

Quarter 4 Lesson 5  
Sixth Grade  
Rejoice in the Lord!  
Philippians

Memory Verse: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."  
Philippians 4:13

Background Information



Philippi was a city in eastern Macedonia (modern Greece).



It was situated on a plain surrounded by mountains and lay about 10 miles inland from the Aegean Sea. *SEE IF YOU CAN LOCATE IT ON THE MAP.*



Philippi had a forum (a public square or marketplace where legal and political business was conducted) the size of a football field, an open-air theater, two large temples, public buildings, a library, and Roman baths. When Philippi was made into a Roman colony, its citizens were given the same rights and privileges usually granted to those who lived in the cities in Italy.



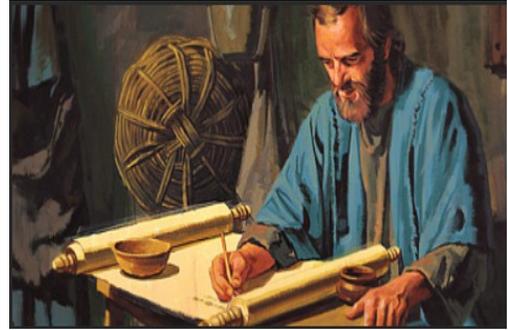
Paul had visited Philippi on his second missionary journey in A.D. 49. This is where he had met with a group of women for prayer by the riverside outside the city. One of the women who had befriended Paul was Lydia, who was a dealer in purple cloth. (Acts 16)



It was here also that Paul had healed a slave girl, who was possessed by an evil spirit, and was then arrested, along with Silas, because of accusations brought by her owners. You may remember that Paul and Silas were singing at midnight when an earthquake shook the prison, opening the doors. The keeper of the

prison, assuming that the prisoners had escaped, was about to commit suicide when Paul stopped him. After hearing the gospel, the Philippian jailor and his household were baptized. (We studied these stories last quarter.) Although this letter was penned several years after these events, it is to this church in Philippi that Paul writes this epistle.

Paul was in prison when he wrote this letter somewhere around 60-62 A.D. Many Bible scholars believe he was awaiting trial in Rome when this epistle was penned because of his references to the “whole palace guard” and his sending greetings from “Caesar's household.”



Throughout his missionary life, the Philippians had held a special place in the heart of Paul. The Philippian church had sent supplies to Paul to help him out as he went about preaching the gospel. He writes to them with affection and joy.

WHAT VERSES CAN YOU FIND THAT SHOW THAT THIS CHURCH IS SPECIAL TO PAUL? In chapter 1, look in verses 3-4 where Paul thanks God for his memories of them and tells how he prays for them. Verse 7 says, "I hold you in my heart." In verse 8 he says, "I yearn for you..." In the following verses Paul tells the Philippians that he prays that their love will grow more and more and that they will be "filled with the fruit of righteousness" to God's glory.

SHOULD PEOPLE IN OTHER CONGREGATIONS BE SPECIAL TO US TODAY? DO YOU HAVE FRIENDS FROM OTHER CONGREGATIONS? IF SO, HOW DID YOU MEET THEM? WHAT ARE SOME GOOD WAYS FOR YOU TO MEET KIDS FROM OTHER CONGREGATIONS? WHY IS MEETING THEM A GOOD THING?

**READ Phil.1:12-14** WHAT DOES PAUL MEAN WHEN HE SAYS "...that the things which happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel"? When Paul planned to visit Rome, he never thought it would be as a prisoner. However, even though he was jailed, he still preached the gospel: to visitors, to guards, to anyone who would listen! Now, that's making lemonade out of lemons! Sometimes in life things don't always turn out the way we think they will. Who would have ever dreamed that you would not return to school after spring break and have to be home-schooled? Who would have thought we would not be able to come together to worship in our building? Even though things don't always go as planned, we can be like Paul and make the best of it. Sometimes in unexpected bad situations unexpected good things happen. WHAT KIND OF ATTITUDE DOES PAUL SHOW HERE?

WHAT KIND OF ATTITUDE DO YOU HAVE WHEN THINGS DON'T GO AS YOU PLANNED?



As Paul is writing this letter, he is sitting in prison. **LOOK AT VERSE 1:21.** WHAT DOES HE MEAN WHEN HE SAYS “For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.” YOU WILL FIND THE ANSWER IN **VERSES 22-24.** *If Paul continues to live, he can continue to preach the gospel. However, if he dies, he will be ready to spend eternity with Christ which is even better.*

**READ Phil. 2:3-16.**

Here Paul is encouraging the Philippians in specific ways to live a Christian life. Let's take a look at some of them.

Vr. 3: Do nothing selfishly or with conceit, but be humble by **putting others before yourself.**

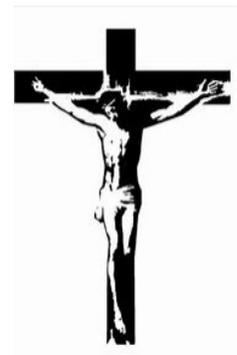
Vr. 4: Look out not only for your own interests but for the interests of others also. (This doesn't mean to be nosy, but goes back to the meaning in verse 3.)

Vr. 14: **Do things without grumbling or arguing.**

Vr. 15: **Let your behavior shine as a light** in a world of sin.

Vr. 16: **Hold fast to the Word.**

In addition, Paul reminds the church about what Jesus did for us. **Verses 5-8** discuss how Jesus came to live on earth in the likeness of men, humbling Himself, dying on the cross...all for us.



**Read verses 9-11 again. Notice that on Judgement Day, there will be no atheists!!**



In chapter 3, Paul discusses the difference between true and false righteousness. He tells how he was once zealous in persecuting Christians, because **he thought he was right** in doing so. (False righteousness) ARE THERE STILL PEOPLE TODAY WHO **THINK** THEY ARE DOING THE RIGHT THING (FALSE RIGHTEOUSNESS) BUT WHO ARE ACTUALLY WRONG? Has there ever been a time when you were sure you were right about something but, to your embarrassment, you turned out to be wrong? True righteousness comes from doing what is right according to **God**. HOW DID PAUL LEARN TRUE RIGHTEOUSNESS? HOW CAN WE BE SURE OF WHAT TRUE RIGHTEOUSNESS IS TODAY?

One of the most famous verses in the Bible is **Phil. 4:13** "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Before making this statement, Paul had said that no matter in what circumstances he found himself, he had learned to be content. He had experienced the good and the bad. WHAT DOES PHIL. 4: 13 MEAN TO YOU?

Paul's letter to the Philippians is full of good advice for us today. Look at **Chapter 4: 4-8:**

"4 **Rejoice in the Lord always**; again I will say, rejoice. 5 **Let your reasonableness be known to everyone**. The Lord is at hand; 6 **do not be anxious** about anything, but **in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God**. 7 And the **peace of God**, which surpasses all understanding, **will guard your hearts and your minds** in Christ Jesus. 8 Finally, brothers, **whatever is true**, whatever is **honorable**, whatever is **just**, whatever is **pure**, whatever is **lovely**, whatever is **commendable**, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, **think about these things**." (ESV)

Let's try our best every day to have the kind of attitude that Paul had. Let's rejoice in the Lord and live so that one day we can spend eternity in heaven!

Material prepared by Margaret Ann Sanders for online Bible class.

Sources:

Holy Scriptures ESV; NKJV.

"Philippi." *Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary*, Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1986.

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