

**AN EXPOSITION OF
ST. PAUL'S EPISTLE
TO THE PHILIPPIANS**
BY DR. ROBERT MOREY

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Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION

Hermeneutics.....	2
The First Step	2
Eight Key Questions.....	3

PART ONE

Introduction to Philippians

1. What is the significance of the book's place in the canon of Scripture?.....	4
2. Who is the author of the book?.....	4
3. What were the circumstances of the author when he wrote the book?.....	6
4. To whom was the book written?.....	7
5. What do we know about them and their relationship to the author?.....	8
6. What is the tone of the book?.....	9
7. What is the theme of the book?.....	9
8. What is the outline of the book?	10

PART TWO

Exegetical Notes on the Text.....	11
Conclusion.....	37
Resource Materials.....	38

An Exposition of St. Paul's Epistle to the Philippians

By Dr. Robert A. Morey

Introduction

One of the greatest joys in the Christian life is to study a book of the Bible in great depth. Instead of randomly roaming around the Bible without compass or plan, learn how to *study* the Bible. Become a student of the Word and you will never be the same.

If you want the joy of discovering golden nuggets of truth in Scripture, you have to dig deep and labor long. The gold nuggets of Scripture are not scattered on the surface for lazy readers to scoop up. It is not he who reads most but he who meditates most on what he reads that profits from Scripture.

To this end, we will study the book of Philippians in depth in order to illustrate how to dig deep into the gold mine of Scripture.

Hermeneutics

Hermeneutics is the science of interpreting the Bible according to objective literary rules and principles in order to discern the mind and intent of the author. It covers how to study the words, verses, and books of the Bible.

The First Step

There are eight questions that must be answered BEFORE you begin to study the text of a particular book in the Bible. These questions supply you with the "keys" to unlock the mysteries of that book. Without these keys you will not be able to understand or appreciate what you are reading. You will only float on the surface of Scripture and never see the glorious reefs down below.

Eight Key Questions

1. What is the significance of the book's place in the canon of Scripture?
In His sovereignty, God placed the 66 books of the Bible in a specific order that manifests divine intelligence and covers crucial information to the reader. The Table of Contents in your Bible is the first place to begin your study of a particular book. Where your book is found in the canon of Scripture will orientate your approach to it.
2. Who is the author of the book?
If the author is identified, this gives us keys to understand a book.
3. What were the circumstances of the author when he wrote the book?
His situation supplies us with more keys.
4. To whom was the book written?
If we know the identity of the recipients of the book, this gives us some more insights into the book.
5. What do we know about them and their relationship to the author?
The circumstances of the people to whom the author wrote must be taken into account. Their relationship to the author is also crucial to understanding the book.
6. What is the tone of the book?
The tone of a book is how the book emotionally impacts the reader. Thus a book can "feel" friendly or threatening. The tone of a book can only be discovered by reading it several times.
7. What is the theme of the book?
The overall theme of a book must be grasped and kept in mind when reading it.
8. What is the outline of the book?
The outline of the book will provides us with a roadmap to the book as a whole. This can be very important.

PART ONE

INTRODUCTION TO PHILIPPIANS

Question #1 What is the significance of the book's place in the canon of Scripture?

- A. The place of Philippians in the canon of the entire Bible:
 - 1. It is found in the N. T. instead of in the O. T.
 - 2. It tells Christians what to believe and how to live.
- B. The place of Philippians in the canon of the New Testament:
 - 3. Manifestation: Matt.-John
 - 4. Proclamation: Acts
 - 5. Explanation: Rom.-Phile. (Philippians is in this section)
 - 6. Application: Heb.-Jude
 - 7. Expectation: Rev.
- C. The place of Philippians in the Explanatory section of the N. T.:
 - 8. Church Epistles: Rom.-2 Thess. (Philippians is in this section)
 - 9. Pastoral Epistles: I Tim-Phile.
- D. The place of Philippians in the Church Epistles:
 - 10. Liberty Epistles: Rom., 1 & 2 Cor., Gal., 1 & 2 Thess.
 - 11. Prison Epistles: Eph., Phil., Col. (Philippians is in this section)

Question #2 Who wrote it?

