

PHILIPPIANS

To Live Is Christ

*Castle Rock Church of Christ
Philippians Class 8 - 062826*

A close-up photograph of two hands clasped together in prayer. The hands are positioned with fingers interlaced, and the palms facing each other. The skin is a warm, light brown tone. The background is dark and out of focus. Overlaid on the center of the hands is the word "Prayer" in a large, white, serif font. The lighting is soft, highlighting the texture of the skin and the veins on the hands.

Consider One Another: God's Answer

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Philippians Class

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

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PHILIPPIANS CLASS

Castle Rock Church of Christ — 8 Sessions

Click any link below to open the class notes as a PDF. Each file can be viewed in your browser or saved to your computer.

SESSION	FILE	OPEN
Session 1	Historical Background of Philippi	Open PDF
Session 2	Slide Notes 2	Open PDF
Session 3	Class 3 - Introductory Issues on Philippians	Open PDF
Session 4	Class 4 - Paul's Amazing Perspective	Open PDF
Session 5	Class 5 - Worthy Citizen's of the Kingdom	Open PDF
Session 6	Class 6 - 061426 Final	Open PDF
Session 7	Across the Spectrum	Open PDF
	Class 7	Open PDF
Session 8	Coming soon	

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Philippians
Phil 2:12-4:23

Overview

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*I Can Do All this Through Him Who Gives Me
Strength (Phil 4:13)*

Your Savings Account With God (Phil 4:14-17)

Review Up To Phil 2:12

- *The way Paul writes Phil 1:1 gives us hints that the reason Paul writes the letter is to deal with the unity problem.*

- *Paul and Timothy are called “slaves.” Why the rock bottom status?*

- *Address to “all God’s holy people together with the elders and deacons”. Why did Paul write this way?*

- *Why the repetitive use of the word “all” in the Introductory Thanksgiving? Phil 1:3-7*

- *If we keep our suspicion in mind as we go through the letter, we can build a stronger case for the unity problem.*

- *But we need to ask probing questions.*

Review Up To Phil 2:12

Does Paul ever tell us directly that there is a unity problem? No

But as you read the letter the indicators keep building:

- The Dishonest Preachers suggest disunity*
 - Worthy Citizens 1:27 – Paul tells them to “stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel” Why does Paul tell them this?*
 - Make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind.*
- Phil 2:2 Sounds like he’s concerned about unity*
- not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. Phil 2:4 Unity?*

Work Out Your Salvation (Phil 2:12-13)

¹² Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.

- ***My Early Memories of Sermons Using This Verse***
- ***Take A Look At The Context***
- ***Living Like Saved People***
- ***So Which Is It Paul?***
 - ***Are We Saved Through Grace Through Faith?***
 - ***Do We Work Out Our Salvation With Fear & Trembling***

Work Out Your Salvation (Phil 2:12-13)

•Let's Look At Translations

- Translators Have 11 different options for translating this Greek word into English.***
- Most English Translators choose “work out” for the English translation of this Ancient Greek word in Phil 2:12***
- A less loaded option is to translate the Greek word as “devote oneself to”***
- “Devote yourselves to living like saved people “ may be a better option for translating this Greek word.***

Work Out Your Salvation (Phil 2:12-13)

•So, Paul Is Not Saying:

- Devote yourselves energetically to saving your own souls

- God does His part and man does his part to achieve salvation

- Faith only gets you so far and baptism as a work on man's part will get you over the finish line for salvation

- Our works are needed to accomplish salvation

- God does not save us by our works. He saves us to do good works (Eph 2:10)

Work Out Your Salvation (Phil 2:12-13)

- *So, what is Paul doing in Phil 2:12-13*
 - *Paul is returning to the point he was making in Phil 1:27*
 - *In Phil 1:27, notice Paul sez it didn't matter whether he was present or absent .*
 - *He sez it again here Phil 2:12 which ties the two verses together.*
 - *Paul encourages the Philippians to devote themselves to living as good citizens in the Kingdom of God*
 - *One writer puts it this way, "the saved Philippians should co-operate with God in producing the fruits of the Christian life which are love, joy, and peace.*

Work Out Your Salvation (Phil 2:12-13)

- *We need to remember that God is working in us to will and act in order to fulfill God's good purpose.*
- *Paul reminds us that we are not alone.*
- *God supplies us with His power to overcome whatever we face*
- *God is at work in all of us individually and within the Body of Christ, His Church*
- *As the family of God, we lean on each other's shoulders as we face the outside World.*

Citizens Shining Like Stars (Phil 2:14-18)

¹⁴ Do everything without grumbling or arguing, ¹⁵ so that you may become blameless and pure, “children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation.” Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky ¹⁶ as you hold firmly to the word of life. And then I will be able to boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor in vain. ¹⁷ But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you. ¹⁸ So you too should be glad and rejoice with me.

