

Philippians Series

Lesson #033

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Dean Bible Ministries

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Philippians

Living to Fulfill our Spiritual Mission

Philippians 1:25–26



**What the Bible Teaches
About**

Occupation with Christ



What does “occupation” mean in this context?

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to be totally focused and engrossed in a task or with a person. Webster’s says it means 1: to engage the attention or energies of [*Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary*]

1. Occupied with Christ means to focus our attention on Him, so that we are fully engaged in fulfilling Christ's mission for our lives.

2. What is Christ's mission for our lives?

We are to understand we now belong to Christ:

1 Cor. 6:20, “For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.”

Php. 3:7, “But what things were gain to me, these I have counted loss for Christ.

Php. 3:8, “Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as manure, that I may gain [more intimately knowing] Christ

Php. 3:9, “and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith;

Php. 3:10, “that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,”

Php. 3:12, “Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.”

Rom. 8:29, “For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.” [NKJV]

Matt. 28:19, “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, by baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, [RD]

Matt. 28:20, “by teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and remember, I am with you daily, until the end of the age. Amen.” [RD]

3. The promise of abundant life.

John 10:10, “The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come 1) that they may have life, and 2) that they may have it more abundantly.”

Eph. 2:5, “even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

Eph. 2:6, “and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,”

1 John 2:4, “He who says, ‘I know Him,’ and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

1 John 2:5, “But whoever keeps His word, truly the love for God is matured in him. By this we know that we are in Him [walking in fellowship].”

4. But how do we get there?

- a. We must realize and accept that this is to be our objective also, to glorify Christ, to magnify Him!**
- b. To do so we must come to know Him. That only happens as we grow.**

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5. We must adjust our mental attitude focus.

Matt. 6:31, “Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’

Matt. 6:32, “For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.

Matt. 6:33, “But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”

6. Occupation with Christ is developed along with our personal love for the Father and the Son. As we do this, we make that relationship the number one priority in our life.

Heb. 12:1, “Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

Heb. 12:2, “by looking [focusing, concentrating on] unto Jesus, the author [leader, originator] and one who has brought to completion our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

[NKJV]

1 Cor. 11:1, “Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.”

Heb. 6:12, “that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.”

Eph. 5:1, “Therefore be imitators of God as dear children.”

7. What is necessary to develop our love for God and the Lord Jesus Christ?

Mark 12:33, “And to love Him with all the heart, with all the understanding, with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love one’s neighbor as oneself, is more than all the whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.”

John 14:15, “If you love Me, keep My commandments.”

John 14:24, “He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father’s who sent Me.”

1 John 4:20, “If someone says, ‘I love God,’ and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?”

1 John 5:2, “By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments.”

Paul's confidence

Php. 1:19, “For I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayer and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,

Php. 1:20, “according to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death.” [NKJV]

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οἶδα oida

**1 sing perf act indic
to know; a confident knowledge**

Php. 1:19, “For I confidently know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayer and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, [RD]

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οἶδα oida

**1 sing perf act indic
to know; a confident knowledge**

σωτηρία sōtēria

**fem sing acc
salvation, preservation,
deliverance from a
difficult situation**

Php. 1:19, “For I confidently know [oída] that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayer and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, [RD] ...

Php. 1:20, “according to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death.

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

Php. 1:22, “But if I live on in the flesh, this will mean fruit from my labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell.

Php. 1:23, “For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better.

Php 1:24, “Nevertheless to remain in the flesh is more needful for you.

Php. 1:25, “And I have already become convinced of this, I confidently know [oída] that I shall remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy of faith,

Php. 1:26, “that your rejoicing for me may be more abundant in Jesus Christ by my coming to you again.” [NKJV]

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Paul's Options

Remaining Here

In a corrupt, temporary tent

Adversity, pain, sorrow mixed
with joy

Suffering in our corrupt mortality

Absent from our Lord

Continuous spiritual warfare,
angelic revolt

Sinful, sorrowful world

Face to Face with Christ

An incorruptible, permanent body

Indescribable, permanent joy

The reality of full abundant life

Face to face with our Lord

At peace with our Lord waiting
His final victory

Perfect, sinless, flawless world

Eph. 3:1, “For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles—

Eph. 3:2, “if indeed you have heard of the administration of the grace of God which was given to me for you,

Eph. 3:3, “how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already,

Eph. 3:4, “by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ),”

Eph. 3:5, “which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets:

Eph. 3:6, “that **the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel,**

Eph. 3:7, “of which I became a minister according to the gift of the grace of God given to me by the effective working of His power.”

Php. 3:1, “Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. For me to write the same things to you is not tedious, but for you it is safe.

Php. 3:2, “Beware of dogs, beware of evil workers, beware of the mutilation!

Php. 3:3, “For we are the circumcision, who worship God in the Spirit, rejoice in Christ Jesus, and have no confidence in the flesh,”

Php. 3:18, “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:

Php. 3:19, “whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame—who set their mind on earthly things.”

Php. 1:24, “Nevertheless to remain in the flesh is more needful for you.” [NKJV]

Php. 1:24, “Nevertheless to remain in the flesh [physical body] is more needful for you.” [NKJV]

2 Cor. 5:1, “For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

2 Cor. 5:2, “For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven,

2 Cor. 5:3, “if indeed, having been clothed, we shall not be found naked.

2 Cor. 5:4, “For we who are in this tent groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life.

2 Cor. 5:5, “Now He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.”

2 Cor. 5:6, “So we are always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord.

2 Cor. 5:7, “For we walk by faith, not by sight.

2 Cor. 5:8, “We are of good courage, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.”

Php. 1:24, “Nevertheless to remain in the flesh [physical body] is more needful for you.” [NKJV]

ἀναγκαῖος *anagkaios*

Adjective neut sing nom

comp necessary

Ten Spiritual Skills

Confession of Sin

**Personal sense of our
eternal destiny**

**Walking by the Holy Spirit/
Being filled by the HS**

Personal love for God (F)

Faith-Rest Drill

**Unconditional/Impersonal
love for all mankind**

Doctrinal orientation

Occupation with Christ

Grace orientation

**Sharing the happiness
of Christ**

Php. 1:25, “And because I have become fully persuaded of this, I confidently know that I shall remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy of faith,

**Php. 1:26, “that your rejoicing for me may be more abundant in Jesus Christ by my coming to you again.”
[NKJV]**

Php. 1:25, “And because I have become fully persuaded of this, I confidently know that I shall remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy of faith,” [RD]

πείθω *peithō*

**perf act part masc sing nom
to persuade; believe; trust; be
made confident**

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to know; a confident
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προκοπή prokopē

fem sing acc

progress, success

**Christ's joy resulting from
faith**

John 15:11, “These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.”

John 16:24, “Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.”

John 17:13, “But now I come to You, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have My joy fulfilled in themselves.”

**Php. 1:26, “that your rejoicing for me may be more abundant in Jesus Christ by my coming to you again.”
[NKJV]**