

## **Book of Philippians**

### **1. Philippians 1:1-12 (topic)**

1) Observation: Paul is writing a letter from prison. He is constantly guarded and chained up twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. Amid these difficulties, what does Paul think positively about his imprisonment? (1:7, 12)

2) Interpretation: "And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment" (1:9). How can love become more abundant? Love without knowledge and deep insight becomes blind love. Why do you think that is? (1:10)

3) Application:

3.1(God Loving Us): "And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ" (1:6). Who is the one who started a good work in you? Since when?

3.2(God Meeting Us): If you were in a situation similar to the people of Philippi, how would you be influenced by Paul's positive message?

3.3(God Refinding Us): Why is it difficult to maintain a positive attitude in extremely difficult trials or situations? What do you think is Paul's secret?

3.4(God Inspiring US): To live "pure and blameless for the day of Christ's return," what spiritual efforts are you practicing?

4) Real Life Today: Paul describes the Philippians as fellow workers in the gospel. What does he mean by that? Are you and your church co-workers spreading the gospel?

### **2. Philippians 2:1-12 (topic)**

1) Observation: Paul begins by mentioning four aspects of the faith journey. What are they? (2:1) What do you think these things mean?

2) Interpretation: In verses 5-9, what can we learn about the character of Christ? What is the key to understanding the nature of Christ?

3) Application:

3.1(God Loving Us): How does your relationship with Christ affect your intention to seek the well-being of others, not just yourself? How does this benefit and help your relationship with God?

3.2(God Meeting Us): What temptations in life make it difficult for your intention to take on the "mind of Christ"? Amid difficulties, what conflicts of the heart arise, such as selfish ambition, rivalry, or conceit?

3.3(God Refinding Us): Think about the situation of the people in Philippi. How can the experiences mentioned in 2:1 motivate or help them practice the instructions in verses 2-4?

3.4(God Inspiring US): What do you see in the description of Christ's life that Paul presents (2:5-11)? Do you strive to have the mind of Christ in all situations?

4) Real Life Today: Whom did God call to be of "one mind" with Him? Is it your vision to be part of a faith community that grows together in unity? Should the Christian community be of one mind in fulfilling the mission of spreading the gospel?

### **3. Philippians 3:3-14 (topic)**

1) Observation: What did Paul say his righteousness was not based on, but what was it based on? (2:9)

2) Interpretation: Paul had relied on the flesh (carnal things) in the past. What are the carnal things in my life? How do they hinder my faith?

3) Application:

3.1(God Loving Us): Before meeting Christ, Paul persecuted the church diligently. Even in that life, how did God's Spirit lead Paul to encounter Jesus?

3.2(God Meeting Us): Paul gave up everything else to "share in Christ's sufferings and become like him in his death" (3:10). To participate in Christ's suffering, what can I give up?

3.3(God Refinding Us): Paul promised the Philippians that God would supply all their needs according to his riches. If we help a person in need in Christ's name, do we believe that God will abundantly supply our needs in times of need? Have you experienced such a Lord?

3.4(God Inspiring US): Paul ran toward the goal to obtain "the heavenly prize" (the upward call of God in Christ Jesus). What is your "heavenly prize," and what are you doing to pursue it?

4) Real Life Today: Paul confessed in front of everyone that he did not consider himself to have already obtained "the heavenly prize." We can learn from Apostle Paul's honest and humble example here. How different could our faith community be if all saints were honest and humble with each other?

### **4. Philippians 4:1-23(topic)**

1) Observation: In verse 10, Paul is greatly rejoicing in the Lord. What made him joyful?

2) Interpretation: Paul says he knows how to be brought low and how to abound. (4:12) What is his secret to being able to live that way?

3) Application:

3.1(God Loving Us): Like Paul, many people experience both abundance and lack. When we are in need, we often feel more distant from God than when we are well-fed and prosperous. In which situation do I experience God's prevenient grace more?

3.2(God Meeting Us): How can practicing and living out what is mentioned in verse 8 impact the lives of the people in Philippi? How can it affect the gospel ministry in Philippi?

3.3(God Refinding Us): Paul assured the Philippians that God would supply all their needs. When we help those in need, believing that God will abundantly supply our needs in return, how does this become an example and help our relationship with God?

3.4(God Inspiring US): Are you experiencing and living the statement "I can do all things through him who strengthens me" in your daily life? Have you accomplished the impossible by putting this into practice?

4) Real Life Today: The people of Philippi supported Paul in his times of material difficulty. Are you and your church helping neighbors or missionaries going through similar challenges as the Philippians did?