Citizens Shining Like Stars (Phil 2:14-18)

- ***14 Do everything without grumbling or arguing***

This is a command/imperative - that in everything they do, do it without grumbling and arguing.

• *Grammatically, this command in Phil 2:14 is tied closely to what was just said in **Phil 2:12***

“Devote yourselves with reverence and awe to living as good citizens in the Kingdom of God”
and the explanation of Phil 2:13.

• *(Note: Hellerman suggests replacing **“fear and trembling”** with **“reverence and awe”** for the meaning that Paul was communicating in Phil 2:12. (EGGNT pg. 130)*

Citizens Shining Like Stars (Phil 2:14-18)

***15 so that you may become blameless and pure,
“children of God without fault in a warped and
crooked generation.”***

- ***Paul was concerned that the Philippians' conduct be viewed as blameless and pure as children of God in the midst of their current generation.***
- ***He gives their current generation the label of warped and crooked***
- ***This was the same label given to the children of Israel by Moses in Deut 32:5.***

Citizens Shining Like Stars (Phil 2:14-18)

...¹⁵Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky ¹⁶as you hold firmly to the word of life. And then I will be able to boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor in vain.

- The church was Christ's representatives in the world sharing the "Word of Life" in their evangelistic efforts.***
- This made them shine like stars in a world that didn't accept them***
- Paul wanted them to know that as he lived under the threat of execution, he planned on boasting about them on the day Christ returned.***

IMITATION

Examples to Imitate - Timothy (Phil 2:19-24)

¹⁹ I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, that I also may be cheered when I receive news about you. ²⁰ I have no one else like him, who will show genuine concern for your welfare. ²¹ For everyone looks out for their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ. ²² But you know that Timothy has proved himself, because as a son with his father he has served with me in the work of the gospel. ²³ I hope, therefore, to send him as soon as I see how things go with me. ²⁴ And I am confident in the Lord that I myself will come soon.

•Paul shifts from personal matters to personnel matters

•Paul intends to accomplish much more here than just updating his travel plans

•Paul begins by praising Timothy for the kind of Christian qualities he has been talking about.

•Paul is holding up Timothy as an unimpeachable role model for the Philippian church

- *Look at what Paul sez about Timothy in Phil 2:20*
 - *I have no one like him, who will show genuine concern for your welfare.*
 - *Paul considers Timothy as a one of a kind helper that he intends to send to the Philippian church*
 - *In Phil 2:21, Paul sez everyone looks out for their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ*
 - *Paul tells the Church they are failing as worthy citizens of the Kingdom.*
 - *Timothy is the kind of Christian example they need to imitate.*
 - *Timothy was a living example of like-mindedness that Paul talked about in in Phil 2:2.*

Examples to Imitate - Epaphroditus (Phil 2:25-30)

²⁵ But I think it is necessary to send back to you Epaphroditus, my brother, co-worker and fellow soldier, who is also your messenger, whom you sent to take care of my needs. ²⁶ For he longs for all of you and is distressed because you heard he was ill. ²⁷ Indeed he was ill, and almost died. But God had mercy on him, and not on him only but also on me, to spare me sorrow upon sorrow. ²⁸ Therefore I am all the more eager to send him, so that when you see him again you may be glad and I may have less anxiety. ²⁹ So then, welcome him in the Lord with great joy, and honor people like him, ³⁰ because he almost died for the work of Christ. He risked his life to make up for the help you yourselves could not give me.

- *The brief appearance of Epaphroditus leaves with all kinds of questions*
- *So, let me answer what we do know.*
 - *He was a member of the Philippian congregation sent by the Church to minister to Paul's needs in prison.*
 - *What is interesting is the praise Paul gives to Epaphroditus.*
 - *Paul calls him my brother, co-worker and fellow soldier.*
 - *So Paul uses him along with alongside Timothy as an example to follow.*

- *Paul uses both Timothy and Epaphroditus as worthy examples of the kind of Christian character to imitate.*
- *Whatever his reason Paul felt that both these men were glowing examples of worthy citizens and used them to illustrate his point.*
- *Today, are we actively looking for the same kind of examples among the Christian men in this congregation.*
- *Are we encouraging the growth of leaders as worthy citizens of the kingdom right here*

Examples to Imitate - Paul (Phil 3:1-3)

3 Further, my brothers and sisters, rejoice in the Lord! It is no trouble for me to write the same things to you again, and it is a safeguard for you. ² Watch out for those dogs, those evildoers, those mutilators of the flesh. ³ For it is we who are the circumcision, we who serve God by his Spirit, who boast in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh—

Who Were These False Teachers?

No agreement on the identity of the opponents that Paul condemns

- *18 different options have been put forth with no clear winner.*
- *Here are some broad categories:*
 - *The dishonest preachers discussed in Phil 1:15-18*
 - *Jewish-Christian missionaries who taught that Gentile believers needed to observe Jewish religious practices—particularly circumcision and the Torah—to achieve full salvation (Phil 3:2-3 & 3:18b-19)*
 - *Pagan non-believers/magistrates responsible for the suffering discussed in Phil 1:28-30*

Examples to Imitate - Paul (Phil 3:4-6)

⁴ though I myself have reasons for such confidence. If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless.

