

Study Buddies:

Quick Bible Reference Guides

PHILIPPIANS: Finding Contentment in Every Circumstance

Note: this sheet was prepared based upon the Contemporary English Version of the Bible, however it is always good to use more than one version as a reference. This practice will enable you to compare the language of the translations and gain a fuller understanding of the text.

Overview

Paul wrote this letter or epistle to the church in Philippi. It speaks about being content in a variety of circumstances and suggests that Christians can have peace no matter what they face in life.

It also describes ways that Christians can overcome the ways of the world to live victoriously.



Key Points and Verses

Please read the whole book to gain the fullest experience. These points are just a few of the highlights that have been encapsulated from the text.

- vs. 1: 15-18; 21-27 Selfish ambition vs. Selfless living
- vs. 1: 28 Building courage through Jesus Christ
- vs. 2: 6-8 True Humility
- vs. 3: 12-16 Perseverance: Running towards the goal
- vs.4: 4-7; 11-13 Contentment through it all

Study Questions

1. What difference does it make knowing that Paul wrote his letter to the Philippians while he was a prisoner?
2. Paul describes choosing between living and dying as a difficult choice to make. Why is this so? (1.21-26). What do you live for? What would you be willing to die for?
3. Philippians 2.6-11 is probably a hymn that the early Christians sang as part of their worship. Summarize its key points. What hymns or songs are most meaningful to you? Why?
4. What does Paul mean when he says, “faith in the Lord and...service are like a sacrifice offered to him?” (2.17). What does it mean to be a servant of God?
5. What is the “prize” that Paul is running after? (3.12-14). How is the Christian life like a race?
6. Re-read Paul's advice in 4.4-6. Of all the things he commands, which would be the easiest for you to do? Which would be the hardest? Why?
7. Paul says “I have learned to be satisfied with whatever I have.” (4.11). Have there been times in your life when you had very little? When you've had a lot? What do you need to be equally satisfied in either circumstance?

Something to Think About

(additional food for thought)

Can you be content in all situations? What does verse 4:13 mean to you?