

# PHILIPPIANS 2:12-18

1. What are Paul's three commands that he gives in this passage?
2. How can you obey those commands in your current circumstances? For example, what's a situation in your life where you tend to grumble, and how can you make a change in your grumbling, even though that situation might not change?
3. It's important here that Paul says "work out your own salvation." What's the difference between "working for" and "working out" your salvation?
4. How does your working and God's working relate? Does that give you any encouragement to do the work of God in this world?
5. Paul says that we shine as lights in the world. Who is God's light shining to through you? How can we pray for that relationship?

## PHILIPPIANS 2:19-30

In these verses, Paul moves from commands, to living examples of those who have embraced a life of being a committed follower of Jesus. He gives two examples of Timothy and Epaphroditus.

1. In your own mind, what does it look like for someone to be genuinely concerned with your personal welfare? How can you be that for another person?
2. Philippi was a town full of military veterans, a town very concerned with status and titles. Why did Paul give Epaphroditus this list of titles? What message is he trying to send about what's truly important?
3. Paul goes to great lengths to describe Timothy and Epaphroditus. What specifically about their example challenges you?
4. What risks are you willing to take for the church?

# PHILIPPIANS 3:1-11

1. Paul tells the church to “look out” for false teachers. What do you think are the main false teachings in our culture that specifically go against the truth that Jesus died and rose again?
2. The first sentence in verse eight is a great statement that summarizes Paul’s perspective on life. Is it possible for you to have this perspective? How do you think he got to the point of being able to say/think this?
3. In verse ten, what does it actually look like to know Christ and the power of his resurrection?
4. What is the difference between having confidence in the flesh and confidence in Christ? How practically can we make Jesus bigger in our lives and our church?
5. What else about Paul’s example is inspiring to you?

## PHILIPPIANS 3:12-16

1. In reading our bibles, it's always good to make clear fundamental observations. So, in verse 12, what does "this" and "it" refer to?
2. Given the context of Paul's past life (talked about earlier in 3:4-6) what does he mean by the phrase "forgetting what lies behind"? What is Paul forgetting? What do you need to forget as you press on towards Christ?
3. According to verse 15, part of our maturity as Christians is to think a certain way. What list of truths does Paul communicate in the previous verses that are a part of mature thinking?
4. If you were in God's position, how would you nurture people along to think this way? What circumstances or relationship in your life has God orchestrated in your life to help you start to think this way?

# PHILIPPIANS 3:17-4:1

1. Who is one of your examples that you try and follow as you follow Jesus? Why are they an example?
2. According to Paul's words in verse 19 what's the key description of the enemies of the cross of Christ? What's the common theme between each of these traits?
3. What does American citizenship mean to you? What does heavenly citizenship mean to you?
4. Are you an example to anyone? What does it look like for you to be an example of someone who is a citizen of heaven?

## PHILIPPIANS 4:2-7

1. We have all experienced how mis-handled conflict tears families, friendships, and churches apart. Is there anything in verses two through four that help you manage current or past conflicts in your life right now?
  
2. Verse six tells us that anxiety is actually supposed to serve as a reminder to pray with thanksgiving. We so often cry out to God in the midst of anxiety (which is good to do!), but why should specific thanksgivings be part of this prayer? How is this practice an antidote to the sickness of anxiety?
  
3. What does it look like to make it a habit to pray with thanksgiving?
  
4. Has there been a time in your life where you felt your heart and mind were being guarded in the midst of some season of turmoil? Make sure to share these stories as the Lord will use them to bring hope and perspective in the lives of both believers and unbelievers.

## PHILIPPIANS 4:8-9

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

1. Paul gives the command to “think about these things.” What are some specific things you need to think about this week that line up with these descriptions?
2. Paul also gives the command to “practice these things.” Given what the Philippians saw and what we see in Paul’s life, what are some things to put into practice this week?
3. How can you re-instate a practice this week that helps orient you to right thinking? What habits and routines do you have that tend to push you away from right thinking?
4. Why does Paul say the God of “peace” and not “joy” or “generosity” or “love”? In other words, what do you think the connection is between God’s peaceful presence and the things we think about and practice?

## PHILIPPIANS 4:10-13

I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me. You were indeed concerned for me, but you had no opportunity. Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

1. We like to quote Philippians 4:13. But are we always using this verse in the right way? In looking at the overall context of 4:10-13, what does “all things” actually refer to?
2. Paul clearly states that contentment is something he had to learn (verses 11 and 12). Where are you at in the journey towards contentment?
3. Why is contentment so hard when we have so much stuff? What do you think the root issue is?
4. In Philippians 4:6-9, Paul talked about anxiety and peace. Now he brings up contentment. What’s the relationship between contentment and anxiety?
5. Is discontentment always bad? How might God use that in someone’s life? What are some good things you have done in your life because you were discontent?



## PHILIPPIANS 4:14-23

Yet it was kind of you to share my trouble. And you Philippians yourselves know that in the beginning of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church entered into partnership with me in giving and receiving, except you only. Even in Thessalonica you sent me help for my needs once and again. Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that increases to your credit. I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen. Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The brothers who are with me greet you. All the saints greet you, especially those of Caesar's household. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

MY NOTES