**PHILIPPIANS**

 **THE LEGACY BIBLE OUTLINE SERIES**

 c Harvestime International Institute

**THE LEGACY BIBLE OUTLINE SERIES**

*The Legacy Bible Outline Series* is a study of the Bible using the text of the Bible itself. The series outlines books of the Bible in simple format, providing commentary only as needed to enhance understanding. Text-based questions are also included for every chapter.

We suggest you create a notebook for each book of the Bible. Insert the outlines in your notebooks and add your own study notes. Each time you study a book, you can easily append the outlines to continuously expand the materials.

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You can print copies of the outlines for your students or--a more cost-effective method--copy the files to a CD ROM and let each student print out their own outlines. If you want students to have only the study questions and not the outlines, then copy the questions to a separate file and print them out for distribution.

**For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line…**

**(Isaiah 28:10, KJV)**

**...His word burns in my heart like a fire. It's like a fire in my bones!...**

**(Jeremiah 20:9, NLT)**

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 **INTRODUCTION**

 **TO THE BOOK OF PHILIPPIANS**

**AUTHOR:** Paul.

**TO WHOM:** The Church at Philippi. The book is written while Paul was in Roman custody during the time period mentioned in Acts 28:30.

**PURPOSE:** An appeal for Christian unity.

**KEY VERSE*:*** *Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. (Philippians* 2:2)

**LIFE AND MINISTRY PRINCIPLE:** Unity in Jesus brings joy.

**MAIN CHARACTERS:** Paul, Timotheus, Epaproditus, Ceasar.

**A BRIEF OUTLINE:**

Chapter 1 Unity in the believer's life Key verse 21

Chapter 2 Unity in the believer's mind Key verse 5

Chapter 3 Unity in the believer's goal Key verse 10

Chapter 4 Unity in the believer's strength Key verse 13

**QUESTIONS ON THE INTRODUCTION:**

1. Who wrote the book?

2. To whom is this book addressed?

3. What is the purpose of the book?

4. Write the key verse.

5. What is the main life and ministry principle?

6. List the main characters mentioned in the book.

7. Give a brief outline of the book.

 **OUTLINE OF THE BOOK OF PHILIPPIANS**

 **Philippians 1**

**1 Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:**

**2 Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.**

**3 I thank my God upon every remembrance of you,**

**4 Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy,**

**5 For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now;**

**6 Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:**

**7 Even as it is meet for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart; inasmuch as both in my bonds, and in the defence and confirmation of the gospel, ye all are partakers of my grace.**

**8 For God is my record, how greatly I long after you all in the bowels of Jesus Christ.**

**9 And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment;**

**10 That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ;**

**11 Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God.**

**12 But I would ye should understand, brethren, that the things which happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel;**

**13 So that my bonds in Christ are manifest in all the palace, and in all other places;**

**14 And many of the brethren in the Lord, waxing confident by my bonds, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.**

**15 Some indeed preach Christ even of envy and strife; and some also of good will:**

**16 The one preach Christ of contention, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my bonds:**

**17 But the other of love, knowing that I am set for the defence of the gospel.**

**18 What then? notwithstanding, every way, whether in pretence, or in truth, Christ is preached; and I therein do rejoice, yea, and will rejoice.**

**19 For I know that this shall turn to my salvation through your prayer, and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,**

**20 According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death.**

**21 For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.**

**22 But if I live in the flesh, this is the fruit of my labour: yet what I shall choose I wot not.**

**23 For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better:**

**24 Nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you.**

**25 And having this confidence, I know that I shall abide and continue with you all for your furtherance and joy of faith;**

**26 That your rejoicing may be more abundant in Jesus Christ for me by my coming to you again.**

**27 Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;**

**28 And in nothing terrified by your adversaries: which is to them an evident token of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that of God.**

**29 For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake;**

**30 Having the same conflict which ye saw in me, and now hear to be in me.**

**Outline 1:**

I. Introduction: Greetings. (1‑2)

A. From Paul and Timotheus, servants of Jesus Christ.

(*Timothy is a traveling companion who joined Paul during his second journey: Acts 16:1-3. He was a young man devoted to serving Paul and whom Paul loved as a son. Later, he was the recipient of two other epistles by Paul, 1 and 2 Timothy*. *Servants means bondslaves to a master.)*

