

PHILIPPIANS

FOR BEGINNERS

MATURING IN CHRIST

MIKE MAZZALONGO

STUDENT WORKBOOK

bibleTalk^{TV}



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Philippians for Beginners

Maturing in Christ

Mike Mazzalongo

Philippians is the Apostle Paul's most joyful letter in which he shares rich and encouraging spiritual insights with a church he loved and, because of his imprisonment, greatly missed.



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1. Introduction

In this introductory lesson, Mike will review the history and unusual background of the city of Philippi along with the beginnings of the church there and the occasion of his writing of this epistle.

Intro – Paul’s letters contained both content and emotion.



Brief History and Geography of Philippi

42 BC

31 BC – “Jus Italicum”

Roman character imposed on a Greek city.

Acts 16:3

49-50 AD

First Converts at Philippi – Acts

1. Dispute – Acts 15:26-40

2. Timothy is recruited – Acts 16:41-16:5

Purpose of trip:

A. Read

B. Strengthen

3. The Spirit's guidance – Acts 16:6-10

4. Philippi – Acts 16:11-40

- vs. 13-15

- vs. 16-24

- vs. 25-34

- vs. 35-40



Occasions of Writing

Prison at Caesarea – Acts 24:27; 25:1-3 _____

Appealed to Caesar and sent to Rome – Acts 28:30 _____

While in Roman house arrest:

1. His influence _____

2. Travel of Timothy and Epaphroditus _____

3. His gratitude _____

Date of writing _____

Theme / Outline of Philippian Letter

Theme: _____

Outline:

1. _____ 1:1-2

2. Paul's _____ 1:3-11

3. Paul's _____ 1:12-26

4. Paul's _____ 1:27-49

- Six examples of _____

5. _____ 4:10-23

2. Paul's Greeting and Prayer

After Paul's brief greeting the Apostle sets forth in prayer the manner in which he directs the Philippians to pursue spiritual development and its ultimate result. (Philippians 1:1-11)

Intro - Paul writes this letter around _____

Greeting

- vs. 1 _____

Both Paul and Timothy had authority _____

This congregation began with Lydia - Acts 16:13-15 _____

- vs. 2 _____

- Grace _____

- Peace _____

- Paul reminds them of their core belief _____

Paul's Prayer – Philippians 1:3-11

- vs. 3-5 _____

- They have helped Paul in his work from the beginning. _____

- vs. 6 – Key verse in Philippians _____

- vs. 7-8 – Paul describes how he feels about them:

1. He has them in his _____

2. They were his _____

3. They shared _____

4. Only God knows _____

- vs. 9-11 – Paul shared the content of his prayers on their behalf.

1. That their love grow _____

A. Knowledge of God's will _____

B. Wisdom and discernment _____

C. Faith and hope _____

2. Love will serve them at judgement _____

- John 13:35 _____

3. Love will honor God and bless them _____

- I Corinthians 13:4-7 _____

- Galatians 5:22 _____

Summary

Paul's thoughts of the Philippians _____

The way the Philippians should conduct themselves _____

- He misses them _____

- He prays that _____

Lesson

Our maturity in Christ _____.

- I Timothy 1:5 _____

Paul describes the mature Christian:

A. Love _____

B. Purity _____

C. Clear Conscience _____

D. Obeys _____

The “work” of growing in Christ _____

3. Paul's Condition

This portion of Philippians provides us with a rare glimpse of Paul's feelings concerning his personal situation and how he resolved an important dilemma facing him and his ministry. (Philippians 1:12-26)

Before his encouragement to continue maturing in Christ, Paul discusses his present condition.

A. Regarding His Ministry - vs. 12-20

1. The Bad - vs. 12

2. The Good

3. The Bad - vs. 13

4. The Good

- Luke 2:11

- Luke 21:12-13

- Acts 9:13-16 _____

- The Praetorian Guard _____

5. The Good – vs. 14 _____

6. The Bad – vs. 15-17 _____

- One group preached out of love. _____

- One group preached out of envy. _____

7. The Good – vs. 18 _____

- vs. 19 _____

- vs. 20 _____

B. Regarding His Dilemma – vs. 21-26

- vs. 21 _____

- vs. 22-24 _____

A - It freed _____

B - If executed _____

- vs. 25-26 _____

Lessons

#1 - Christians see life through the eyes of faith.

- We need to try and see what God sees. _____

#2 - How Christians choose between right and wrong.

In both options _____?

4. The Mature Christian Stands Firm and Imitates Christ

In this section, Paul lays out the journey for one who would be mature in Christ and includes the fascinating transformation Christ underwent in His incarnation as man. (Philippians 1:27-2:13)

Maturing in Christ - Philippians 1:27-4:9

1. The Mature Christian Stands Firm - 1:27-30

Standing firm is possible because:

1. They share _____

2. They are united _____

3. They work towards _____

Standing firm indicates:

1. _____

2. _____

- vs. 29-30 _____

God is the sources of all that they are experiencing:

- He has sent _____

- He has provided _____

- He has sent _____

- He has permitted _____

Christians see suffering from a different perspective than non-believers.

2. The Mature Christian Imitates Christ

- Philippians 2:1-4 _____

Paul lists what they are already doing:

1. Encouragement _____

2. Comfort _____

3. Fellowship _____

4. Affection and compassion _____

Because they are growing in Christ they should:

- Be _____

- Maintain _____

- Eliminate _____

- vs. 5-8 _____

Paul explains the emptying of Jesus:

1. Jesus is God _____

2. Jesus altered His divine nature _____

3. Jesus emptied His human nature _____

The emptying of self is what begins the imitation of Jesus.