- A. The author simply writes "Paul."
- B. This is significant when compared to how he introduced himself in other epistles.
 - 1. Rom. 1:1: "called as an apostle"
 - 2. 1 Cor. 1:1: "an apostle of Jesus Christ, by the will of God"
 - 3. 2 Cor. 1:1: "an apostle of Christ Jesus, by the will of God"
 - 4. Gal. 1:1: "an apostle (not from a group of men nor from an individual man, but from Jesus Christ and God the Father who raised Him from the dead)"
 - 5. Eph. 1:1: "an apostle of Christ Jesus, by the will of God"
 - 6. Phil. 1:1: "Paul"

- C. The author uses “Paul” instead of “Saul” to emphasize his conversion experience when he, like Jacob, received a new name after personally encountering the Son of God.
- D. What do we know about the author:
1. First gather all the biographical material from Acts, Gal., 1 & 2 Cor., and Phil. and then summarize what we are told.
 2. The material illustrates the absolute sovereignty of God over all of life. God prepared Paul from his mother’s womb for the great task of bringing the Gentiles into the Church (Gal.1:15). Every detail of his life was under the sovereign control of God and was decreed from all eternity.
 3. How was Paul uniquely prepared for this task?
 - a. He was *born a Jew* and was raised in the strictest and most legalistic sect of Judaism, the Pharisees. He excelled in zeal and in rabbinic knowledge of the OT. His knowledge of legalism uniquely prepared him to refute the Judaisers.
 - b. He was *educated in Greek philosophy* and the culture. His condemnation of Greek philosophy as foolishness and mere mindless prattle enabled him to refute pagan philosophers.
 - c. He was *born a Roman citizen* and freely exercised all its rights and privileges.

Note: How many men in Paul’s day had these three things come together in such a powerful way? Was he born for such a time? What about you? Has God prepared you to do some unique work for him that no one else can do?

4. Because Paul could freely navigate in the Jewish, Greek, and Roman worlds, his ministry was truly universal.
5. If he had not been Greek and Roman as well as Jewish, Christianity would not be universal.
6. If he did not know the Greek language and wrote his letters only in Hebrew, they would not have had universal appeal.
7. The Messiah revealed Himself to Saul in A.D. 36, around 6 years after Jesus ascended to heaven.
8. Paul transformed Judaism from:

- a. a national religion to a world religion.
- b. a Jewish religion to a universal religion.
- c. a carnal covenant to a spiritual covenant.
- d. an earthly kingdom to a heavenly citizenship

Note: How was the cultural and political world into which Paul was born prepared by the sovereignty of God for the birth of Christianity?

1. Rome gave political stability to the world and built the roads that would safely carry the gospel to the entire world.
2. Greece gave the world a universal language and culture.
3. The pagan religions were dying and people were looking for something new.
4. Judaism gave the world monotheism and looked forward to the coming of the Messiah who would offer the world peace and salvation.

Did all of this happen by chance? By free will? By luck? Or by the sovereignty of God?

Question #3 What were the circumstances of the author when he wrote the book?

- A. He was in a prison in Rome.
- B. Notice the chronology of Paul's epistles.
 1. 2nd Missionary Journey: Acts 15:36-18:22
 - a. 1 Thess.: A.D. 52
 - b. 2 Thess.: A.D. 53
 2. 3rd Missionary Journey: Acts 18:23-21:20
 - a. 1 Cor.: A.D. 57
 - b. 2 Cor.: A.D. 57
 - c. Gal.: A.D. 58
 - d. Rom.: A.D. 58

3. 1st Imprisonment in Rome: Acts 28:14-31
 - a. Eph.: A.D. 62
 - b. Col.: A.D. 62
 - c. Phile.: A.D. 62
 - d. Phil: A.D. 63
 4. Temporary Liberty
 - a. 1 Tim.: A.D. 67
 - b. Tit.: A.D. 67
 5. 2nd Imprisonment in Rome:
 - 2 Tim.: A.D. 68
- C. Does the fact that Paul was in prison when he wrote this letter give us any insights into:
1. How Paul personally coped with and then triumphed over adverse circumstances in his life?
 2. How can we cope with and triumphed over the adverse circumstances in our life?
 3. What was Paul's "secret?"
 4. Does the fact that he was in prison when he commanded the Philippians to "rejoice in the Lord" give those commands greater force?

Question #4 To whom was the book written?