B. To all the saints in Christ Jesus, bishops, and deacons at Philippi.

(*All believers are saints through their spiritual union with Christ.)*

C. Grace and peace from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

(*Grace is unmerited favor. Peace can be had with God: Romans 5:1. You can have the peace of God: Philippians 4:6-7; you can have peace with men: Proverbs 16:7; and you can have peace with yourself: Philippians 4:6-7.)*

II. Thanksgiving for the Philippians. (3‑5)

A. When thanks were given: I thank my God upon every remembrance of you.

B. How it was given: Always in every prayer of mine for you all.

C. How it was expressed: Making requests with joy.

D. The cause for thanksgiving: For your fellowship in the Gospel from the first

 day until now. (*Fellowship means spiritual partnership--communication and*

 *cooperation working for Christ.*)

III. Paul’s confidence in them. (6-7)

 A. The nature of the confidence: That He which has begun a good work in you will

 perform it until the day of Jesus Christ. (*Paul’s confidence in them rests upon God and His work in them. The day of Christ refers to the return of Jesus*.)

 B. The justification for this confidence: Even as it is meet *(justified)* for me to think

 this of you all, because I have you in my heart; inasmuch as both in my bonds, and

 in the defense and confirmation of the Gospel, you are all partakers of my grace.

 (*They were partakers in the ministry of the Gospel with Paul, whether he was in*

 *or out of prison.)*

IV. His longing for them. For God is my record, how greatly I long after you all in the bowels

 of Jesus Christ. (*Jews considered the bowels the seat of the emotions*.) (8)

V. His prayer for them (*which we may apply also*). (9‑11)

 A. That love may abound in knowledge and judgment.

 B. That you may approve things that are excellent. (*To approve is to try, test, and*

 *demonstrate. See also Romans 12:2 which exhorts us to prove what is good in*

 *regards to the will of God. By living according to His will, we prove to ourselves*

 *and others, that God’s way is best*).

 C. That you may be sincere and without offense until the day of Jesus Christ.

 (*Sincere means without wax. When there was a crack in a statue or vase, a*

 *dishonest dealer would fill it with wax so the buyer couldn’t tell. Reputable art*

 *dealers began putting the word “sincerus”, meaning without wax, on their pieces.*

 *Paul is saying, “Don’t be a phony*.”)

 D. That you will be filled with the fruit of righteousness.

 1. It comes by Jesus Christ.

 2. It is to the glory and praise of God.

VI. The spread of the Gospel. Paul wanted them to understand, that “the things which

 happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel”.

Events which served to spread the Gospel. (12-19)

 A. Imprisonment:

 1. His testimony reached the palace and other places: So that my bonds in

 Christ are manifest in all the palace and other places.

 2. Many of the brethren in the Lord, waxing confident by my bonds, are

 much more bold to speak the word without fear.

 (*The positive benefits of Paul’s incarceration were being able to share the*

 *Gospel to Caesar’s household and writing the epistles. Has God*

 *chained you to someone or a circumstance in order that you might share*

 *the Gospel?*)

B. Preaching:

1. For the wrong motive: Some indeed preach Christ even of envy and

 strife out of contention, not sincerely, supposing

 to add affliction to my bonds…(*Their preaching was affected by envy,*

 *strife, contention, insincerity, and pretense which added affliction to his*

 *imprisonment. They seemed personally antagonistic towards Paul.)*

 2. For the proper motive: Some preach of good will, out of love, knowing

 that I am set for the defense of the gospel. **(***They preach with good will in*

 *love and truth, recognizing that Paul is set to defend the true Gospel.)*

 3. Paul’s response: What then? Notwithstanding, every way, whether in

 pretense, or in truth, Christ is preached; and I therein rejoice, yes, and

 will rejoice. ***(****Either way, Christ is preached, so Paul rejoices.)*

 C. Prayer and provision**:** For I know that this shall turn to my salvation through your

 prayer, and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ*.* ***(****Paul believes he will be*

 *delivered through prayer and the Spirit of Jesus.)*

VII. Questioning as to whether it is best to live or die. (20-26)

 A. Christ will be magnified, whether by life or death:

 1. According to my earnest expectation and hope.

 2. That in nothing I shall be ashamed.

 3. But that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be

 magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death.

