

Philippians Chapter 1

1. Refer to vv. 3-5. Obviously, Paul is fond of the Philippians. How do you think he was treated at Philippi? (When *done* discussing, read footnote and explain.¹)
2. Imprisonment is generally considered bad. What good things was God able to bring out of Paul's imprisonment?
3. Why would the imprisonment/persecution of a saint embolden others?
4. Paul recognizes that some are preaching the Gospel in order to stir up trouble for him, yet he rejoices because the Gospel is being preached. Given Paul's example, how should we respond to different sects within Christianity (e.g. Methodists, Baptists, Episcopalians and Catholics) with whom we may have doctrinal disagreements?
5. Read vv. 21-26. What does the phrase "to live is Christ" mean?
6. Bonus Thought: Referring to vv. 3-5 again, Matthew Henry observed:

He thanked God upon every joyful remembrance of them. Observe, thanksgiving must have a part in every prayer; and whatsoever is the matter of our rejoicing ought to be the matter of our thanksgiving. What we have the comfort of, God must have the glory of. He thanked God, as well as made requests with joy. As holy is the heart and soul of thankful praise, so thankful praise is the lip and language of holy joy.

How often do we thank God in our personal and group prayers?

¹ Regarding these verses, Matthew Henry states, "At Philippi he was maltreated; there he was scourged and put into the stocks and for the present saw little of the fruit of his labor; and yet he remembers Philippi with joy."

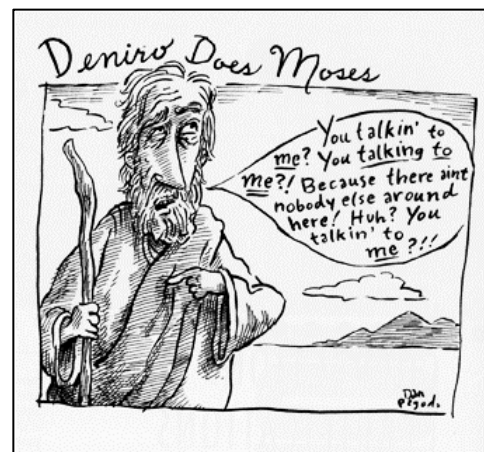
Philippians Chapter 2

- 1) Name 5 qualities that as a member of a Christian community (ie. Church, fellowship group or Bible Study) one should adopt, to build that Christ-like community?
- 2) How does one work out one's faith with 'fear and trembling'?
- 3) What is your take on the meaning of vs. 6-11 (an early Christian Hymn that Paul appropriates here) in terms of Christ's divinity and humanity? How do other Christian groups interpret this passage? Anyone???
- 4) In the Bible, it is often said that Jesus' name is above all others. What does this really mean? Is this merely poetic? (vs. 9-11)
- 5) What do you make of vs. 24? Paul was confident that he would return to Phillipi. He most likely did not. Why was Paul wrong? How could Paul be wrong?! What are we to make of confident pronouncements said in the name of the Lord? Should one make such statements?
- 6) Does vs 19-30 give us a model for discipleship?

Philippians 3

I beat my body and make it my slave... (1 Cor 9:27)

- Paul refers to us as perfect, and not yet perfect, in the same way that we are saved, yet working our salvation (Ph 2:12). See also 2 Cor 13:9-11, Mt 5:48, Heb 12:2, Jas 3:2.
 - When Paul says “that is the way I can hope to take my place in the resurrection of the dead” he is referring not to the general resurrection of the saved and the damned (Jn 5:29) but to the true resurrection of the saints who are separated from the spiritually dead, to life with Christ (Lk 20:35+).
- 1) **The Race:** Read Heb 12:1-3, 2 Tim 4:7-8, 1 Cor 9:24-27. Briefly answer the following:
 - a) What are the goals of the race? (v. Ph 3:11-12, 2 Tim 4:8)
 - b) Is this a metaphor which is only appropriate for some personalities, or is it universal? (Ph 3:15)
 - c) How do you run the race? (Ph 3:10, 2 Tim 4:7)
 - d) List four things you can do to make the race easier. (2xHeb 12:1-3, Ph 3:17, 1 Cor 9:27 – explain!)
 - e) Who surrounds us for “moral support?” (Heb 12:1)
 - f) When, if ever, is the race done? (2 Tim 4:7)
 - g) What does it mean to *not* run the race? (Ph 3:19-20)
 - h) Where is our homeland, as runners in the race? (Ph 3:21)
 - i) What (is one of the things that) will happen to us when we cross the finish line? (Ph 3:21)
 - 2) Paul was immensely excited about the gospel, perhaps more so than we tend to be. There are several reasons why Paul might have been more enthusiastic than we:
 - a) Paul had been a Jew, living under the Law, and was freed from it by the gospel
 - b) Paul had a zealous personality
 - c) Paul was an ecclesiast – his work with the “church” had always been his life
 - d) Paul had decided to dedicate his entire life to Christ (i.e., did he bootstrap his enthusiasm?)
 - e) Paul had had a personal and dramatic revelation of Christ
 - f) Paul had been face-to-face with the apostlesEven without these, there is ample reason to be excited by the gospel. Who was the most enthusiastic Xian you have known? Why was he or she enthusiastic?
 - 3) **“Take note** of those who live according to the pattern we gave you.” (v. 17)
 - a) Who is a mature Xians *you* (can or do) study?
 - b) What are you proud of in the example you set for younger Xians?
 - 4) **“But our citizenship is in heaven.”** (v. 20)
 - a) What allegiance should we not give to earthly nations (i.e., not “render unto Caesar”) as citizens of heaven?
 - b) As non-citizens, should make our goal personal growth & evangelism rather than improving the world around us (or even pushing back the frontiers of knowledge)?
 - 5) What have you done in the past year in the race (or what ground have you covered)? What would you like to do in the next year to press forward?
 - 6) **“...forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead”** (v. 13) What are we to forget, and why?



Philippians Chapter 4

PRE-STUDY QUIZ

1. When I am anxious my first reaction I usually :
2. Determine the three subjects which have most occupied your thought life for the past seven days. In the handy chart below, indicate “agree” or “disagree” for each :

This thought pattern is...	Topic 1	Topic 2	Topic 3
True			
Noble			
Right			
Pure			
Lovely			
Admirable			
Excellent			
Praiseworthy			

3. When I am content, I am:

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Joyful | <input type="checkbox"/> Well-fed | <input type="checkbox"/> Pleased with life in general |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Happy | <input type="checkbox"/> In harmony w/ others | <input type="checkbox"/> Finished with my thesis |
| <input type="checkbox"/> At peace | <input type="checkbox"/> In harmony w/ God | <input type="checkbox"/> Playing volleyball |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asleep | <input type="checkbox"/> Not myself | <input type="checkbox"/> Praising God |

PHILIPPIANS CHAPTER 4 - QUESTIONS

1. In vv. 2-3 Paul seems to be describing two women who he respects. What can we learn about dealing with brethren in dispute from the way he addresses this problem
2. In vv. 4-8 Paul addresses our internal attitude toward our circumstances. Since he was imprisoned at the time, these verses are particularly meaningful. In practical terms, how can we :
 - Rejoice in our most difficult circumstances?
 - Achieve a spirit of gentleness toward others?
 - Actively turn our thoughts toward those Paul described?
3. Vv. 10-13 : What does it mean to be content? How can we practice contentedness with our present circumstances in our daily living?