

## Lesson 4 – Philippians 1 and Living in Peace with One Another

### Introduction

This week you will study the remainder of Philippians 1 as well as look at biblical teaching on the doctrine of suffering. Pray that you will be able to spend time in God’s word and grow stronger in your faith as you turn to Him seeking His truth. Be open to how God wants to use the Scripture you will study this week to edify your spirit and equip you for what is ahead in your life.

At the end of the week, you will look at the command Jesus spoke to His disciples to live at peace with one another. The 19<sup>th</sup> century Scottish pastor Horatius Bonar said that one’s peace cannot come from within, “it can only come from God; and it is in knowing God that he gets it.” Daniel 11:32 says that the people who know their God will display strength and take action. I would love to have these words describe me.

A reminder about Scripture memorization! Do not forget to ask God for His help so that this will be accomplished in you.

### Days 1 and 2 - Philippians 1:12-26

1. A goal of inductive Bible study is to get to know God and our Savior Jesus Christ. Thank the Lord for His precious Holy Spirit that guides us in the truth. Continue to **ask** the Lord to renew your mind through His holy word. **Ask** the Lord to order your life so that you might hunger and thirst for His righteousness, revealed in His word. Begin with these **observation questions**.

- What did Paul say about his circumstances and what were the results of this according to Philippians 1:12-14?
  - a. Paul’s circumstances:
  - b. The results:
  
- What is the contrast that Paul made in verses 15-18? After you have listed the contrasts between these people, chose a word or phrase to describe each of these.
  - a.
  - b.
  
- What choice did Paul make according to the end of Philippians 1:18?
  
- What was Paul’s faith based upon, according to Philippians 1:19, 20?
  
- Based on Philippians 1:12-26, how would you explain Paul’s faith to someone who has never studied Paul’s epistle to the Philippians?

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- What did Paul understand about his calling to serve the body of Christ, according to Philippians 1:21-26?

2. Please examine these word studies for some of the **key words** used in today's lesson.

Strong's # and Transliteration:	Definition from Strong's Concordance, unless written in italics:	Use of the word in other Scriptures:
4297 prokope prokopen Philippians 1:12 Philippians 1:25	<b>Progress</b> , advancement, furtherance, profit, advance <i>NIV</i> ; " <i>blazing a trail before an army</i> " <sup>1</sup>	Used three times in the New Testament. 1 Timothy 4:15
4232 praitorion praitorio Philippians 1:13	<b>Imperial guard</b> <i>ISV</i> , the governor's courtroom (sometimes including the whole edifice and camp): - (common, judgment); hall (of judgment), palace, praetorian <i>NASB</i> ; <i>praetorium</i>	John 18:28, 33
2024 epichoregia epichoregias Philippians 1:19	<b>Help</b> <i>ISV</i> , contribution, supply, provision <i>NASB</i> ; <i>support as a ligament provides physically</i> <sup>2</sup>	Used twice in the New Testament. Ephesians 4:16
603 apokaradokia apokaradokia Philippians 1:20	<b>Eager expectation</b> , intense anticipation, " <i>straining one's neck to catch a glimpse of what is ahead,</i> " <sup>3</sup>	Used twice in the New Testament. Romans 8:19
1680 elpis elpida Philippians 1:20	<b>Hope</b> , expectation or confidence, faith	1 Peter 1:3
3954 parrhesia parrhesian Philippians 1:20	<b>Boldness</b> <i>ISV</i> , confidence, all out-spokenness, i.e. frankness, bluntness, publicity; by implication, assurance	Philemon 8 (freedom, <i>ISV</i> )
5479 chara charan Philippians 1:25	<b>Joy</b> , cheerfulness, i.e. calm delight; -gladness, greatly, be exceedingly joy (-ful, -fully, -fulness, -ous)	James 1:2

3. To study the life of the Apostle Paul can add to your understanding of his ministry and to his character. In Lesson 3 you read of his conversion and what Paul shared before Roman officials in Israel. Now please read Acts 22:22 through the end of Luke's account in chapter 28 to see Paul's arrest and his journey to his imprisonment in Rome.

Before you begin, stop and pray that your time in the word would be a blessing. Ask the Lord to help you see how He revealed Himself to Paul. As you are reading, look at how

<sup>1</sup> Ibid., p. 70.

<sup>2</sup> John F. Walvoord and Roy B. Zuck, *The Bible Knowledge Commentary*, Victor Books, 1983, p. 651.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

the circumstances of Paul's life revealed God's nature and God's attributes. As you reflect on each attribute of God, think about what these qualities mean to you today.

What Paul learned about God during his imprisonment and his journey to Rome.