 B. For me (*Paul*) to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

 C. Paul was in a straight (*quandary)* between two desires: Life or death.

 1. The appeal of life: But if I live in the flesh, this is the fruit of my

 labor: yet what I shall choose I would not.

 2. The competing appeal for death: To be with Christ is far better: For I am

 in a strait between two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ;

 which is far better.

(*Paul was so dedicated to God’s will that both life and death held certain*

*appeals*. *Even though we desire to depart, we should be willing to continue on in this world as long as God has work for us to do.)*

 D. Assurance for a continuing life.

 1. Nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you. *(It was more*

 *needful for him to remain because of those to whom he was ministering.)*

 2. And having this confidence, I know that I shall abide and continue

 with you all for your furtherance and joy of faith*.**(Paul had confidence*

 *that he would abide and continue with them for the furtherance and joy of*

 *faith.)*

 3. That your rejoicing may be more abundant in Jesus Christ for me by

 my coming to you.  **(***They would rejoice that he would return to them*

 *again*.)

VIII. Exhortations for unity. (27‑30)

A. Unity in conversation: Only let your conversation be as becomes the Gospel of Christ:

 That whether I come and see you or be absent, I may hear of your affairs.

B. Unity in spirit: That you stand fast in one spirit.

C. Unity for the sake of the Gospel: With one mind striving together for the faith of the Gospel.

D. Unity in facing the adversary:And in nothing terrified by your adversaries: which is to them an evident token of perdition, but to you of salvation that is of God.

E. Unity in suffering:

 1. For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on Him, but also to suffer for His sake.

 2. Having the same conflict which you saw in me and now hear to be in me.

 *(They were suffering similar conflicts which Paul had suffered and*

 *was currently suffering.)*

**Study questions on chapter 1:**

1. Who was the author of Philippians? (1)

2. How did Paul describe himself and his coworker? (1)

3. To whom did Paul address this letter? (1)

4. How did Paul greet the Philippians? (2)

5. When Paul thought about the Philippians, what did he do? (3)

6. How did Paul pray for the Philippians? (4)

7. How had the Philippians partnered with Paul in behalf of the Gospel? (5)

8. What was Paul confident about? (6)

9. What feelings did Paul express about the Philippian church? (7‑8)

10. What three specific things did Paul pray for in verse 9?

11. What results did he want to see in their lives? (10‑11)

12. What things did Paul indicate advanced the spread of the Gospel? (12-21)

13. How did Paul’s incarceration affect the spread of the Gospel? (14)

14. Why did some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry and others out of love? What was

 Paul’s opinion of these preachers? (15‑18)

15. Why did Paul expect to be delivered from his predicament? (19)

16. What conflict did Paul express in verse 23?

17. What was Paul’s main purpose in living and how did he view death? (21)

18. Why did Paul think he would remain alive? (24‑26)

19. What guidelines for conduct did Paul give regarding the Philippians? (27)

20. What guidelines did Paul give the Philippians regarding facing opposition? (28‑30)

21. According to verse 29, what should be our attitude towards suffering?

22. What did you learn in this chapter to apply to your life and ministry?

 **Philippians 2**

**1 If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies,**

**2 Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.**

**3 Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.**

**4 Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.**

**5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus:**

**6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:**

**7 But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:**

**8 And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.**

**9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:**

**10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;**

**11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**

**12 Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.**

**13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.**

**14 Do all things without murmurings and disputings:**

**15 That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;**

**16 Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.**

**17 Yea, and if I be offered upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I joy, and rejoice with you all.**

**18 For the same cause also do ye joy, and rejoice with me.**

**19 But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timotheus shortly unto you, that I also may be of good comfort, when I know your state.**