- A. The city of Philippi: Acts 16:11-13
1. It was named for King Philip, the father of Alexander the Great, in 356 B.C. He developed it to support the gold mines found in the area.
 2. In 42 B.C., it was turned into a Roman military outpost by Caesar Augusta. It duplicated Roman laws, culture, religion, buildings, entertainments, language, etc.
 3. Because it was not a commercial center, it did not have many Jews. This is why it did not have a synagogue.
 4. A few pious women gathered for prayer outside the city at a lovely place along the river.

B. The church at Philippi: Acts 16:13-40

1. Paul was on his way to spread the gospel in Asia when the Holy Spirit told him not to spread the Word in Asia. He then had a vision of a man from Macedonia calling him to come to Europe instead (Acts 16:6-10).
2. Paul changed his plans and went to Europe instead of Asia.

Note: How would the histories of the church, Asia, and Europe be different if Paul went to Asia instead of Europe? Is this yet another example of the sovereignty of God? Or of chance and luck?

3. In A.D. 50, the first city in Europe heard the gospel.
4. The 1st European church was planted in Philippi.
5. The first converts in the first European church were:
 - a. an Asian business women named Lydia.
 - b. a demon-possessed Greek girl.
 - c. a Roman jailor.

Note: The racial makeup of the first “European” church was Asian, Greek, and Roman!

6. We have three records of this church:
 - a. Its *history* is recorded by Luke in Acts 16.
 - b. Its *testimony* is recorded by Paul in Phil.
 - c. Its *heart* is recorded by John in Rev. 3:7-13

Question #5 What do we know about them and their relationship to the author?

- A. Philippians is a real letter to a real church.
- B. It was a fully developed mature church that had elders and deacons.
- C. They had from the very beginning of its existence financially supported Paul’s ministry.
- D. When he ended up in a Roman prison, they did not drop his support because they knew he was evangelizing prisoners and jailors in jail!

E. Luke tells us of the first three converts:

1. Lydia: a business woman whose conversion is attributed to God's opening her heart (Acts 16:11-18).
2. A demon-possessed slave girl: Her exorcism caused Paul's imprisonment (Acts 16:19-24).
3. The jailor: A hard-hearted jailor is conquered by grace (Acts 16:25-40).

Question #6 What is the tone of the book?

- A. Paul's relationship to the Philippian church is that of a loving father to his sweet children.
- B. The word "sin" does not appear in the book even once!
- C. It is a thank you note for past support and an appeal for more support.
- D. Joy and rejoicing fill the book from the beginning to the end.

Question #7 What is the theme of the book?

- A. The theme of Philippians is the humility of Christ.
- B. We must take note of the theme of Philippians as it relates to the themes found in the rest of the Pauline epistles.

Romans	The Gospel of Christ
1 & 2 Corinthians	The Body of Christ
Galatians	The Freedom in Christ
Ephesians	The Blessings of Christ
Philippians	The Humility of Christ
Colossians	The Preeminence of Christ
1 & 2 Thessalonians	The Return of Christ
1 & 2 Timothy	The Church of Christ
Philemon	The Equality in Christ

Question #8 What is the outline of the book?

“The Philippian letter is a revelation of the Christian mind. It is largely without system, and extremely difficult to analyze. Who can analyze a love-letter, and that is what this letter is, which Paul wrote to his children at Philippi.”

G. Campbell Morgan

A. The book naturally falls into four parts, which for once, actually follows the chapter divisions found in our English version!

B. The outline:

Chapter one	Christ our life (1:21)
Chapter two	Christ our mind (2:5)
Chapter three	Christ our goal (3:10)
Chapter four	Christ our strength (4:13)

PART TWO

EXEGETICAL NOTES ON THE TEXT

1:1 Paul and Timothy, bond-servants of Christ Jesus, to all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, including the overseers and deacons:

Key words:

- A. Paul
- B. Timothy
- C. bond-slaves
- D. of Christ Jesus
- E. all the saints
- F. in Christ Jesus
- G. overseers
- H. deacons

Doctrines:

- A. the servanthood of the believer
- B. the sainthood of the believer
- C. union with Christ
- D. church polity

1:2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Key words:

- A. grace
- B. peace
- C. from
- D. God our Father
- E. and
- F. the Lord Jesus Christ

Doctrines:

- A. the biblical doctrine of grace
- B. the biblical doctrine of peace
- C. the deity of Christ with the Father
- D. the Lordship of Christ

1:3-5 I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always offering prayer with joy in my every prayer for you all, in view of your participation in the gospel from the first day until now.

Key words:

- A. I thank my God in all my remembrance of you
- B. always offering prayer with joy in my every prayer for you all
- C. your participation in the gospel
- D. from the first day until now.

Doctrines:

- A. thanksgiving
- B. prayer
- C. financial support of the ministry

1:6 *For I am* confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus.

Key words:

- A. He who began
- B. a good work in you
- C. will perfect it
- D. until the day of Christ Jesus

Doctrines:

- A. what God begins He completes
- B. the sovereignty of God
- C. the perseverance of the saints
- D. the return of Christ

1:7 For it is only right for me to feel this way about you all, because I have you in my heart, since both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers of grace with me.

Key words:

- A. defense
- B. confirmation
- C. of the gospel
- D. you all are partakers with me

Doctrines:

The nature and validity of biblical apologetics

1:8 For God is my witness, how I long for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus.

Key words:

- A. God is my witness
- B. the affection of Christ Jesus

1:9-11 And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve the things that are excellent, in order to be sincere and blameless until the day of Christ; having been filled with the fruit of righteousness which *comes* through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

Key words:

- A. your love may abound still more and more
- B. in real knowledge
- C. and all discernment
- D. approve
- E. excellent
- F. sincere
- G. blameless
- H. the day of Christ
- I. the fruit of righteousness
- J. through Jesus Christ
- K. to the glory and praise of God

Doctrines:

The imputation and impartation of the righteousness of Christ

1:12-14 Now I want you to know, brethren, that my circumstances have turned out for the greater progress of the gospel, so that my imprisonment in *the cause of Christ* has become well known throughout the whole praetorian guard and to everyone else, and that most of the brethren, trusting in the Lord because of my imprisonment, have far more courage to speak the word of God without fear.

Key words:

- A. circumstances have turned out for the greater progress of the gospel
- B. the praetorian guard
- C. courage to speak the word of God without fear

Doctrines:

The sovereignty of God

1:15-17 Some, to be sure, are preaching Christ even from envy and strife, but some also from good will; the latter *do it* out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel; the former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, rather than from pure motives, thinking to cause me distress in my imprisonment.

Key words:

- A. preaching/proclaiming Christ
- B. appointed for the defense of the gospel
- C. out of love
- D. out of selfish ambition
- E. out of pure motives

Doctrines:

- A. biblical doctrine of separation
- B. cooperation with other ministries

1:18 What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed; and in this I rejoice, yes, and I will rejoice.

Key words:

- A. Christ is proclaimed
- B. in this I rejoice

1:19-20 For I know that this shall turn out for my deliverance through your prayers and the provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, according to my earnest expectation and hope, that I shall not be put to shame in anything, but *that* with all boldness, Christ shall even now, as always, be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death.

Key words:

- A. the Spirit of Jesus Christ
- B. Christ shall be exalted in my body,
- C. whether by life or by death

Doctrines:

- A. the Trinity
- B. the personhood and deity of the Holy Spirit

1:21 For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

Key words:

- A. to live is Christ
- B. to die is gain

Doctrines:

- A. the purpose of man
- B. conscious afterlife

1:22 But if *I am* to live *on* in the flesh, this *will mean* fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which to choose.

Key words:

- A. in the flesh
- B. fruitful labor for me

1:23-24 But I am hard-pressed from both *directions*, having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for *that* is very much better; yet to remain on in the flesh is more necessary for your sake.

Key words:

- A. hard-pressed from both directions
- B. to depart
- C. to be with Christ
- D. in the flesh
- E. more needful for your sake

Doctrines:

Refutation of the papist doctrine of praying to saints for help

1:25-26 And convinced of this, I know that I shall remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy in the faith, so that your proud confidence in me may abound in Christ Jesus through my coming to you again.

Key words:

your progress and joy in the faith

1:27-28 Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ; so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel; in no way alarmed by *your* opponents—which is a sign of destruction for them, but of salvation for you, and that *too*, from God.

Key words:

- A. conduct...worthy of the gospel of Christ
- B. standing firm in one spirit
- C. with one mind
- D. striving together for the faith of the gospel
- E. a sign of destruction for them
- F. but of salvation for you

Doctrines:

- A. the perseverance of the saints
- B. eternal conscious punishment

1:29-30 For to you it has been granted for Christ's sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake, experiencing the same conflict which you saw in me, and now hear *to be* in me.

