



MONDAY 2 APRIL 2018

SERIES: Philippians

Read: Philippians 1:1-2

Plug In...

Paul is in prison (1:7) when he writes to Philippi. Paul says elsewhere he was in prison a lot ([2 Corinthians 11:23](#)), but there are only two named locations we know of in the Bible where he had a long stay. The early location, Ephesus ([Acts 23](#)). Then at the end of Paul's missionary career, Rome ([Acts 28](#)). Paul could have been writing from either of these locations.

Paul writes to the church in Philippi because they have a very special place in his heart. They were the first church he planted in Europe ([Acts 16:6-40](#)).

Chew It Over...

We often gloss over introductory words in the letters, but let's slow down and notice a couple of things.

How do Paul and Timothy describe themselves?

How are the church members in Philippi described?

Given these are just everyday people working in the city of Philippi, what do these descriptions tell us about what it means to be a Christian?

Prayer Suggestion

Thank God that Europe were reached with the gospel. In Australia we are direct descendants of Paul's European mission. Think of the first person who shared the gospel with you and thank God for them. Indeed, *grace and peace* to us from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.



TUESDAY 3 APRIL 2018

SERIES: Philippians

Read: Philippians 1:3-6

Plug In...

Remembering for Paul is not left as free-floating. He goes on to pray. Praying with thanks to God.

Chew It Over...

Why does Paul thank God with such joy when he remembers the Philippians?

Read [4:14-20](#). How were the Philippians partners of Paul in the gospel?

Who are you teamed up with in active partnership in gospel work?

Prayer Suggestion

Ask for deep partnership. Pray for your partners in the gospel work. Thank God every time you remember them. Set yourself up to remember them deliberately and pray for them.



WEDNESDAY 4 APRIL 2018

SERIES: Philippians

Read: Philippians 1:6

Plug In...

"In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."

Chew It Over...

Paul is confident. Why?

Do you live your Christian life in fear? Are you worried if you're doing enough, advancing enough? Christians are to do stuff. But how does this release us from worry, fear, anxiety?

Prayer Suggestion

Thank God for His comprehensive work in your life. Ask to be more reflective and more thankful of the fruit of confession, repentance, faith, good works that appear in your life.



THURSDAY 5 APRIL 2018

SERIES: Philippians

Read: Philippians 1:7-11

Plug In...

We get to see Paul's heart. This is emotive. But notice that it is not free-floating emotion. The emotion is grounded in the logic of the whole gospel. As Paul says, "It is *right* for me to feel this way". Love that is grounded in, and issues out of, a relationship (a partnership) with fellow believers. Believers that are willing to "share" in suffering to proclaim and display the gospel. Relationships amongst believers that look like this is what God is working to display on the last day. It will be evidence to the whole world that God worked and created something amazing and outstanding out of sinful, corrupt, self-seeking human beings.

To the glory and praise of God!

Chew It Over...

What are the specific outcomes of this love generated by God?

How can we pray more like Paul in the context we gather together to pray? It means praying for the same outcomes.

Prayer Suggestion

Pray for these now.



FRIDAY 6 APRIL 2018

SERIES: Philippians

Read: Philippians 1:12-26

Plug In...

Look at this! Paul's in prison and his concern is that the Philippians will be too concerned for him. His view is that absolutely everything is under the hand of God for the glory and praise of Him. This is seen in whatever the circumstance, it provides *the* situation to proclaim the gospel and live for Christ.

"For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain." (v.21) Paul has been described as having '*indestructible joy*'. This doesn't mean he doesn't cry, or feel pain, or would prefer bodily suffering to bodily comfort.

Chew It Over...

Do you have the glory of Jesus as the overarching goal in life? More than life itself?

Consider where your thoughts go in circumstances that are negative. Do they arrive at joy? What about your present situations, problems, suffering, if you look at it through the lens of the gospel, can you say with Paul, "because of this I rejoice!" (v.18)?

Prayer Suggestion

Help us Lord Jesus to take on this view of life. Make us people who take the diagnostic of Paul: What will be the best course of action for the benefit of others progressing in the faith?

Lord Jesus strip us completely of our fear of death.



WEEKEND 7-8 APRIL 2018

SERIES: Philippians

Read: Philippians 1:27-30

Plug In...

Verse 29 says, "It has been *granted* to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him". The literal verb for 'granted' is 'it is grace given'.

Chew It Over...

'Belief' is a gift of grace from God. Here even suffering for Christ is part of that 'grace' from God. There is a tight connection between belief and suffering for Christ. Look again through what Paul says here. How is opposition and suffering a sign of salvation?

Prayer Suggestion

Pray that we will stand firm. Pray for our church that we will stand firm against whatever happens.