**20 For I have no man likeminded, who will naturally care for your state.**

**21 For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's.**

**22 But ye know the proof of him, that, as a son with the father, he hath served with me in the gospel.**

**23 Him therefore I hope to send presently, so soon as I shall see how it will go with me.**

**24 But I trust in the Lord that I also myself shall come shortly.**

**25 Yet I supposed it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother, and companion in labour, and fellowsoldier, but your messenger, and he that ministered to my wants.**

**26 For he longed after you all, and was full of heaviness, because that ye had heard that he had been sick.**

**27 For indeed he was sick nigh unto death: but God had mercy on him; and not on him only, but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow.**

**28 I sent him therefore the more carefully, that, when ye see him again, ye may rejoice, and that I may be the less sorrowful.**

**29 Receive him therefore in the Lord with all gladness; and hold such in reputation:**

**30 Because for the work of Christ he was nigh unto death, not regarding his life, to supply your lack of service toward me.**

**Outline 2:**

I. Unity in Christ. (1‑4) If there be therefore any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love,

 if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any bowels and mercies, then fulfill my joy that you be:

 A. United in attitude: Likeminded.

 B. United in love: Having the same love.

 C. United in purpose: Of one accord.

 D. United in mind: Of one mind.

 E. United in motive: Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in

 lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than themselves.

 F. United in vision: Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on

 the things of others.

II. Unity in putting on the mind of Christ. Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ

 Jesus. (5-8)

 A. He was in the form of God, and thought it not robbery to be equal with God.

 B. He made Himself of no reputation.

 C. He took upon Himself the form of a servant.

 D. He was made in the likeness of men.

 E. Being found in fashion as a man, He humbled himself, and became obedient

 unto death, even the death of the cross.

III. Unity in exalting Christ. (9-11)

 A. Wherefore God also has highly exalted Him.

 B. God has given Him a name which is above every name.

 C. That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow:

 1. Things in heaven.

 2. Things in earth.

 3. Things under the earth.

 D. That every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of

 God the Father.

***Adam Jesus***

*Created in the image of God Created in the image of God.*

*Thought it a prize to be grasped Didn’t consider it a prize to be grasped.*

*Spurned being God’s servant Took upon Him the form of a servant*

*Wished to be like God Was made like men*

*Exalted himself Humbled himself*

*Disobedient unto death Obedient to death*

IV. Unity through spiritual growth. (12-18)

 A. Wherefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not in my presence only,

 but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

 B. For it is God which works in you both to will and to do His good pleasure.

 *(Are we to work out our salvation or is God to work it? The answer is clear in the Amplifed version of these verses: “Therefore, my dear ones, as you have always*

 *obeyed [my suggestions], so now, not only [with the enthusiasm you would show]*

 *in my presence but much more because I am absent, work out (cultivate, carry out*

 *to the goal, and fully complete) your own salvation with reverence and awe and*

 *trembling (self-distrust, with serious caution, tenderness of conscience,*

 *watchfulness against temptation, timidly shrinking from whatever might offend*

 *God and discredit the name of Christ).[Not in your own strength] for it is God*

 *Who is all the while effectually at work in you [energizing and creating in you the*

 *power and desire], both to will and to work for His good pleasure and*

 *satisfaction and delight.” We work out our salvation, not work for it.)*

 C. Do all things without murmuring and disputing that you may be:

 1. Blameless and harmless.

 2. The sons of God, without rebuke.

 3. In the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom you shine as

 lights in the world.

 4. Holding forth the Word of life.

 D. The blessing resulting from their obedience:

 1. So I may rejoice in the day of Christ.

 2. So I know I have not run in vain neither labored in vain.

 3. So if I be offered upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I joy,

 and rejoice with you all.

V. Paul's plans. (19‑30)

A. Plans for Timothy.

1. The plan: I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timotheus shortly unto you.

2. The motive for the plan: So Paul could be comforted by learning of

 their state of affairs.

 3. Reasons for choosing Timothy:

 a. I have no man likeminded who will naturally care for your state.

 b. For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's.

 4. The relation of Timothy and Paul: You know the proof of him, that, as a

 son with the father, he has served with me in the Gospel.