- John 6:38 _____

- Philippians 2:9-11 _____

- Philippians 2:12-13 _____

Fear and trembling because of Satan _____

I can now be confident because _____

Christ leads us _____

5. The Mature Christian Rejoices in Trial

Paul uses his situation and coworkers to sketch out how a mature Christian uses trials to make a statement about Christ and his faith.

(Philippians 2:14-30)

Mature Christians Rejoice in Trial - Philippians 2:14-18

- vs. 2:14

A. Grumbling

1.

2.

B. Disputing

Paul instructs them not to play into Satan's hands

- vs. 2:15-16 _____

- vs. 2:17-18 _____

Two Examples of Maturity – Philippians 2:19-30

A. Timothy _____

- vs. 2:19 _____

- vs. 2:20-24 _____

B. Epaphroditus _____

- vs. 2:25 _____

How Paul refers to Epaphroditus:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

- vs. 2:26-28 _____

- vs. 2:29-30 _____

Summary

Spiritual maturity requires:

- Stand _____

- Imitate _____

- Rejoice _____

Lesson

Ministry is never _____

The lesson for today _____

The moment a Christian decides to grow _____

Paul rejoiced and encouraged the Philippians to rejoice because:

- They know _____

- God was _____

- Their rejoicing was a witness _____

In the end rejoicing in the midst of trial signals that _____

6. The Mature Christian Seeks Righteousness by Faith – Part 1

This series continues with Paul explaining and comparing both the physical and spiritual circumcisions as well as the teachers who promote each of these. (Philippians 3:1-6)

Examples of maturity:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

The Mature Christian Seeks Righteousness by Faith – 3:1-21

A Warning – vs. 1

The Enemy Defined – vs. 2-3

- vs. 2 _____

Circumcision was a forerunner _____

- Romans 2:25-29 _____

- Colossians 2:8-12 _____

Two factors regarding baptism:

1. _____

2. _____

Mutilation _____

The True Circumcision - vs. 3

The three attributes of true Christians:

1. True _____

2. Worship the _____

3. Saved by _____

Paul's Transformation - vs. 4-11

Six areas where Paul excelled according to the Law:

1. Circumcision _____

2. Nation of Israel _____

3. Tribe of Benjamin _____

4. Hebrew of Hebrews _____

5. A Pharisee _____

6. Persecutor of the church _____

Summary

Warning _____

Reminder _____

Comparison _____

Lesson

Satan is always _____

- Eve _____

- Jesus _____

- Philippians _____

7. The Mature Christian Seeks Righteousness by Faith – Part 2

Paul concludes his argument that the gospel he has preached and modeled is superior in its ability to save and reward those who believe and remain faithful to the end. (Philippians 3:7-21)

Paul continues his argument concerning the proper system for salvation – one that is received by faith, not works of the Law.

Paul's Goal – Philippians 3:7-21

Paul will do three things:

1. Proclaim _____
2. Explain _____
3. Use himself _____

The Superiority of the Gospel's Method – 3:7-11

Law-keeping as a method to create righteousness failed for two reasons:

1. _____
-
-

Romans 3:23 _____

Romans 3:10-11 _____

2. _____
-
-

Romans 3:19-20 _____

Paul recounts his own experience using the Law-Works system:

- vs. 3:7 _____

- vs. 3:8 _____

- vs. 3:9 _____

- vs. 3:10 _____

The Judaizers used Paul's imprisonment to _____

Paul doesn't debate the Judaizers _____

Paul's Encouragement - 3:12-16

- vs. 3:12 _____

- vs. 3:11 _____

- I Corinthians 15:50-53 _____

- vs. 3:13-14 _____

- vs. 3:15-16 _____

Paul's Warning - 3:17-21

- vs. 3:17-19

The Judaizers' profile:

1. Enemies

2. Serve

3. Glory

4. Devoid

- vs. 3:20-21:

A - Where -

B - Who -

C - What -

D - How -

Lessons

1. Forget _____

2. Live _____

3. Focus _____

Goal has three stages:

A. _____

B. _____

C. _____

God never said _____

8. The Mature Christian Lives Righteously

In the final section of his letter, Paul reviews the elements that demonstrate Christian maturity in one's life and the ultimate blessing that these bring to the believer who pursues them. (Philippians 4:1-23)

Review – So far Paul has:

1. Offered _____
2. Briefed _____
3. Shared _____
4. Encouraged _____
5. Pointed _____

Five examples of Christian maturity:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

The Mature Christian Lives Righteously – Philippians 4:1-9

1. Living in _____ - vs. 4:1-3

- vs. 1 _____

- vs. 2-3 _____

Syzygus _____

- Ephesians 4:1-3 _____

The goal in a dispute is not to _____ the _____
its to _____ the _____ while we work out the _____.

2. Living in _____ - vs. 4:4-7

- vs. 4-7 _____

- vs. 6 _____

- vs. 4-5 _____

- vs. 7 _____

Our confidence and peace are based on _____

3. Living in _____ - vs. 4:8-9

- vs. 8 _____

- vs. 9 _____

Paul's Closing Remarks - 4:10-20

1. Praise for the Philippians

- vs. 10 _____

- vs. 11-13 _____

His contentment is not based on _____ he has but on _____ he _____.

- vs. 15-18 _____

- vs. 19-20 _____

Final Greetings and Blessing - 4:21-23

1. Greetings - vs. 21-22

2. Blessing - vs. 23

Lesson

Maturity _____ to _____ and _____.



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