

• Introduction to Philippians

- Apostle Paul is the author
 - Refers to himself
 - 1:12-14; 2:19-24; 3:4-7; 4:15-16
 - Timothy is with him
- City of Philippi
 - Named after Philip of Macedonia (father of Alexander the Great)
 - Major city of Macedonia – on the Egnatian Way (Via Egnatia) – Rome to Asia
 - Octavian made the town a Roman colony
- Church at Philippi
 - Church established under the Apostle Paul with Timothy & Silas (Acts 16)
 - No synagogue – primarily a Gentile church
 - Church supported the Apostle Paul and his ministry
 - Paul visited the church again on his third missionary journey
- Philippians is one of Paul's four "prison epistles"
 - Philippians 1:7, 13, 17
 - Ephesians; Colossians; Philemon
 - If Paul wrote this during his imprisonment in Rome, then he wrote Philippians around A.D. 61-63 from Rome
- Thank you letter for their gift
 - Sends it by way of Epaphroditus (4:10, 18)
 - Comforts them because of his imprisonment (1:12-14)
 - Plans to send Timothy soon (2:19-24)
- Joy
 - Five times "joy" appears
 - Eleven times "rejoice" appears
 - **Key verse – Philippians 4:4 – "Rejoice in the Lord always. Again, I will say, rejoice!"**

• Seven things which we should pray for when we pray for each other

- Pray for each other
 - **Grace** (2)
 - Greek word for favor, gift
 - What God gives to, us even though we do not deserve it!
 - Christians need to practice grace – especially to other Christians
 - **Peace** (2)
 - Means peace or welfare
 - Philippians 4:7
 - Both Grace and Peace mentioned here are from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ

The Joyous Christian Life

Bible Study of the Book of Philippians – Lesson 1 – A Life of Prayer – Page 2

- **Thanksgiving** for each other (3)
 - To do this, we have to remember each other!
 - Working together
 - Support for one another
 - Instead of criticizing one another – BE THANKFUL for one another!
- Pray **with Joy** for each other (4)
 - To rejoice or be glad
 - Every thought and every prayer request for other Christians are done in joy!
 - How much joy is there between you and other Christians here at Lakeport?
- **Participation in the Gospel** (5)
 - Participation means fellowship
 - Same word used in Acts 2:42
 - Gospel means good news
 - Death, burial & resurrection of Jesus
 - How did they participate?
- **Affection** toward one another (8)
 - Affection comes from a word that refers to the inward parts – the heart
 - Deals with the emotions Paul is having toward his fellow Christians at Philippi
 - Pray for Each other
- **Love may abound** (9)
 - Agape – a love that loves despite of!
 - May abound means to be above and beyond
 - Jesus' prayer for his disciples – John 13:35
 - Love may abound more and more
 - In knowledge
 - In discernment
 - So that you can . . .
 - Approve things excellent (10)
 - Be sincere and blameless (10)
 - When we are filled with the fruit of righteousness (11)
 - And this only through Christ (11)!

- **LAST WEEK: A Life of Prayer (1:1-11)**
 - Praying for each other
 - Grace, peace, thanksgiving, with joy, participation in the Gospel, affections toward one another, love may abound
- **THIS WEEK: A Life Worthy of the Gospel (1:12-30)**
 - This lesson does **NOT** teach
 - “Works” Salvation
 - Saved by grace, through faith, at immersion
 - There is nothing we could do to earn our salvation
 - We are saved for good works
 - Our works accompany our salvation!
- **Six things which we need to do to live a life worthy of the Gospel**
 - **Make the most of every situation (1:12-14)**
 - Even bad situations
 - Paul’s imprisonment
 - Greater progress of the Gospel
 - Well known to the praetorian guard
 - Well known to everyone else
 - Others have far more courage to speak the word of God without fear
 - **Stay Focused on the message (1:15-18)**
 - Christ MUST be preached!
 - Paul was not as concerned about MOTIVE
 - Notice this text does NOT say anything about DOCTRINE
 - Some preach Christ
 - From envy and strife and out of selfish ambitions
 - Some preach Christ out of love with pure motives
 - As long as Christ is proclaimed!
 - **Confident in the promises (1:18-24)**
 - Gospel is about the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus
 - Gospel is also about our death, burial and resurrection
 - New life in Christ here
 - Resurrection from the dead!
 - Paul’s confidence in the promises
 - This will turn out for my deliverance!
 - I will not be put to shame in anything!
 - Christ will be exalted in my body!
 - To live is Christ – to die is gain!
 - Paul did not have a choice – but if he did . . .