4. Look at the phrase "the progress of the gospel" in verse 12. Read Jesus' commands to His followers in Matthew 28:18-20 and Acts 1:8. Jesus was in Israel when He spoke these words. How was Paul carrying out these commands on behalf of his Savior?

5. Read again Philippians 1:14 and think about why and how Paul's imprisonment could make Christians more confident in the Lord to speak God's word more boldly?

6. Have you read a biography of a Christian who lived out their faith for the cause of Christ? Many Christian biographies testify of God's faithfulness as someone suffered for the cause of Christ. Ask some other believers what biography they have read that challenged them in their faith. This past summer I read (again) about the life of Corrie ten Boom as I was studying the command to forgive others. A friend reminded me of Miss ten Boom's story of forgiving, as that had convicted her when she read *The Hiding Place* years earlier.

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I have been encouraged by the life of Ignatius, the bishop (leader) of the Antioch church in the first century. As he was on his way to Rome to be martyred for his faith he wrote to believers in churches that they were to rejoice with him as God had considered him worthy to suffer as Jesus Christ his Savior had suffered.

Think about Paul's physical condition when he wrote his letter to the church in Philippi. Read Romans 8:26-28 and apply the truths that Paul wrote to the church in Rome to his circumstance when he wrote the epistle of Philippians. How would Paul explain how Romans 8:26-28 was true in his own life?

Is there a situation in your life today that is causing you to grieve? Maybe you have a frustration that you are struggling with and you are uncertain as to what you should do. Do you have a Christian friend in your life that can and will remind you of God's faithfulness in the midst of trials? Maybe you could ask someone to take that role in your life. Sometimes people are hesitant because they do not feel comfortable declaring God's truth and saying "hard things" to you.

Biblical fellowship involves coming together and encouraging accountability within the body. Sometimes in our weakness and fear, we might become discouraged and hold back. Close by asking the Lord to help you in every area where you are weak. Praise God for the way He has helped you to grow in your faith.

The hymn "I Surrender All" can be your song of commitment as you close today. "I will ever love and trust Him, in His presence daily live."

"I Surrender All"

All to Jesus I surrender, all to Him I freely give; I will ever love and trust Him, in His presence daily live.

Chorus: I surrender all, I surrender all, all to Thee, my blessed Savior, I surrender all.

All to Jesus I surrender, humbly at His feet I bow; worldly pleasures all forsaken, take me Jesus, take me now.

Chorus:

By Judson W. Van de Venter and Winfield S. Weeden

### Days 3 and 4 - Philippians 1:27-30 and the Theology of Suffering

1. Now you will examine the end of Philippians 1 and then look at what the Bible says about suffering. When you study a specific topic in Scripture, the results of your research would be called a theological study as you determine what Scripture teaches about God in relationship to the theme. You could read what someone else determined to be a "theology of suffering," but digging these truths out of Scripture yourself will be a benefit for you. Open by **asking** God for His wisdom, guidance, and comfort as you approach His holy word and then begin with these **observation questions**.

- How did Paul open Philippians 1:27?
  
- What were the three responses that Paul desired to hear about the church in Philippi according to verses 27 and 28?
  - a.
  
  - b.
  
  - c.
  
- What are the privileges that the church has been given according to verse 29?
  - a.
  
  - b.
  
- How was Paul a “role model” for the church in Philippi according to the last paragraph?
  
- Looking ahead to Philippians 3:7-11, read this passage and summarize what Paul said about suffering in verse 10.
  
- Look at Peter’s perspective on suffering in 1 Peter 4:12-19. What was asked of believers in this passage?

2. Please examine these word studies for some of the **key words** used in this passage.

<b>Strong’s # and Transliteration:</b>	<b>Definition from Strong’s Concordance, unless written in <i>italics</i>:</b>	<b>Use of the word in other Scriptures:</b>
4739 steko stekete Philippians 1:27	<b>Standing firm</b> , to be stationary, to persevere: stand (fast)	Philippians 4:1

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Strong's # and Transliteration:	Definition from Strong's Concordance, unless written in italics:	Use of the word in other Scriptures:
5590 psuche psuche Philippians 1:27	<b>Mind</b> , breath, i.e. (by implication) spirit, abstract or concrete (the animal sentient principle only: thus distinguished on the one hand from #4151 <i>pneuma</i> spirit which is rational and immortal soul..., heart, (-ily), life, mind, soul, +us, +you	Philippians 2:30 (life)
5483 charizomai echaristhe Philippians 1:29	<b>Given</b> <i>ISV</i> , to grant as a favor, i.e. gratuitously, in kindness, pardon or rescue: deliver (frankly) forgive, (freely) give	Philippians 2:9
4100 pistis pisteuein Philippians 1:29	<b>Believe</b> , persuasion, i.e. credence; moral conviction (of religious truth, to the truthfulness of God or a religious teacher), especially reliance upon Christ for salvation; abstract constancy in such profession; by extension the system of religious (Gospel) truth itself: assurance, belief, faith, fidelity	Romans 10:9-11
3958 pascho paschein Philippians 1:29	<b>Suffer</b> , to experience a sensation or impression (usually painful), feel, passion, vex	Hebrews 5:8
3804 pathema pathemata 2 Corinthians 1:5 (Mark this for later.)	<b>Suffering</b> , something undergone, i.e. hardship or pain; subjectively an emotion or influence: affection, affliction, motion	Romans 8:18 (Mark this for later.)