5. The timing of Timothy's trip: I will send him presently, as soon as I shall

 see how it will go with me.

B. Plans for himself: I trust in the Lord that I also myself shall come shortly.

C. Plans for Epaphroditus.

 1. The plan: I supposed it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus.

 2. The person: Epaphroditus was:

 a. Paul’s spiritual brother.

 b. A companion in labor.

 c. A fellowsoldier.

 d. A messenger to the Philippians.

 e. A minister to Paul’s needs.

 3. The problem:

 a. Epaphroditus longed after you all, and was full of

 heaviness, because you had heard that he had been sick.

 b. For indeed he was sick, near nigh unto death.

 c. But God had mercy on him; and not on him only, but on me also,

 lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow.

 4. The welcome to be given Epaphroditus and why:

 a. I sent him therefore the more carefully, that, when you see him

 again, you may rejoice, and that I may be the less sorrowful.

 b. Receive him therefore in the Lord with all gladness; and hold such

 in reputation (*honor him because of his service and reputatio*n).

 c. Because for the work of Christ he was near death, not regarding his

 life, to supply your lack of service toward me.

**Study questions on chapter 2:**

1. What are the “ifs” mentioned by Paul in verse 1? Are these things all found in Christ?

2. How can Christians show their unity in Christ in practical ways? (2)

3. What did Paul say about self-centeredness? (3‑4)

4. What did Paul exhort believers to have? (5)

5. What did Jesus set aside in order to become a man? (6‑7)

6. How is Jesus the best example of humility and obedience? (6‑8)

7. How did God exalt Jesus? (9)

8. What will every person eventually do and what confession will they make? (10-11)

9. What does it mean to work out your own salvation? (12‑13)

10. What are the Philippians told to do in verse 14?

11. Why did believers need to be united and do all without murmuring or disputing? (16)

12. What would enable Paul to rejoice over the Philippians? (16)

13. How did Paul view his own personal sacrifices? (17)

14. What did Paul want believers at Philippi to experience? (18)

15. Why did Paul plan to send Timothy to the Philippians? (19)

16. What was Paul’s opinion of Timothy? (20-21)

17. How did Paul describe his relationship with Timothy? (22)

18. When would Paul send Timothy to the Philippians? (23)

19. Why was Paul confident that he would revisit the believers at Philippi? (24)

20. Who was Epaphroditus and why did the Philippians send him to Paul? (25)

21. How did Epaphroditus feel about his friends in Philippi? The word “heaviness” means

 distress and the only other times it is used is in Matthew 26:37 and Mark 14:33 in relation

 to Christ’s agony in the garden. Obviously, this was a very strong relationship. (26)

22. What had happened to Epaphroditus? (26‑27)

23. How did God spare Paul sorrow? (27)

24. How did Paul demonstrate his selflessness? (28)

25. How were the Philippians told to welcome Epaphroditus? (29‑30)

26. Why were the Philippians told to honor Epaphroditus? (30)

27. What did you learn in this chapter to apply to your life and ministry?

 **Philippians 3**

**1 Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you, to me indeed is not grievous, but for you it is safe.**

**2 Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the concision.**

**3 For we are the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, and rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh.**

**4 Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more:**

**5 Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee;**

**6 Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.**

**7 But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.**

**8 Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ,**

**9 And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:**

**10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;**

**11 If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.**

**12 Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.**

**13 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,**

**14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.**

**15 Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you.**

**16 Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing.**

**17 Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample.**

**18 (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ:**

**19 Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.)**

**20 For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:**

**21 Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.**

**Outline 3:**

I. Warnings: The repeated warnings against false, legalistic teachers are written for believers’ benefit. (1‑2)

 A. The joy of the Lord is a defense against those who would turn them from the true Gospel.

 B. Admonitions to beware:

 1. Beware of dogs. (*This is not a warning to mailmen or to offend those who love dogs. The word dogs as used here denotes the wild, vicious animals*

 *that roamed the streets and attacked people. Paul is comparing false*

 *teachers to these types of animals.*)

