, 16). But where there is internal conflict, the joy evaporates.

4. What would you say is the *key word* which characterizes the attitude of a Christian found in chapters 1:18; 2:16, 17, 18, and 28, 3:1,3 and 4:4? Rejoice

5. Underline the statement that you think is meant in verse five:

1. The Lord is near in a spiritual sense,

2. The coming of the Lord is near.

Note: The constant expectation of the Rapture (the Lord's coming in the air) is a purifying hope.

6. (v. 6) Every Christian should memorize this verse. Write out this verse in your own words? _____

Do not worry about anything, but always make your requests and thanksgiving known to God through prayer.

The gracious exhortation of verse six should put our hearts to rest "Be careful for nothing" which is saying, "Be full of care for not one thing."

7. (v. 7) What is promise the promise given here? The peace of God will guard our hearts and minds

8. (v. 8) We find a series of things that should occupy our minds. List six things our minds should be concerned with?

(1.) Whatever is true

(2.) Whatever is just (noble - NIV)

- (3.) Whatever is pure
- (4.) Whatever is lovely
- (5.) Whatever is of good report (admirable – NIV)
- (6.) Any virtue and praise; Anything praiseworthy and of good report (NIV)

Note: If we have the mind of Christ these things will characterize our thinking. Our thought life is not limited to these things alone. We have to think about our daily employment, about the needs of our families, etc. But in all of these varied activities we must be true and just. We must be pure in our motives and actions. We must promote the finer things of life and avoid the base and ugly. We must strive for excellence and praiseworthiness and not be content with mediocrity. Everything is to be done as unto the Lord.

In 1 Cor. 11:1 Paul says, “Follow me as I follow Christ.” Here in verse nine he is saying the same, only in different words. Charles Baker says, “This sounds like egotism on the surface, but we must remember that God was the one who chose Paul and separated him, even from his mother’s womb (Gal.1:15) to reveal his Son in him and to make him the example of what a true believer should be... They had had a complete demonstration in the life of Paul of the mind of Christ. They knew that such a life was possible. They and we are exhorted to so live, and the promise is made that the God of peace shall be with us.”

- 9. (v. 9a) What is the command Paul has given the Philippians in the first part of this verse? _____

They are to do those things which they have learned, received, heard and see in Paul’s life

- 10. (v. 9b) What is the promise that Paul gives the Philippians at the end of this verse? _____

The peace of God will be with them

Read verses 10-13. Contentment is not something that comes automatically. It is something that must be learned through experience. Paul does not say simply, “I am content,” but “I have LEARNED, in whatsoever state I am, therein to be content.” “I have learned the secret,” says Paul.

- 11. Are there circumstances in your life that you could learn to be content with? **Personal answer**

- 12. (v. 13) How was Paul enabled “to do all things”? **Through Christ Jesus who gave him strength**

Note: When Paul says, “I can do all things,” he is not claiming some kind of omnipotence, even if it came through Christ himself. There were many things which were physically impossible for Paul to do. This statement has to be taken in its context. The “all things” are those things he has been talking about.

- 13. (v.14-20) Paul recaps all the times the Philippians shared with him and how pleased the Lord was with their offering. How does Paul tell them God will meet their needs? **According to God’s riches in glory**

through Christ Jesus

- 14. (v. 20-23) How does Paul close this letter? **Greet the saints, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ**

be with you

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