

The Book of Philippians

BACKGROUND – Paul’s letter to the Philippians was very personal and practical, as opposed to formal and doctrinal. The church at Philippi was the first church planted in Europe – Acts 16:9-40.

THEME: the Christian life

KEY VERSE: 1:21 – *“For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.”*

OUTLINE:

Chapter 1 – CHRIST OUR LIFE

- 1:1-11 ... Paul’s Greeting
- 1:12-26 ... Paul’s Perspective on His Afflictions
- 1:17-30 ... Paul’s Exhortation To The Afflicted

Chapter 2 – CHRIST OUR MIND – (2:5> *‘Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus.’*)

- 2:1-4 ... Exhortation to Humility
- 2:5-16 ... Christ’s Humility
- 2:17-18 ... Christian Humility
- 2:19-30 ... Living Examples of Humility – Timothy and Epaphroditus

Chapter 3 – CHRIST OUR GOAL – (3:12-14> *‘...one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the GOAL for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.’*)

- 3:1-16 ... Warning Against Legalism
- 3:17-16 ... Warning Against Lawlessness

Chapter 4 – CHRIST OUR JOY AND PEACE

- 4:1-3 ... Peace with One Another
- 4:4 ... Joy in the Lord
- 4:5-9 ... Peace of God
- 4:10-20 ... Joy in Every Circumstance
- 4:21-23 ... Closing Greetings



THE LESSON OF PRACTICAL CHRISTIANITY – 1:21 – **What does it mean to have Christ as our life?** – It means that we will have;

(1st) **The HEART of Christ** (1:7-8) – Christians desire to have the same love and affections of the Lord Jesus for others – Mark 1:40-41... 6:31-37

(2nd) **The INTERESTS of Christ** (1:12-18) – if Christ is really our life, our interests and concerns will **not be self-focused**, they will be focused on the larger interests of our Savior... Matthew 16:24-25

‘He is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep, to gain what he cannot lose.’ – Jim Elliott

(3rd) **The MIND of Christ** (2:1-8) – characterized by;

<1> **Humility** – 2:3-7 ... Romans 12:16... Isaiah 57:15... James 4:6

<2> **Obedience** – 2:8 ... Hebrews 5:7-9 > Philippians 2:12-15

(4th) **Christ as Our GOAL or PRIZE** (3:7-8,10-14)

v.8 ... *that I may gain Christ*

v.10 ... *that I may know Him...*

v.11 ... *that I may attain* (lit.> get to where I’m going

v.12 ... *that I may lay hold of...*

(5th) **The JOY and PEACE of Christ** (4:4-7) – These two graces almost always go together...

John 15:11... 14:27

(6th) **The STRENGTH of Christ** (4:13) – Ephesians 6:10... 2 Timothy 2:1... Colossians 1:11

(7th) **The RICHES of Christ** (4:14-19) – 2 Cor 8:1-5... 9:8