The Joyous Christian Life

Bible Study of the Book of Philippians – Lesson 2 – A Life of Worthy of the Gospel – Page 2

• **Serve others for the Gospel (1:24-26)**

- For YOUR sake!
- For YOUR progress
- For YOUR joy in the faith
- For YOUR proud confidence in me
- Gospel is about serving others
 - Jesus died for us
 - We die to self – live for Christ and in so doing, serve others too

• **United for the Gospel (1:27-28)**

- Standing firm in one spirit
- Standing firm with one mind
- Striving for the faith of the Gospel
- Unalarmed by our opponents
 - Sign of destruction to them
 - Salvation from God for us
- Only can happen if we are united!

• **Suffer for the Gospel (1:29-30)**

- For you it has been granted
 - To believe for Christ's sake
 - To suffer for Christ's sake
 - Same conflict which you saw in me
 - II Corinthians 11
 - I Peter 4:16
 - II Timothy 1:12
 - II Timothy 2:3, 9

The Joyous Christian Life

Bible Study of the Book of Philippians – Lesson 3 – A Life of Humility – Page 1

- **First Lesson: A Life of Prayer (1:1-11)**
- **Second Lesson: A Life Worthy of the Gospel (1:12-30)**
- **Third Lesson: A Life of Humility (2:1-11)**

- **Introduction**
 - ***Me! Me! Me!***
 - *“Oh Lord, it’s hard to be humble”*
 - *“I did it, I did it my way”*
 - *“Have it your way”*
 - *“Be yourself”*
 - *“Find yourself”*
 - *“It’s all about me!”*
 - *“My way or the highway”*
 - *“The world revolves around you”*
 - **Complete Joy (2:1-2)**
 - Therefore . . .
 - Because you live a life worthy of the Gospel
 - Because you were granted to believe and to suffer for the sake of Jesus
 - If there is any **encouragement** in Christ
 - If there is any **consolation** of love
 - If there is any **fellowship** of the Spirit
 - If there is any **affection**
 - If there is any **compassion**
 - Make my joy complete
 - Be of the same mind
 - Maintain the same love
 - Be united in spirit
 - Be intent on one purpose
 - *Attitude of Lakeport Christian Church?*

The Joyous Christian Life

Bible Study of the Book of Philippians – Lesson 3 – A Life of Humility – Page 2

- **Five things which we need to do to live a life of humility.**

- **Do Nothing from Selfishness (2:3)**

- There goes the “all about me” attitude
- To be a Christian, one is not selfish
 - Mark 8:34
- It is all about attitude!
- Church problems (except doctrinal) would not exist!

- **Do Nothing from Empty Conceit (2:3)**

- Literally “vain glory”
- Puffing oneself up
- Doing things to make one look good
 - Jesus warned about this
 - Matthew 6

- **Regard Others More Important (2:3)**

- More important than ourselves
- Doesn't mean our opinion is not important
- Not talking about doctrinal issues

- **Not All about Me! (2:4)**

- Look out for the interests of others
- Meeting the needs of other Christians
 - Acts 2:44-47
 - I Corinthians 16:1-4
 - Philippians 4:15-16

- **Have the Attitude of Jesus (2:5-8)**

- Existed in the form of God
 - Did not regard equality with God as something to be grasped
 - Jesus emptied Himself
 - Jesus became a bond-servant
 - Jesus was made in the likeness of men (Word became flesh)
 - Jesus was obedient
 - To the point of death
 - Even death on the cross

- **Results of a Humble Life (2:9-11)**

- God highly exalted Jesus
- Jesus was given a name above every name
 - Every knee will bow
 - Every tongue will confess!
- Applied to us:
 - James 4:10

The Joyous Christian Life

Bible Study of the Book of Philippians – Lesson 3 – A Life of Humility – Page 3

- I Peter 5:5-6

- **The Joyous Christian Life**
 - A Life of Prayer (1:1-11)
 - A Life Worthy of the Gospel (1:12-30)
 - A Life of Humility (2:1-11)
 - **A Life of a Servant (2:12-30)**
- **Introduction**
 - **Servanthood**
 - Taught by Jesus
 - Matthew 23:11; Mark 10:43
 - John 12:26
 - Modeled by Christians
 - Romans 1:1; Titus 1:1; James 1:1; II Peter 1:1; Jude 1:1; Revelation 1:1
 - Modeled by Jesus
 - Acts 3:13, 26
 - Philippians 2:7
- **Five things which we need to do to live a life of a servant.**
 - **Obedience (2:12)**
 - You have always obeyed
 - Obey = listen or hear
 - While I was present
 - Much more in my absence
 - True character of a person is seen when he thinks no one is watching
 - **Work (2:12)**
 - Literally “work out”
 - Used 22 times in the NT – mostly in Romans
 - Salvation or deliverance
 - Panic, fear, terror, reverence
 - Trembling – quaking
 - Applied to servants - Ephesians 6:6
 - Fear and trembling toward God
 - He is at work in you
 - To be at work or to accomplish
 - To will – His desire, intent
 - To work (accomplish)
 - For His good pleasure
 - We should want to please God in everything!