Key words:

- A. has been granted
- B. for Christ's sake
- C. to believe
- D. to suffer for His sake

Doctrines:

- A. faith as the gift of God
- B. suffering as the gift of God

2:1-2 Therefore if there is any encouragement in Christ, if there is any consolation of love, if there is any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose.

Key words:

- A. encouragement
- B. consolation of love
- C. fellowship of the Spirit
- D. affection
- E. compassion
- F. joy
- G. same mind
- H. same love
- I. united in spirit
- J. intent on one purpose

Doctrines:

- A. the fellowship of the Spirit
- B. the deity of the Holy Spirit
- C. the Trinity
- D. Christian unity

2:3-4 Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not *merely* look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.

Key words:

- A. selfishness
- B. empty conceit
- C. humility of mind
- D. regard one another as more important than yourselves
- E. the interests of others

2:5-7 Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, *and* being made in the likeness of men.

Key words:

- A. attitude
- B. existed
- C. form of God
- D. equality with God
- E. a thing to be grasped
- F. emptied himself
- G. the form of a bond-servant
- H. the likeness of man

Doctrines:

- A. the incarnation
- B. the deity of Christ
- C. the humanity of Christ

2:8 Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Key words:

- A. appearance of man
- B. obedient
- C. death on a cross

Doctrines:

- A. the humanity of Christ
- B. the death of Christ on the cross

2:9-11 For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Key words:

- A. God highly exalted Him
- B. the name which is above every name
- C. the name of Jesus
- D. every knee should bow
- E. in heaven
- F. on earth
- G. under the earth
- H. Lord
- I. to the glory of God the Father

Doctrines:

- A. Christ's exaltation at the right hand of the Father
- B. the name above all other names
- C. the obedience of Christ
- D. the Lordship of Christ
- E. conscious afterlife
- F. the universal duty of all men to bow to the Lordship of Christ
- G. the chief end of man

2:12-13 So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for *His* good pleasure.

Key words:

- A. work out your salvation
- B. God is at work in you
- C. to will
- D. to work
- E. for His good pleasure

Doctrines:

- A. the perseverance of the saints
- B. the sovereignty of God
- C. the biblical doctrine of the willing and doing of the Christian life

2:14-16 Do all things without grumbling or disputing; so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world, holding fast the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I will have reason to glory because I did not run in vain nor toil in vain.

Key words:

- A. grumbling
- B. disputing
- C. blameless
- D. innocent
- E. above reproach
- F. lights in the world
- G. holding fast the word of life
- H. the day of Christ
- I. run in vain nor toil in vain

Doctrines:

- A. the biblical condemnation of a complaining spirit
- B. the sovereignty of God
- C. lay evangelism

2:17 But even if I am being poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrifice and service of your faith, I rejoice and share my joy with you all.

Key words:

- A. drink offering
- B. sacrifice
- C. service of your faith

2:18 You too, *I urge you*, rejoice in the same way and share your joy with me.

Key words:

- A. rejoice
- B. share your joy

2:19 But I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you shortly, so that I also may be encouraged when I learn of your condition.

Key words:

hope in the Lord Jesus

2:20 For I have no one *else* of kindred spirit who will genuinely be concerned for your welfare.

Key words:

- A. kindred spirit
- B. genuinely be concerned

2:21 For they all seek after their own interests, not those of Christ Jesus.

Key words:

- A. their own interests
- B. interests of Christ Jesus

2:22 But you know of his proven worth, that he served with me in the furtherance of the gospel like a child *serv*ing his father.

Key words:

- A. proven worth
- B. the furtherance of the gospel
- C. like a child serving his father

2:23-24 Therefore I hope to send him immediately, as soon as I see how things *go* with me; and I trust in the Lord that I myself also will be coming shortly.

Key words:

trust in the Lord

2:25-26 But I thought it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother and fellow worker and fellow soldier, who is also your messenger and minister to my need; because he was longing for you all and was distressed because you had heard that he was sick.

Key words:

- A. Epaphroditus
- B. brother
- C. fellow soldier
- D. messenger
- E. minister

Doctrines:

- A. the nature of the Christian ministry
- B. the proper attitude toward those who labor in the gospel ministry.

