

Overview of Philippians

Lesson 2

*“The undiminished radiance, which is the result of abundant joy,
is not built on anything passing, but on the love of God that nothing can change.
And the experiences of life, whether they are everyday events or terrifying ones,
are powerless to ‘separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.’ (Romans 8:39)”*

Warren Wiersbe

What things are keeping you from rejoicing in the Lord? Jesus’ desire for you is that you will have complete joy in your life and that His joy in you will remain, stay, abide and continue. When His joy is non-existent or drained from your life, there is emptiness and you will try to fill that vacuum with things you think will satisfy. One of the reasons Philippians was chosen to end our study season was for our progress and joy in the faith, **Philippians 1:25b**. My desire is for us to go into the summer with JOY!

DAY ONE: Overview – Snapshot of the Book:

1. This week we will be taking a panoramic view of the letter to the Church at Philippi. Before you begin your homework, please take some time and pray! Ask the Holy Spirit to open your eyes and your heart to behold all the wondrous things in His Word. Then pray that all He shows you will be worked out in your life. That you will be enabled by His grace to apply the truths you learn to your walk with Christ!
2. Read the entire book of Philippians at one sitting as though you had just received the letter from Paul. Don’t be overwhelmed, it probably won’t take more than 15–20 minutes. Remember to read with a purpose, asking *who, what, where, when why and how!* Record your thoughts on a separate paper.
3. As you read through Philippians, mark the key words (repeated words like joy, rejoicing, etc.) Make note of your findings in the chart below.

vs	Chapter One	vs	Chapter Two	vs	Chapter Three	vs	Chapter Four

Your Title For Philippians

4. Take some time to memorize **Philippians 4:8-9**. Write it out several times to help!

DAY TWO:

1. As a way of review of **Acts 16** from last week, answer the following questions:
 - a. What had the Philippian church done for Paul that occasioned him to write this letter?
 - b. Who delivered Paul’s letter to the Philippians?
 - c. List the three major events at Philippi that led to the founding of the church.
 - 1)
 - 2)
 - 3)
 - d. How was Paul called out of Asia into Europe?
 - e. Who was the first convert?

2. Answer the following questions from your overview of the book of Philippians:
 - a. Who were the Recipients?
 - b. Why did Paul write to them? What did he wish to accomplish?
 - c. What was the atmosphere of Philippi at the time he wrote to them?

3. Fill in the chart below from all four chapters of Philippians. Note the *attitude* or *mind* we are to have!

	Chapter One	Chapter Two	Chapter Three	Chapter Four
Paul’s Instructions:				
Paul’s Example:				
God’s Provision:				

- b. What is the supreme purpose of your life?

*Take my life, and let it be Consecrated, Lord, to Thee.
Take my moments and my days; Let them flow in ceaseless praise.
Take my hands, and let them move, At the impulse of Thy love.
Take my feet, and let them be, Swift and beautiful for Thee.
Take my voice, and let me sing, Always and only for my King.*
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DAY FOUR: Read Philippians 2

1. As you read **Philippians 2**, using the following paragraph breaks, give each one a title that represents the contents. Remember to look for key words!
 - a. 2:1 – 2:4
 - b. 2:5 – 2:11
 - c. 2:12 – 2:18
 - d. 2:19 – 2:24
 - e. 2:25 – 2:30
2. As you re-read **Philippians 2**, pull out all the references to Jesus. You may want to underline each phrase and then go back and make a list of everything it says about Jesus, make sure you list the Scripture reference. You will need a separate sheet of paper.
3. How does Paul say his joy will be fulfilled through the Philippian believers in **Philippians 2:2**?
 - a. How is lack of unity an enemy of joy?
 - b. What can cause disunity?
 - c. Write out **Philippians 2:3** and pause to think about what you are writing.
 - d. What affect would this have on a church if each believer were obedient to this verse?
4. Read **Philippians 3** and as you do, use the following paragraph breaks, give each one a title that represents the contents. Remember to look for key words!
 - a. 3:1 – 3:3
 - b. 3:4 – 3:6
 - c. 3:7 – 3:14
 - d. 3:15 – 3:21

5. What verse from **chapter 3** ministered to you the most?

6. From **chapter 3**, what was most important to Paul?
 - a. What was his attitude toward his own personal advantages in this life? Pause and think about the answer.

7. Where is the believer's citizenship according to **Philippians 3:20a**? _____
 - a. What does this mean?
 - b. How does this mindset help shape your daily life?

8. The instructions the Bible gives us for our life are not to burden us down and cage us in, but to keep us from the pitfalls that imprison and destroy us. Copy the following verses.
 - a. **Psalm 119:105**
 - b. **Proverbs 6:23**
 - c. **Psalm 119:130**
 - 1) What is the meaning of these verses?
 - 2) In response to the above scriptures, write a sentence of thanksgiving to the Lord for His instruction to us through His Word.

DAY FIVE: Philippians 4

1. Prayerfully read **Philippians 4** and as you do, use the following paragraph breaks, give each one a title that represents the contents. Remember to read with a purpose, asking *who, what, where, when, why and how*. And remember to look for key words!
 - a. 4:1 – 4:3
 - b. 4:4 – 4:7
 - c. 4:8 – 4:9
 - d. 4:10 – 4:20
 - e. 4:21 – 4:23

- f. What was the most outstanding verse in **Chapter 4**? Memorize it if you can!
2. What admonition does Paul give in **Philippians 4:1** to this beloved church?
- a. What does this mean?
- b. How does **1 Corinthians 15:58** amplify this?
3. From **verse 9**, what is the requirement to have God's peace?
4. What instruction from this chapter ministers to you the most today?
- a. In what areas do you feel you've been the most negligent?
- b. How will you correct this? (Remember **Philippians 4:13**).
5. In **Philippians 4:6** Paul exhorts them to not be anxious about anything. According to this verse, what is the antidote to anxiety?
- a. What is the promise from **verse 7** if we are obedient to this?

In light of Philippians 4:19...
*"Said the Robin to the Sparrow
'I should really like to know
Why these anxious human beings
Rush about and worry so.'
Said the Sparrow to the Robin,
'Friend, I think that it must be
That they have no Heavenly Father
Such as cares for you and me.'"*
E. Cheny

6. Read **Philippians 4:11**. What had Paul learned?
- a. What was the secret to his contentment?
 - b. How is discontent a poor witness to the world?
 - c. What contributes to discontentment?
 - d. What contributes to satisfaction and contentment?

Think on this...
Contentment is an evidence of commitment!