

Philippians: Week 1 Study Questions

Philippians 1:1-11

Paul does not hold back in expressing his affection towards the Philippians, revealing to us a community of believers sharing in their suffering and working together to glorify God. Paul recognizes that he is under the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ, eager to serve Him and challenge the church of Philippi to remain faithful to the work that God is doing in and through them.

Application

1. Paul is secure in his identity as a servant of God. Have you experienced this assurance that whatever governs you has been overthrown, and you are under a new king—the Lord Jesus Christ? In what ways are you still living under the authority of the world or of sin?
2. How would those around you or in authority over you describe the thoughts that come to mind when they think of you? Who in your life is full of joy, gratitude, and confidence that God is doing something in you? Where is God's work evident in your life for your spouse, children, or parents to see and be grateful and full of joy because of what He is doing?
3. Community happens where people are suffering together for a common cause outside of themselves. How is this principle true or not true of your life currently? Describe a time when you have developed deep relationships with others by working alongside them or suffering through hardship with them.
4. Paul recognizes that the Philippians have to learn how to give themselves to worthy things to persevere and not wander into a pattern of sin. What do you spend your time and energy on that is worthy? What things are not worthy? What action step do you need to take to be sure that you are spending your time on worthy things?

Key Points

- Paul identifies himself as a slave of Jesus—he recognizes that he is under the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ and will do whatever He wants him to do.
- Seeing lives that have been changed by the gospel and the fruit produced by a transformed life provides confirmation of our faith.
- Bill suggested that Paul may have spent more time talking to God about the Philippians than talking to the Philippians about God. Often this should be true for us with parenting, friendships, or those we are in leadership over. Our prayer life is to be a major part of our relationship with others.
- It is confidence coupled with humility that inspires Paul to pray.
- Paul wants us to approve what is worthy; this will ultimately enable us to persevere in our faith.
- Worry reveals confidence in yourself.
- Our confidence comes from knowing that God's grip on us is sufficient.
- God began a work in us, and God finishes what He starts.