

## BIBLE STUDY ON PHILIPPIANS

### BIBLE STUDY 1

Read Acts chapter 16

In Derbe and Lystra, Paul first meets Timothy and persuades him to be part of his missionary team. WE see him later in Berea (Acts 17.14) and it is likely that he was with Paul and Silas in Philippi.

Q1. The account tells us that Paul and his team were forbidden by the Spirit from going to Asia and Bithynia (v6,7). How might this have happened?

Q2. How did they know to go to the Macedonia region (v9,10)?

Q3. What do we know about the city of Philippi (v12)?

Q4. Paul's usual approach when entering a city, was to go to the synagogue. Philippi did not have one. What did they do instead (v13)? Why might we think that the people there were Jews?

Q5. Who were the first converts in Philippi?

Q6. A slave girl had a demonic spirit: a spirit of divination. What did the spirit enable her to do (v16)?

Q7. Was it God's will when Paul cast out the demon (V18)?

Q8. Why did Paul not proclaim His and Silas' Roman citizenship, before they were beaten with rods (v22,23)? See Acts 22.25

Q9. What was Paul and Silas' reaction to the savage beating (V25)?

Q10. What was the effect on the Jailer of the earthquake (v27)?

Q11. What was the summary of the gospel message Paul gave the Jailer (v31)?

Q12. What happened to the Jailer and his family (v32-34)?

It seems that the church in Philippi started with Lydia's household and the Jailer's household. Possibly the slave girl as well. Acts 20.6 records part of Paul's third missionary journey, visiting Philippi. No details are given.

### BIBLE STUDY 2

Read Philippians chapter 1

Q1. What does vers 1 tell us about the church at Philippi?

Q2. How does Paul view the church at Philippi (v3-8)?

Q3. What is Paul's expectation for them (v6)?

Q4. What was Paul's most ardent prayer for this church (v9-11)?

- Q5. How did Paul see his imprisonment (v12,13)?
- Q6. Is there any indication where Paul was imprisoned when he wrote the letter (v13)?
- Q7. How did Paul view the mixed motives of the saints in Philippi (v15-18)?
- Q8. How did Paul view the prayers offered up for himself by the saints (v19)?
- Q9. Paul was aware of the possibility of him dying for Christ. How did he view that prospect (v20-25)?
- Q10. How did Paul view dying (v21,23)?
- Q11. Paul decided that it would be better if he carried on living. What advantage did he see as a result (v20-25)?
- Q12. What attitude did Paul want to see in the Philippians (v27,28)?
- Q13. How did Paul view the prospect of believers suffering for Christ (v29,30)?

### BIBLE STUDY 3

Read Philippians chapter 2

- Q1. Paul requested the Philippians to be united in love and purpose (v1,2). How did he ask for them to regard each other (v3,4)?
- Q2. How important does Paul see humility in the Christian life (v3-8)?
- Q3. Paul looks at the life of Jesus (v5-8). What can we learn from this?
- Q4. Read John 10.30. Is there a contradiction in what Jesus said about Himself and the Father here, and what is said in Philippians 2.5-8?
- Q4. Read Romans 12.3-9. What does this say about our calling and how we are to exercise it?
- Q5. Read 1Corinthians 12.1-26. What does this passage tell us about how we are to relate to one another
- a. In gifts?
- in calling?
- How should we regard those who serve in more modest ways?
- Q6. How does 1Corinthians 12.25,36 compare with Philippians 2.3,4?
- Q7. In Philippians 2.12, Paul instructs the believers to, "Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling". What does he mean by this?
- Compare Ephesians 2.8-13. What role does God play in our salvation?
- Q8. What advice does Paul give in verse 14? What effect will it produce (v15)?
- Q9. What future joy does Paul hope to experience (v16)?
- Q10. What does Paul say about Timothy and Epaphroditus (v20-22,25,30)?

## BIBLE STUDY 4

Read Philippians chapter 3

Q1. In verse 2, Paul warns about those who advocate circumcision for all believers. What does he say about this?

Read Acts 15.1-29. What was the aim of the Pharisee believers (v5). What was the conclusion of the council? What relevance has this advice for us today?

Q2. Paul considered his past 'achievements as a Pharisee' to no longer have value for him. What did he now consider the most important thing in his life (v7-10)? What is the most important thing in our lives?

Q3. In verse 11, Paul says, "If by any means I may attain to the resurrection from the dead. What did he mean by this? Compare 1 Thessalonians 4.15-18.

Q4. How does Paul see his walk with God (v12-14)?

Q5. Paul asks the believers to follow his example. He warns of those who don't. How does he describe them (v18)? What future does he see for them (v19)?

Q6. What great hope does he offer the saints for the future (v20,21)? Compare 1John 3.2,3. How **should** this hope be reflected in our lives? How **is** it reflected in our lives?

## BIBLE STUDY 5

Read Philippians chapter 4

Q1. What comment is made about, "Clement and the rest of my fellow workers" (V3)? Read in order Revelation 3.5, 17.8, 20.15 and 21.27. What can we learn about this book?

Q2. What advice does Paul give on prayer (v6,7)?

Q3. What advice does he give on directing their thoughts (v8). How relevant is this advice for us today? What ought we to avoid thinking (and watching on TV etc) about?

Q4. How did Paul react to the gift sent him by the Philippians (v10)?

Q5. What was Paul's attitude to his material circumstances (v11,12)

Q6? What are we told about Paul's reliance on the Lord (v13)?

Q7. What promise is given to the Philippians about their own physical needs (v19)?

Q8. What can we learn about giving, from this passage? See also 2Corinthians 8.12-15, and 9.6-8.

Q9. Read 1Chronicles 29.1-14. To whom was all this wealth given? What was

David's heart attitude behind the giving?

Q10. Since we are stewards of what God has given us, how should we arrange our giving (2Corinthians 9.7)?