2:27 For indeed he was sick to the point of death, but God had mercy on him, and not on him only but also on me, so that I would not have sorrow upon sorrow.

Key words:

- A. God had mercy on him
- B. sorrow upon sorrow

2:28-30 Therefore I have sent him all the more eagerly so that when you see him again you may rejoice and I may be less concerned *about you*. Receive him then in the Lord with all joy, and hold men like him in high regard; because he came close to death for the work of Christ, risking his life to complete what was deficient in your service to me.

Key words:

- A. receive him in the Lord
- B. with all joy
- C. hold men like him in high regard
- D. death for the work of Christ

Doctrines:

the proper attitude we should have toward pastors

3:1 Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things *again* is no trouble to me, and it is a safeguard for you.

Key words:

rejoice in the Lord

3:2-6 Beware of the dogs, beware of the evil workers, beware of the false circumcision; for we are the *true* circumcision, who worship in the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh, although I myself might have confidence even in the flesh. If anyone else has a mind to put confidence in the flesh, I far more: circumcised the eighth day, of the nation of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the Law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to the righteousness which is in the Law, found blameless.

Key words:

- A. dogs
- B. evil workers
- C. false circumcision
- D. true circumcision
- E. worship in the Spirit of God
- F. glory in Christ Jesus
- G. put no confidence in the flesh

Doctrines:

- A. the Judaisers
- B. the heresy of legalism
- C. the necessity of confrontation and condemnation of heretics
- D. the deity of the Holy Spirit
- E. the spiritual nature of worship

3:7 But whatever things were gain to me, those things I have counted as loss for the sake of Christ.

Key words:

- A. gain
- B. counted as loss
- C. for the sake of Christ

3:8-11 More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from *the* Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which *comes* from God on the basis of faith, that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

Key words:

- A. count all things to be loss
- B. the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus
- C. count them but rubbish
- D. gain Christ
- E. be found in Him
- F. not having a righteousness of my own derived from the law
- G. but righteousness derived through faith in Christ
- H. the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith
- I. that I may know Him
- J. the power of His resurrection
- K. the fellowship of His sufferings
- L. being conformed to His death
- M. the resurrection of the dead

Doctrines:

- A. experiential Christianity
- B. the imputation of the righteousness of Christ in justification
- C. the bodily resurrection of Christ
- D. our bodily resurrection from the dead

3:12 Not that I have already obtained *it* or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus.

Key words:

- A. obtained perfection or become perfect
- B. I press on
- C. that I may lay hold of that for which I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus

Doctrines:

- A. sinless perfectionism
- B. progressive sanctification

3:13-14 Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of *it* yet; but one thing *I do*: forgetting what *lies* behind and reaching forward to what *lies* ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Key words:

- A. Brethren
- B. laid hold of it
- C. one thing I do
- D. forgetting what lies behind
- E. reaching forward to what lies ahead
- F. press on
- G. toward the goal
- H. of the prize
- I. the upward call of God in Christ Jesus

3:15-16 Let us therefore, as many as are perfect, have this attitude; and if in anything you have a different attitude, God will reveal that also to you; however, let us keep living by that same *standard* to which we have attained.

Key words:

- A. as many as are perfect
- B. God will reveal that also to you

Doctrines:

Divine guidance in the Christian life

3:17 Brethren, join in following my example, and observe those who walk according to the pattern you have in us.

Key words:

- A. following my example
- B. observe those who walk according to the pattern you have in us

3:18-19 For many walk, of whom I often told you, and now tell you even weeping, *that they are* enemies of the cross of Christ, whose end is destruction, whose god is *their* appetite, and *whose* glory is in their shame, who set their minds on earthly things.

Key words:

- A. enemies of the cross of Christ
- B. whose end is destruction
- C. whose god is their appetite
- D. whose glory is in their shame
- E. set their minds on earthly things

Doctrines:

- A. the enemies of the cross of Christ
- B. eternal conscious punishment

3:20-21 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.

Key words:

- A. citizenship
- B. heaven
- C. eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ
- D. transform the body of our humble state
- E. into conformity with the body of His glory
- F. by the exertion of the power that He has
- G. to subject all things to Himself

Doctrines:

- A. the Christian's relationship to the state
- B. the bodily resurrection of Christ
- C. the literal return of Christ
- D. the transformation of our body at the resurrection
- E. the sovereignty of Christ

4:1 Therefore, my beloved brethren whom I long *to see*, my joy and crown, in this way stand firm in the Lord, my beloved.