 2. Beware of evil workers.

 3. Beware of the concision *(those who mutilate the flesh, insisting on*

 *circumcision as a requirement for salvation).*

II. The identification of true believers who are circumcised in heart. (3

 A. They worship God in the Spirit.

 B. They rejoice in Christ Jesus.

 C. They have no confidence in the flesh.

 *(To study circumcision of heart, see Romans 228-29; 46-12: Galatians 3:7, 29*

 *and Colossians 2:11-14.*)

III. Rejecting legalism. (4-11)

 A. Paul’s grounds for legalistic pride. Though I might also have confidence in the

 flesh. He declares, “If any other man thinks that he hath whereof he might trust in

 the flesh, I more because I was…”

 1. Circumcised the eighth day.

 2. Of the stock of Israel.

 3. Of the tribe of Benjamin.

 4. A Hebrew of Hebrews.

 5. A Pharisee, in relation to the law.

 6. Zealous in persecuting the Church before conversion.

 7. Righteous and blameless under the law.

B. Paul’s change of values.

 1. But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.

 2. I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus

 my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count

 them but dung, that I may win Christ,

 3. I want to be found in Him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of

 the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness

 which is of God by faith.

 4. That I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection, and the

 fellowship of His sufferings, being made conformable unto His death.

 *(This is speaking of death to the former life and death to the flesh.)*

 5. If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.

IV. Godly perfection as a defense against legalism. (12‑16)

A. Paul’s attitude towards perfection:

 1. Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect.

 2. I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am

 apprehended of Christ Jesus. *(Paul has not yet captured and made*

 *perfection his own, but seeks to do this in the same way Jesus captured*

 *him.)*

 B. Efforts to reach the goal: I count not myself to have apprehended: but this

 one thing I do:

 1. Forgetting those things which are behind and…

 2. Reaching forth unto those things which are before…

 3. I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ

 Jesus. (*Forgetting those things behind does not mean obliterating the*

 *memory, because Paul has just mentioned his past. It is a refusal to let the*

 *past dictate your present or your future. “Press forward” depicts a*

 *runner stretching forward to cross the finish line*.)

C. Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: and if in anything you be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you.

D. Nevertheless, whereto we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing.

V. Protection against false teachers. (17‑21)

 A. Follow the example of godly leaders: Brethren, be followers together of me, and

 mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample.

 B. Observe the walk—the lives--of false teachers.

 1. They are the enemies of the cross of Christ.

 2. Their end is destruction.

 3. Their God is their belly.

 4. They glory in their shame.

 5. They mind earthly things.

 C. How believers should respond to them.

 1. Focus on Heaven: Our conversation is in heaven *(our citizenship is in*

 *heaven).*

 2. Focus on Jesus: Where we look for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

 3. Focus on Christ’s return.

 a. When He returns, your vile body will be changed, that it may be

 fashioned like unto His glorious body.

 b. This will occur according to the working (*by the* *same power*)

 whereby He is able even to subdue all things unto Himself.

*Note the objectives of Paul in chapter 3:*

 *‑That I may win Christ: 8*

 *‑That I may know Him: 10*

 *‑That I may attain the resurrection: 11*

 *‑That I may apprehend: 12*

 *-That I may press on: 14*

**Study questions on chapter 3:**

1. What did Paul exhort believers to do? (1)

2. Why did Paul repeat basic warnings to the Philippians? (1)

3. What did Paul warn against in verse 2?

4. How does Paul describe true believers and spiritual circumcision in verse 3?

5. What autobiographical facts did Paul give in verses 4‑6?

6. How did Paul view his background and former accomplishments? (7-8)

7. What was Paul’s status in Christ? (9)

8. What desires did Paul express in verses 10-11?

9. Using verses 12-14, compare Paul’s spiritual life to that of a runner.

10. How did Paul deal with the past? (13)

11. What was Paul’s goal? (14)

12. Explain verses 15-16.

13. What were believers encouraged to do in verse 17?

14. How did Paul describe God’s enemies? What is their end? Their god? Their

 glory? Their focus? (20-21)