3. Jesus' disciples expected the Messiah to reign in Israel. Read Mark 8:31 and 10:32-34 to see what Jesus prophesied about Himself and then read what James and John asked Him following the Mark 10 passage. What did Jesus promise His disciples in this passage? (Note: in the Hebrew culture a cup often represented a "cup of suffering.")

Now look at what Jesus said in John 15:20 about the response from people that His followers could expect. What did Jesus tell His disciples about suffering?

What did Jesus say was to be the response of His followers in Matthew 5:10-12?

4. The writings of the early church leaders say that most of the apostles died a martyr's death. Look again at Acts 9:16 to see the promise the Lord made to Paul shortly after his conversion.

5. What do these Scriptures tell the church about suffering?
- a. Romans 8:16-18
  
  - b. 1 Corinthians 12:26, 27
  
  - c. 2 Corinthians 1:5
  
  - d. 2 Thessalonians 1:4-6
  
  - e. 1 Peter 3:14-17

6. Pastoral Ministry Professor Dr. Bob Royal said the following about suffering:<sup>4</sup>
- a. God is in charge. (This has been called theodicy, a justification that God is good, holy, and powerful, and He has allowed evil in the world).
  - b. God has chosen to allow inexplicable suffering.
  - c. The key to the final understanding of suffering is the cross. We must look at our suffering through the cross.
  - d. If the cross and resurrection event is central to our theology, and it involved Christ's voluntary suffering for others, what are the implications for us, His followers?  
To answer this question, please read 1 Peter 2:21-25. To fully understand Peter's thinking, read from verse 18 to see the context of his teaching. What are we called to be and do as followers of Christ?

Now close by prayerfully reading Isaiah 53 allowing the Holy Spirit to soften your heart so that you might see what God wants you to see. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you receive God's message as you read the prophecy of Isaiah 53.

What is your response to Jesus from Isaiah's prophecy?

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<sup>4</sup> Bob Royal, Foundations for Christian Ministry Class Notes, GGBTS, Spring, 2002.

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We are told in Hebrews 12:1, 2 to “keep running with endurance the race set before us, looking off to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of the faith, who in view of the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising its shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

Write out James’ instructions to the church in James 1:2-5.

- a. The instructions:                      b. God’s promises:

Sometimes someone suffers and the suffering makes no sense. What did Paul say in 2 Timothy 3:12 about suffering?

A dear friend once said that when you are obedient to God’s word, God works out His good. Psalm 22:4 declares that God is holy and inhabits the praises of His people. In the midst of suffering we can declare God’s goodness and mercy. Please stop to think about the Scripture you have studied about suffering. Go back and circle with a colored pencil each of the instructions you are given about how you are to respond to suffering. Close by reading these instructions and writing out the four commands that you need to claim.

When you experience suffering, acknowledge your grief and turn to the Lord for healing. Horatio Spafford wrote the hymn “It is Well with My Soul” after losing his daughters in a shipwreck. Before this tragedy he had lost his son in the Chicago fire. Imagine Mr. Spafford’s suffering when he wrote his song.

### “It is Well with My Soul”

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way, when sorrows like sea billows roll – Whatever my lot,  
Thou hast taught me to say, “It is well, it is well with my soul.”

Chorus: It is well, (it is well), with my soul, (with my soul), it is well, it is well with my soul.

Tho’ Satan should buffet, tho’ trials should come, let this blest assurance control, that Christ hath  
regarded my helpless estate and hath shed His own blood for my soul.

Chorus:

And Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight, the clouds be rolled back as a scroll; The trump  
shall resound and the Lord shall descend, “Even so” – it is well with my soul.