Key words:

- A. my beloved
- B. my joy and crown
- C. stand firm in the Lord

Doctrines:

The perseverance of the saints

4:2 I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to live in harmony in the Lord.

Key words:

- A. live in harmony
- B. in the Lord

4:3 Indeed, true companion, I ask you also to help these women who have shared my struggle in *the cause of* the gospel, together with Clement also and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.

Key words:

- A. true companion
- B. help these women
- C. who have shared my struggle in the cause of the gospel
- D. fellow workers
- E. Clement
- F. whose names are in the book of life

Doctrines:

- A. the place of women in the church
- B. the book of life

4:4-5 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice! Let your gentle *spirit* be known to all men. The Lord is near.

Key words:

- A. gentle spirit
- B. the Lord is near

Doctrines:

living your life with an eye to the ever present throne of Christ

4:6 Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

Key words:

- A. Be anxious for nothing
- B. in everything
- C. prayer
- D. supplication
- E. thanksgiving
- F. requests
- G. made known to God

Doctrines:

the theology of prayer

4:7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Key words:

- A. peace of God
- B. surpasses
- C. all comprehension
- D. guard
- E. hearts/minds
- F. in Christ Jesus

Doctrines:

- A. the peace of God
- B. the incomprehensibility of God
- C. doctrine of sanctification
- D. biblical anthropology

4:8 Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things.

Key words:

- A. true
- B. honorable
- C. right
- D. good repute
- E. excellence
- F. lovely
- G. worthy of praise
- H. dwell on

4:9 The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

Key words:

- A. learned – received – heard – seen
- B. practice these things
- C. God of peace
- D. with you

4:10-11 But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at last you have revived your concern for me; indeed, you were concerned *before*, but you lacked opportunity. Not that I speak from want, for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am.

Key words:

- A. learned to be content
- B. in whatever circumstances I am

Doctrines:

the biblical doctrine of Christian contentment

4:12 I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need.

Key words:

- A. humble means
- B. prosperity
- C. in any and every circumstances
- D. the secret
- E. of being filled and going hungry
- F. having abundance and suffering need

4:13 I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

Key words:

- A. all things
- B. through Him who strengthens me

4:14 Nevertheless, you have done well to share *with me* in my affliction.

Key words:

- A. share with me
- B. in my affliction

4:15-16 You yourselves also know, Philippians, that at the first preaching of the gospel, after I left Macedonia, no church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving but you alone; for even in Thessalonica you sent *a gift* more than once for my needs.

Key words:

- A. shared with me
- B. giving

Doctrines:

the support of ministers of the gospel

4:17 Not that I seek the gift itself, but I seek for the profit which increases to your account.

Key words:

- A. the gift
- B. profit increases to your account

4:18 But I have received everything in full and have an abundance; I am amply supplied, having received from Epaphroditus what you have sent, a fragrant aroma, an acceptable sacrifice, well-pleasing to God.

Key words:

- A. a fragrant aroma
- B. an acceptable sacrifice
- C. well-pleasing to God

Doctrines:

the blessedness of giving to the ministry.

4:19 And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

Key words:

- A. my God
- B. will supply your needs
- C. according to His riches
- D. in glory
- E. in Christ Jesus

Doctrines:

the doctrine of sanctification

4:20 Now to our God and Father *be* the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Key words:

- A. be the glory
- B. forever and ever
- C. Amen

Doctrines:

doxologies

4:21-22 Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The brethren who are with me greet you. All the saints greet you, especially those of Caesar's household.

Key words:

Caesar's household

4:23 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

Key words:

- A. the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ
- B. be with your spirit

Doctrines:

- A. the deity of Christ
- B. biblical anthropology

Conclusion

The Epistle of Paul to the Philippians is the most user friendly book in the New Testament. It reminds us that we can rejoice in the Lord regardless of any adverse circumstances. It is profound in its discussion of the Incarnation and exaltation of Christ. It is just as profound in its call to humility and ministry. It is the “passage of full mention” on the secret of Christian contentment. It is truly a love letter from the Apostle to his beloved saints at Philippi.

Resource Materials

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