15. Where do true believers have their citizenship? (20)

16 For what do believers eagerly await? (20)

17. How are believers to respond to these enemies? (20-21)

18. What did you learn in this chapter to apply to your life and ministry?

 **Philippians 4**

**1 Therefore, my brethren dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, my dearly beloved.**

**2 I beseech Euodias, and beseech Syntyche, that they be of the same mind in the Lord.**

**3 And I intreat thee also, true yokefellow, help those women which laboured with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and with other my fellowlabourers, whose names are in the book of life.**

**4 Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice.**

**5 Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand.**

**6 Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.**

**7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.**

**8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.**

**9 Those things, which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.**

**10 But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at the last your care of me hath flourished again; wherein ye were also careful, but ye lacked opportunity.**

**11 Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.**

**12 I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.**

**13 I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.**

**14 Notwithstanding ye have well done, that ye did communicate with my affliction.**

**15 Now ye Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving, but ye only.**

**16 For even in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity.**

**17 Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit that may abound to your account.**

**18 But I have all, and abound: I am full, having received of Epaphroditus the things which were sent from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God.**

**19 But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.**

**20 Now unto God and our Father be glory for ever and ever. Amen.**

**21 Salute every saint in Christ Jesus. The brethren which are with me greet you.**

**22 All the saints salute you, chiefly they that are of Caesar's household.**

**23 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.**

**Outline 4:**

I. Standing fast in unity. (1‑9) Therefore, my brethren dearly beloved and longed for, my joy

 and crown, so stand fast in the Lord, my dearly beloved*. (Note the word starting this*

 *passage is therefore. When you see that word, it relates to what has been stated before.*

 *Because of the material previously presented, Paul is urging them to stand fast.)*

 Stand fast through:

 A. Unity in the Church:

 1. I beseech Euodias and Syntyche that they be of the same mind in the Lord.

 *(It didn’t matter who was right or wrong, only that they restore*

 *relationships.)*

 2. I entreat you also, true yokefellow, to help those women which labored

 with me in the Gospel, with Clement also, and with other my other fllowlabourers, whose

 fellow-laboreres whose names are in the book of life.

B. Unity in joy: Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, rejoice.

C. Unity in moderation: Let your moderation be known unto all men because the

 Lord is at hand.

D. Unity in prayer: Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and

 supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

 E. Unity in peace: And the peace of God, which passes all understanding, shall keep

 your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

 F. Unity in mind through proper thought processes: Think on the things that are:

1. True.

2. Honest.

3. Just.

4. Pure.

5. Lovely.

6. Of good report.

7. Of virtue.

8. Worthy of praise.

 G. Unity between knowledge and actions: Those things, which you have learned,

 received, heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace shall be with you.

II. Paul on provision. (10‑20)

A. The secret of contentment.

 1. His thanks for their gift. But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at

 the last your care of me hath flourished again; wherein you were also

 careful, but you lacked opportunity.

 2. His independence of material need: Not that I speak in respect of want: for

 I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.

 *(Paul had to learn contentment, it didn’t come naturally. We must too.)*

 3. Explanation of his secret. I know both how to be abased, and I know

 how to abound: everywhere and in all things I am instructed both to be full

 and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need.

 4. His source of such strength: I can do all things through Christ which

 strengthens me.

B. The record of the Philippians provision.

 1. His appreciation of their gift: Notwithstanding you have well done, that

 you did communicate with my affliction.

 2. His reminder of their past record of giving:

 a. Now you Philippians know also, that in the beginning of the

 Gospel, when I departed from Macedonia, no church

 communicated with me as concerning giving and receiving,

 but you only.

 b. For even in Thessalonica you sent once and again unto my

 necessity.

 3. His attitude towards their gift: Not because I desire a gift: but I desire

 fruit that may abound to your account.

 4. His receipt of the gift: But I have all, and abound: I am full, having

 received of Epaphroditus the things which were sent from you which were:

 a. A sweet smelling odor.

 b. An acceptable sacrifice.

 c. Well pleasing to God.