Chorus:

By Horatio Spafford and Philip P. Bliss



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<b>Strong's # and Transliteration:</b>	<b>Definition from Strong's Concordance, unless written in italics:</b>	<b>Use of the word in other Scriptures:</b>
1775 henotes henoteta Ephesians 4:3	<b>United</b> , oneness, unanimity, unity <i>KJV</i>	Used twice in the New Testament. Ephesians 4:13
2643 katallage katallages 2 Corinthians 5:18 2 Corinthians 5:19	<b>Reconciliation</b> , exchange (figuratively, adjustment), i.e. restoration to (the divine) favor: atonement, reconciling	Used four times in the New Testament. Romans 5:11, 11:15
1259 diallasso diallagethi Matthew 5:24	<b>Reconciled</b> , to change thoroughly, i.e. to conciliate	<i>Hapax legomen.</i>

3. Hebrews 12:14 says that Christians are “to pursue peace with everyone, as well as holiness.” Stop and think about why these two qualities were together in this verse.

Romans 12:18 says that “if possible, so far as it depends on you, live in peace with all people.” In Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount He addressed personal relationships and what is required for His followers. Please read Matthew 5:21-26 and reflect on Jesus’ commands and the consequences for those who do not obey.

4. Now read Ephesians 4:1-7 to see what Paul taught to the church in Ephesus about being united. What did Paul ask of believers in Ephesians 4:3 and how were they to do this? Record your findings on the “God’s Intention for the Church” chart in the Appendix.

What did Paul say that believers have in common in Ephesians 4:4-6?

The same word united (unity in the *KJV*) was used in Ephesians 4:13. As a review of what you studied in Lesson 3, what did Paul say was a goal of the church in this passage?

5. The Apostle Paul wrote about differences in people and how the church is to respond to these differences in Romans 14 and 15. Read Romans 14:1, 4, and 17. What were believers asked to do and not do? How did Paul describe the kingdom of God in Romans 14:17?

Now look at what Christians are asked to be in Romans 15:5-7. Record the “one another” statements from these verses on the chart in the Appendix.

6. Scottish born Dr. David Livingstone served as a missionary during the colonial period in Africa and fought against the slave trade. In 1859, one hundred years after he discovered the area, there was racial unrest in Livingstonia. The British dropped a message asking the settlers to arrange stones in an “I” if they were OK and in a “V” if they felt in danger from the Africans. The white residents replied with stones writing out “Ephesians 2:14.” These stones are still in place today! Please write out this verse and reflect on the power of this message.

Matthew 5:9 records Jesus’ words announcing blessing. “Blessed are those who make peace, for it is they who will be called God’s children.” Remember one role of the church is to reconcile people to God as well as reconcile people with one another. Reconciling involves re-establishing broken relationships.

Praise the Lord that those who follow Christ Jesus have been reconciled with God. Romans 5:1 says that we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. What made it possible for you to be reconciled? You might read 2 Corinthians 5:14-21 and allow these words to bless your spirit as you write out your answer.

Now ask the Lord to help you understand the role that you have been entrusted with concerning reconciliation, according to 2 Corinthians 5:14-21. Who are you as a believer, and what have you been asked to do?

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According to this passage, what is God's intention for the church? Record this in the Appendix.

Read these two verses and put into your own words these messages.

a. Show honor to everyone. Keep on loving the brothers, 1 Peter 2:17.

b. Clothe yourselves in love, which ties everything together in unity, Colossians 3:14.

The word peace in the Bible is associated with being complete in relationship with God through the blood of Jesus Christ. Christians are to take the blessing of reconciliation with God and completeness in Christ, and pass it on to others. Paul wrote in Ephesians 6:15 that as a believer you must put shoes on your feet so that you are ready to proclaim the gospel of peace.

Read Ephesians 3:9, 10 to see how the word fellowship (in the *KJV*) was used and what this means for the church. Record these truths on both "The Use of the Word *Koinonia* in the New Testament" and "God's Intention for the Church" charts.

Satan has countless schemes aimed against those who follow Christ. Our enemy also has schemes against the church. The song "Onward, Christian Soldiers" addresses the battle that we fight daily. Notice the teaching about the church in the second verse, and especially how we are united as believers. You might close by singing or reading these words as your own personal declaration.

### "Onward, Christian Soldiers"

Onward, Christian soldiers, marching as to war, with the cross of Jesus going on before: Christ the royal Master leads against the foe; forward into battle, see His banners go.

Refrain: Onward, Christian soldiers, marching as to war, with the cross of Jesus going on before.

Like a mighty army moves the church of God; brothers we are treading where the saints have trod; we are not divided, all one body we, one in hope and doctrine, one in charity.

Refrain:

Crowns and thrones may perish, kingdoms rise and wane, but the church of Jesus constant will remain; gates of hell can never 'gainst that church prevail; we have Christ's own promise, and that cannot fail.

Refrain:

Onward, then ye people, join our happy throng, blend with ours your voices in the triumph song; glory, laud, and honor unto Christ the King; this through countless ages men and angels sing.

Refrain:

By Sabine Baring-Gould and Arthur S. Sullivan