- **No grumbling (2:14)**

- A muttering, murmuring, complaining
- John 7:12
- Acts 6:1 – complaint
- I Peter 4:9 – complaint

- **No Disputing (2:14)**

- Disputing = a reasoning
- Argument, dissension, opinions
- Servant considers the interests of others first!
- Good reasons not to grumble (2:15-16)
 - To prove yourselves to be
 - Blameless – without fault
 - Innocent – pure, unmixed
 - Children of God
 - Above reproach – without blemish
 - Lights in the world
 - To hold fast the word of life
 - To give me reason to glory – to boast
 - To make give me fulfillment

- **Sacrificial giving (2:17-18)**

- Paul is currently being poured out
- His labor for the Philippian church (and others) was sacrificial in nature
- Not the ultimate sacrifice that would save them!
- Service – performing priestly duties, ministry
- Paul is not grumbling – but rejoicing!

- **Good Example of a Servant (2:19; 5-8)**

- *Timothy*
- Sending him so I can hear how you are doing
- His proven worth – proven character
- His service with me as a child to a father – slave, servant

- **Bad Example of a Servant (2:20-21)**

- Someone who lacks a kindred spirit
- Someone not concerned about your welfare
- Someone who seeks after his own interests
- Someone not of Christ Jesus

- **Good Example of a Servant (2:25-28)**
 - *Epaphroditus*
 - My brother (in Christ)
 - Fellow worker
 - Fellow soldier
 - Your messenger (apostle – one sent)
 - Your minister to my need (public servant)
 - He longs for you – to yearn or desire
- **Personal message about Epaphroditus (26-28)**
- **Receive a Servant (2:29-30)**
 - Receive him in the Lord
 - Receive him with all joy
 - Hold men like him with high regard
 - Came close to death for the work of Christ
 - Risked his life

The Joyous Christian Life

Bible Study of the Book of Philippians – Lesson 5 – A Life of Confidence– Page 1

- **The Joyous Christian Life**
 - A Life of Prayer (1:1-11)
 - A Life Worthy of the Gospel (1:12-30)
 - A Life of Humility (2:1-11)
 - A Life of a Servant (2:12-30)
 - **A Life of Confidence (3:1-11)**

- **Confidence in New Testament**
 - Acts 4:13, 29
 - Acts 26:26
 - I Timothy 3:13
 - Hebrews 4:16
 - Hebrews 10:19, 35
 - I John 2:28

- **Introduction (3:1)**
 - Paul's last thoughts - **finally**
 - Rejoice in the Lord (4:4)
 - Importance of repetition in teaching
 - Safeguard = certain or secure
 - Warnings (3:2)
 - Beware of dogs
 - Gentiles were called dogs because they were not part of the Covenant
 - Beware of evil workers
 - Judaizing teachers who perverted the Gospel
 - Beware of false circumcision
 - Jews who had rejected the Gospel
 - Description of Christians (3:3)
 - We are the true circumcision
 - We worship God in spirit
 - Worship = to be a servant
 - We glory in Christ Jesus
 - Glory = boast
 - We put no confidence in the flesh

The Joyous Christian Life

Bible Study of the Book of Philippians – Lesson 5 – A Life of Confidence– Page 2

- Paul's Example (3:4-6)
 - No confidence in the flesh
 - Nationality
 - Circumcised on the eighth day
 - Of the nation of Israel
 - Of the tribe of Benjamin
 - A Hebrew of Hebrews
 - Scholarship
 - As to the Law, a Pharisee
 - Personal zeal
 - Righteous living in keeping the old Law
- No Confidence (3:7-8)
 - Whatever things were gain to me
 - I count as a loss for the sake of Christ
 - In view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord
 - Notice confidence – Knowing!
 - I count them as rubbish
 - Or refuse
- **Eight things we gain when we live a life of confidence.**
- **We gain Christ (3:8)**
 - Gain = profit or win
 - Luke 9:23-24
 - I Corinthians 3:23
 - Philippians 1:21
- **We gain being found in Him (3:9)**
 - Confidence in knowing that you are in Him
 - John 1:4
 - John 3:15-16
 - Acts 10:43
 - Acts 17:28
 - Ephesians 1:7
 - Colossians 2:9-11
- **We gain righteousness through faith in Christ (3:9)**
 - Not from the old Law
 - From our faith in Christ
 - Abraham – Romans 4:3
 - II Corinthians 5:20-21