 C. The blessing resulting from giving: But my God shall supply all your need

 according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

III. Benediction. (20‑23)

 A. Now unto God and our Father be glory forever and ever.

B. Salute every saint in Christ Jesus.

 C. The brethren with me greet you.

D. The saints, especially those of Caesar's household, send greetings.

E. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

F. Amen (*a word borrowed from the Hebrew meaning ”so be it”*).

**Study questions on chapter 4:**

1. How did Paul describe the Philippians in verse 1?

2. What did Paul exhort the Philippian believers to do? (1)

3. What did Paul ask Euodia and Syntyche to do? (2)

4. How had Euodia and Syntyche and other women helped Paul in the past? (3)

5. What was Paul’s relationship with Clement? (3)

6. What did Paul encourage his readers to do? (4)

7. In verse 5, what did Paul encourage believers to do and why?

8. What did Paul say about anxiety? (6)

9. What were the Philippians to do instead of worrying? (6)

10. What are the results of praying instead of worrying? (7)

11. What are the qualities of wholesome thoughts? (8)

12. Thinking is important, but what were the believers asked to do in addition and what

 would be the results? (9)

13. What was the reason for Paul’s joy in verse 10?

14. What had Paul learned about contentment? (11‑12)

15. Why could Paul handle any kind of circumstance? (13)

16. What did the Philippians do when Paul was in trouble? (14)

17. How had the Philippians supported Paul? (15‑16)

18. What did Paul desire for the Philippians? (17)

19. What was Paul’s current financial situation? (18)

20. How did Paul describe the Philippians’ generosity? (18)

21. Who apparently brought the Philippians’ gift to Paul? (18)

22. How would God bless the Philippians for their generosity? (19)

23. To whom did Paul give thanks and praise in verse 20?

24. Who sent final greetings to the Philippians? (21‑22)

25. What Christian virtue did Paul emphasize in closing his letter? (23)

26. What did you learn in this chapter that you can apply to your life and ministry?

 **SUPPLEMENTAL STUDIES**

1. Study the key words *rejoice* and *joy* which are used repeatedly in this book:

 Philippians 1:4,18, 25; 2:2,16-18, 28; 3:1,3; 4:1,4

2. The church at Philippi was founded as a result of a vision experienced by Paul (Acts

 16:8‑10). It started with the conversion of Lydia and the Philippian jailer and his family.

 The church met in Lydia’s home (Philippians 4:2), was supportive in the preaching of

 the Gospel, and cared for Paul in his distress (Philippians 4:10-11, 15-16). They also

 provided for needy saints in other areas (2 Corinthians 8:1-5). Details of God’s work in

 three individuals in the Church are recorded in Acts:

‑A Greek soothsayer: Acts 16:16‑18

-A businesswoman: Acts 16:13‑15

‑A Roman jailer: Acts 16:19‑20

3. For more on bishops, pastors, and shepherds addressed in Philippians, study their qualifications in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and 8:13 and Titus 1:5-9.

4. Another brief outline of Philippians:

Chapter 1: Philosophy for Christian living.

Chapter 2: Pattern for Christian living.

Chapter 3: Prize for Christian living.

Chapter 4: Power for Christian living.

Philosophy is useless unless there is power to carry it out. A pattern is no good unless there is power to reproduce it. A prize cannot be attained if you don’t have power to achieve the goal.

5. In the book of Philippians, believers are described as:

Fellow-partakers 1:7; 4:14

Fellow-athletes 1:27; 4:3

Fellow-spirits in Christ 2:2

Fellow-rejoicers 2:17-18

Fellow-workers 2:25; 4:3

Fellow-soldiers 2:25

Fellow-helpers 4:3

Fellow-yoke-bearers 4:3

6. What did you learn about partnership in Christ from the following verses in Philippians?

 1:4-11,24-30; 2:1-4, 27-30; 3:10-11,17; 4:1-3,10-14,19.

7. What did you learn about Jesus Christ in verses 1:6,11,20-26,29; 2:5-11; 3:3-11?

8. What did you learn about the believer’s mind in 2:2,5,13,20-21; 3:19-20; 4:2,7-8.

9. Based on Philippians 2:3 and 4:2, with what issue was the Philippians apparently

 struggling?

10. What did you learn about peace in Philippians? See Philippians 1:2; 4:7 and 9.