Examples to Imitate - Paul (Phil 3:7-9)

⁷ But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith.

Examples to Imitate - Paul (Phil 3:10-12)

¹⁰ I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead. ¹² Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.

Examples to Imitate – Paul (Phil 3:13-15)

¹³ Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.¹⁵ All of us, then, who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you.

Examples to Imitate - Paul (Phil 3:16-19)

¹⁶ Only let us live up to what we have already attained. ¹⁷ Join together in following my example, brothers and sisters, and just as you have us as a model, keep your eyes on those who live as we do. ¹⁸ For, as I have often told you before and now tell you again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹ Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is set on earthly things.

Examples to Imitate (Phil 3:20-21)

²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

Citizenship, which occurs only here in the New Testament, is the noun form of the verb Phil 1:27.

Here the noun locates their citizenship in heaven

We've said previously that as devoted heavenly citizens we are to live changed lives that reflect that heavenly calling.

Conflict Between Euodia and Syntyche (Phil 4:1-3)

4 Therefore, my brothers and sisters, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, dear friends!

² I plead with Euodia and I plead with Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. ³ Yes, and I ask you, my true companion, help these women since they have contended at my side in the cause of the gospel, along with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

Conflict Between Euodia and Syntyche (Phil 4:1-3)

- ***We know these two sisters in Christ by their names. Euodia means Prosperous Journey or Success and Syntyche means Good Luck or Good Fortune.***
- ***We need to be careful on how we describe their roles in working the mission team.***
- ***Some today mistakenly apply our views of women's roles on that time and place.***
- ***When Paul mentions Euodia and Syntyche, he gives us a glimpse into the value and the significance of their ministries.***

Conflict Between Euodia and Syntyche (Phil 4:1-3)

- *Paul writes that Euodia and Syntyche had contended together with him “in the Gospel.” Earlier in the same letter, Paul had also described Timothy as someone who had served with him “in the Gospel” (Phil 2:22)*

- *Paul goes on to refer to Euodia and Syntyche as his “co-workers.” Earlier, Paul had also referred to Epaphroditus as his “co-worker” (Phil 2:25).*

Conflict Between Euodia and Syntyche (Phil 4:1-3)

•Thus, according to Paul, the ministries of these women were in some ways comparable to the ministries of the men Timothy and Epaphroditus and also that of Clement who is also among the coworkers mentioned in (Phil 4:3).



Closing Encouragement (Phil 4:4-7)

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! ⁵ Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Closing Encouragement (Phil 4:4-7)

•Additional Commands for Christian Living

•1 – Rejoice

•*We've become Citizens of the Kingdom of God*

•*Be Happy and Act Like It*

•2 - Let It Be Known

•*Let Your Gentleness Be Known*

•*Carries the idea of non-threatening reasonableness, approachable, You're willing to listen.*

•3 - Stop Worrying

•*Lighten Up, Dude*

•*Problem? – Pray About It*

•4 – Present Your Requests to God

•*Don't Think You Can Do It? –Ask God For Help*

Closing Encouragement (Phil 4:4-7)

in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

- ***Only place in the New Testament this phrase occurs***
- ***This talks about peace as an object – something He gives you***
- ***Your prayers where you lay it all out before God and you admit you can't handle it, that you're pleading for Him to take care of it because it's bigger than you can handle.***
- ***Paul sez that God will respond by giving you a sense of peace that is beyond all human understanding.***
- ***Paul uses a military term for how that peace will guard your hearts and thoughts in Christ Jesus.***

The Solution to Anxiety (Phil 4:8-9)

⁸ Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. ⁹ Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you.

- *The Philippian church was under attack from outside and inside sources.*
- *They hanging on by their finger tips*
- *One writer thinks they were about ready to give up*
- *So Paul tells them to focus*
- *Scatterbrained thinking in the midst of all out assault won't cut.*

whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. (NASB – Dwell on these things)

⁹ Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice.

Pull out all the stops and put everything I've ever taught you into practice.

And the God of peace will be with you.

Believe it

The Thankless Thanks (Phil 4:10-12)

¹⁰ I rejoiced greatly in the Lord that at last you renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you were concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. ¹¹ I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. ¹² I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want.

*I Can Do All this Through Him Who Gives Me
Strength (Phil 4:13)*

***13 I can do all this through
him who gives me strength.***

Your Savings Account With God (Phil 4:14-17)

¹⁴ Yet it was good of you to share in my troubles. ¹⁵ Moreover, as you Philippians know, in the early days of your acquaintance with the gospel, when I set out from Macedonia, not one church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving, except you only; ¹⁶ for even when I was in Thessalonica, you sent me aid more than once when I was in need. ¹⁷ Not that I desire your gifts; what I desire is that more be credited to your account.

End