• **We gain knowledge of Him (3:10)**

- Know = come to know, perceive
- Confidence in knowing Jesus
 - I John
 - 2:3-5
 - 4:8
 - 5:2
 - 5:13

• **We gain knowledge of the power of the resurrection (3:10)**

- Knowledge of the resurrection changes our thinking
- If we have confidence in the resurrection
 - We will live for Him
 - We will follow His will
 - We will be faithful unto death

• **We gain knowledge of the fellowship of His sufferings (3:10)**

- Fellowship = participation
- Acts 2:42
- Suffering = passions, that which befalls upon a person
- I Peter 4:13; 16
- Colossians 1:24

• **We gain conformity to His death (3:10)**

- Romans 8:29
- I Corinthians 15:31
- II Corinthians 4:11-12
- Galatians 2:20

• **We gain the resurrection from the dead (3:11)**

- Attain = meet face to face, to come down to
- Greek word used here for resurrection only appears here in NT = a rising up
- I Corinthian 15:23
- I Thessalonians 4:15
- Revelation 20:5-6

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- A Life of Confidence (3:1-11)
- A Life of Standards (3:12-21)
- **A Life of Peace (4:1-9)**

- **Peace**

- More than “not at war”
 - Luke 2:14 – at the nativity
 - John 14:27
 - John 16:33
 - Romans 5:1
 - Galatians 5:22

- **Seven things to help us live a life of peace.**

- **People (4:1-3)**

- Paul calls the Philippian Christians
 - Beloved (twice)
 - His joy
 - His crown
 - His fellow workers
 - Names in the book of life
- When Christians are not living in harmony
 - Encourage them that they are participants in the struggle for the cause of the Gospel
 - Philippians 2
 - Ephesians 4
 - John 13:35

- **Having Joy in the Lord (4:4)**

- Philippians 2:18
- Philippians 3:1
- Key to joy is “in the Lord”
- Joy is not based on happenings
- Joy is based on a relationship
- “In the Lord”
- Always - in good times and suffering

• Realizing the Lord is near (4:5)

- Philippians 3:20
- Revelation 22:7; 20
- 1 Corinthians 16:22
- Matthew 24:42
- I Thessalonians 4:14-5:2

• Realizing God hears our prayers (4:6)

- Be anxious for nothing
- Make your requests to God
 - By prayer
 - By supplication with thanksgiving
- Do not worry
 - Matthew 6:25-34

• God Grants Peace (4:7)

- Peace comes from God's grace
- Surpasses all comprehension
- Guard our hearts
- Affections and passions
- Guard our minds
- Understanding, judgment, conscience
- In Christ Jesus

• Godly Thinking (4:8)

- Things to think on:
 - True = honest, truth
 - Honorable = revered, dignified
 - Right = correct, righteous, innocent
 - Pure = holy, sacred
 - Lovely = pleasing, agreeable
 - Good repute = well reported, reputation
 - Excellence = moral goodness, virtue
 - Worthy of praise = fame

• Godly Living (4:9)

- If you practice
 - What you have learned
 - What you have received
 - What you have heard
 - What you have seen
- Then the God of peace will be with you

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- A Life of Confidence (3:1-11)
- A Life of Standards (3:12-21)
- A Life of Peace (4:1-9)
- **A Life of Contentment (4:10-23)**

- **Seven things to help us live a life of contentment**

- **Acknowledge Other's Concern (4:10)**

- Give credit where credit is due
- The Lord
- Rejoice in the Lord greatly!
- Philippian Christians
- Concern was revived
- Doors of opportunities opened

- **Learned Experience (4:11-12)**

- Speak from want
- Poverty, need
- Learned to be content
- Self-sufficient
- Whatever the circumstances
- Humble means or living in prosperity
- Being filled or going hungry
- Having abundance or suffering need

- **Attitude (4:13)**

- I can do all things
- Humble means or living in prosperity
- Being filled or going hungry
- Having abundance or suffering need
- Through Jesus who strengthens me
- Living our life for Jesus!

- **Not alone in Ministry (4:14-16)**

- Philippians shared with Paul in his afflictions
- Philippians shared in the giving and receiving – even when no one else was
- Philippians sent a gift, more than once, even when Paul was not in Philippi

The Joyous Christian Life

Bible Study of the Book of Philippians – Lesson 8 – A Life of Contentment – Page 2

• Proper Perspective (4:17-18)

- The gift was not the most important
- The profit which increases to your account!
- Sharing the Gospel because of you!
- Calls their gift:
 - A fragrant aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well-pleasing to God.

• Attitude (4:19)

- God will supply all your needs
- Thinking about the Philippians
- According to His riches
 - In glory
 - In Christ Jesus

• Living within the Grace of Jesus (4:23)

- To live a true life of contentment, we must be found living within the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ!
- It is only because of His grace!