

RBCPC
2011 Study Series



New Testament

Week #7
Study Guide

Philippians

Posting date: May 18, 2011

www.rbcpc.org/mark-up-your-bible/

Overview

Paul considered the church he established in Philippi a success. The church was a unified church body focused on serving others. Paul's letter to the Philippians is often called his "ode to joy." It is personal, positive, and encouraging. It was probably written while he was in prison in Rome – an unlikely place for such uplifting words.

Merriam Webster Open Dictionary defines **joy** as: *the emotion evoked by well-being, success, or good fortune or by the prospect of possessing what one desires.*

Scripture Study – Key Passages

Open your Bible and read the following scripture:

Philippians 1:4-6

1. What does the word "joy" mean to you?
2. Why is *joy* so important to Paul at this time in his ministry?
3. Merriam Webster on-line reports that the word "joy" is in the top 10% of all time word definition requests. How might this reflect the value of joy in our culture today?
4. What value does *joy* have for you in your relationship with Jesus?

Philippians 1:9

1. What does Paul mean by "abound more in knowledge and depth of insight?"
2. Why is this important for the church in Philippi?
3. Why is this important for a successful church today?
4. Is "knowledge and depth of insight" important to you personally? Explain.

Philippians 4:12-14

1. What is Paul's secret to being content in every situation?
2. Who gives Paul strength?
3. What was the impact of the Philippian's support of Paul and his ministry?
4. How might you be a "Philippian" for a "Paul" today?

Philippians 4:23

1. What does "grace" mean to you?
2. How might you share the "grace of the Lord Jesus Christ" with others?
3. If you accept "grace" in your spirit, how might this grace change the way you treat a difficult person in your life?
4. Do you expect others to treat you with "grace?" Explain.

Key Themes:

Joy – Thanksgiving – Encouragement – Knowing Christ

Reflection

As you reflect on the positive encouragement from this letter, think about where you are headed. Ask God for the wisdom and courage to live daily as a citizen of heaven, standing firmly against the influences that seek to deflect you from that goal.

Paul's Prayers in Philippians:

As you read through the following prayers, joyfully reflect that Paul is praying for all believers as well as those in Philippi, and that means YOU!

Blessing:

Philippians 1:2

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

Joy:

Philippians 1:3-4

I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy

Love & Knowledge:

Philippians 1:9-11

And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ - to the glory and praise of God.

Thanksgiving:

Philippians 4:6

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

Homework

Read ***Philippians 4:4-9***, in preparation for the sermon on May 28/29, "*Rejoice in the Lord.*" Mark words, or phrases that stand out to you.

Notes & Reflections: