INTRODUCTION:
1. Paul helped establish the church in Philippi on his second preaching tour (Acts 16:9-40)
   a. Paul heeds “The Macedonian Call” at Troas (v. 9-12)
   b. Apparent absence of synagogue leads to belief that few Jews lived in Philippi – “place of prayer” was on river side, not in a synagogue (v. 13).
   c. People proud to be Romans (v. 21)
   d. Lydia and her household converted (v. 14-15)
   e. Suffering imprisonment, Paul takes advantage of the occasion along with an earthquake to convert a jailor and his household (v. 16-34).
   f. “Other brethren” were also in the church at this place (v. 40).

I. AUTHOR: Paul (1:1)
   A. Timothy, a traveling companion of Paul during his second preaching tour, was apparently well known and respected by the Philippian brethren. He joins in the greetings (cf. 2:19-22; Acts 16:1-5, 17:14).

II. DATE AND PLACE OF WRITING
   A. Last of the two year imprisonment in Rome (Acts 28:30-31).
      1. Some time had elapsed since Paul’s arrival in Rome.
         a. News of Paul’s arrival had to reach Philippi in order for Epaphroditus to come with assistance from Philippi (2:25, 4:18).
         b. News of Epaphroditus’ illness at Rome had to reach Philippi (2:26).
      2. Paul’s reputation from preaching had time to spread and favorably affect the praetorian guard (1:13) and Caesar’s household (4:22).
         a. Both gave greetings in earlier Colossian letter (4:10, 14)
      4. Paul’s case before Caesar seems to be close to a final decision (1:23-26; 2:17, 24).
   B. Probably A.D. 62

III. THEME AND PURPOSE:
   A. “REJOICE IN THE LORD” (3:1, 4:4)
      1. Rejoicing in the spiritual closeness and fellowship enjoyed by brethren with a common goal.
         a. Furtherance of the Gospel (1:4-5)
         b. Opportunity to serve the Lord’s people (1:25, 2:16-18)
      2. Rejoicing even in unpleasant circumstances (1:18)
   B. Purpose:
      1. To thank the Philippians for their gifts
      2. To express his love for them and his joy in knowing of their faithfulness to Christ
3. To inform brethren of his work and hope for release
4. To warn brethren of dangers within and without

IV. FEATURES OF THE BOOK
A. One of Paul’s most personal letters – First person pronoun “I”, “me” used over one hundred times.
   1. Church in Philippi seems to one of the closest groups to Paul. He has no doubts as to their loyalty to him.
B. The “gospel” is mentioned nine times: the message and body of faith which stands for Paul’s activities and goals as its proclaimer
   1. “the fellowship of the gospel” – 1:5
   2. “the confirmation of the gospel” – 1:7
   3. “the progress of the gospel” – 1:12
   4. “the defense of the gospel” – 1:16
   5. “worthy of the gospel” – 1:27
   6. “striving for the faith of the gospel” – 1:27
   7. “served in the gospel” – 2:22
   8. “labored in the gospel” – 4:3
   9. “the beginning of the gospel” – 4:15
C. The proper “mind” is stressed
   1. Submitting to the thinking mold of Christ in contrast to the world. When patterned after Christ, progress in spiritual maturity and unity will prevail.
      a. “it is right to be thus minded” – 1:7
      b. “be of the same mind” – “of one mind” – 2:2; 4:2
      c. “have this mind in you, which was also in Christ Jesus” – 2:5
      d. “as many as are perfect, be thus minded” – 3:15
      e. “who minded earthly things” – 3:19
      f. “received your thought (care) for me” – “ye did indeed take thought (care)” – 4:10
D. The place Christ should occupy in our lives:
   1. Christ: Our Life – “For me to live is Christ” – 1:21
   2. Christ: Our Mind – “Have this mind in you which was also in Christ” – 2:5
   3. Christ: Our Goal – “That I may also gain Christ” – 3:8
   4. Christ: Our Strength – “I can do all things in Him that strengthens me” – 4:13

LESSONS:
1. Salutation and Thanksgiving (1:1-11)
2. Paul’s encouragement to the saints by example and appeal (1:12-30)
3. The Mind of Christ (2:1-11)
4. Lights in the World (2:12-18)
5. Paul and His messengers (2:19-30)
6. Paul’s warning against legalistic influence: His example (3:1-16)
7. Paul’s warning against legalistic influence: His appeal (3:17-4:1)
8. Paul’s concluding appeals (4:2-9)
9. Paul’s reasoning for rejoicing and final salutations (4:10-23)
PHILIPPIANS: LESSON 1

I. PAULS’ SALUTATION AND THANKSGIVING (1:1-11)

A. Salutations of Grace and Peace (v. 1-2)
   1. From Paul and Timothy: bondservants of Christ Jesus
   2. To the saints at Philippi with the bishops and deacons.

B. Paul thankful for Philippians’ fellowship in the furtherance of the gospel (v. 3-6)
   1. From the first day the Philippians heard the gospel until the present
   2. Confident that God, who began a good work in them, will perfect it until the day of Christ

C. Paul thankful for the Philippians’ fellowship in the bonds, and the defense of the gospel of grace (v. 7-8)
   1. God is witness of Paul’s tender longings for his brethren.

D. Paul’s prayer for Philippians growing love (v. 9-11)
   1. Abound in knowledge and discernment.
   2. Goal of discerning love: approving things that are excellent.
      a. Being sincere and void of offense unto the day of Christ
      b. Being filled with fruits of righteousness through Jesus Christ
      c. Unto the glory and praise of God

QUESTIONS:

1. How did Paul describe his and Timothy’s relationship with Christ?

2. What term does Paul use to describe the Christians in Philippi? What does this say about the Christian’s life?

3. How do you know there was an organized local church in Philippi?

4. What two blessings from God and the Lord Jesus Christ does Paul desire for the Philippians?

5. How did the Philippian brethren have fellowship in the “furtherance”, “defense”, and “confirmation” of the gospel with Paul?

6. What was Paul confident of regarding God and the Philippians?
7. The end of time will be the ________________ of ________________.

8. Why is the “gospel” connected with the “grace” in verse 7?

9. What kind of tenderness did Paul have for the Philippians?

10. Our love should be abounding in ________________ and ________________ that we may __________________________ the things that are ________________.

   Apply this truth to the problem of loving the sinner:

11. What is the ultimate goal of discerning love?

12. What are we to be filled with that gives glory unto God?
PHILIPPIANS: LESSON 2

I. PAULS’ ENOURAGEMENT TO THE SAINTS BY EXAMPLE AND APPEAL
    (1:12-30)

A. The Gospel has made progress in Rome (1:12-18).
   1. Progress through Paul’s imprisonment (v.12-14)
      a. Bonds manifest in Christ
      b. Most of brethren bold to speak
   2. Rejoicing that Christ is proclaimed even though some do it insincerely
      (v. 15-18)

B. Paul’s Hopes (1:19-26)
   1. Deliverance through brethren’s prayer and the supply of the Spirit (v. 19)
   2. Not to be put to shame (v. 20).
   3. Magnify Christ in life or death (v. 21-23)
   4. Confident of remaining with brethren (v. 24-26)

C. Paul exhorts brethren to a worthy manner of life (1:27-30).
   1. Stand fast in one spirit (v. 27)
   2. Strive for the faith of the gospel (v. 27)
   3. Be not frightened by adversaries if called upon to suffer for Christ
      (v.28-30)

QUESTIONS:

1. In what TWO areas had the gospel made progress while Paul was imprisoned?

2. What does Paul’s example teach us about being controlled by circumstances?

3. Why were some preaching Christ with envy and strife?

4. Paul said some were preaching Christ with “_____________, knowing that I am
   ___________ for the __________________ of the gospel”.

5. The ones preaching Christ in “pretense” were preaching: (a) doctrinal error
   (b) truth with impure motives.

6. Did Paul believe that prayer is more than a spiritual exercise?
7. Why did Paul know confidently, regardless of what happened to him, he would not be put to shame?

8. “For to me to live is __________________, to ________________ is ______________.”

9. Show how verses 20-21 do not fit the doctrines of “soul-sleep” and “annihilation”.

10. What are some good reasons for Paul remaining on earth and united with his brethren?

11. What does Paul say about the gospel that manifests it as a noble standard?

12. In what should we all be united?

13. What was an evident token of perdition and salvation at the same time?
PHILIPPIANS: LESSON 3

I. THE MIND OF CHRIST IN YOU (2:1-11)

A. The Motivations Connected With The Mind of Christ (2:1-2a)
   1. Exhortation in Christ
   2. Consolation of Love
   3. Fellowship of the Spirit
   4. Tender mercies and compassions
   5. Personal appeal from Paul – make full my joy

B. Attitudes Of The Mind Of Christ (2:2b-4)
   1. United in one mind
   2. Freedom from factious spirit and vain glory
   3. Lowliness of mind
   4. Concern for others.

C. Christ’s Example (2:5-11)
   1. Did not continue to grasp glorious divine form
   2. Became obedient servant
   3. Exalted by his obedience

QUESTIONS:

1. What FOUR motivations does Paul use to urge unity among the Philippians?

2. Show how each motivation relates to unity among God’s people:

3. What personal appeal does Paul make to encourage unity?

4. From the words “faction” and “vain glory” describe the enemy of unity among the Philippians:

5. The Christian is to count the other ________________ than ________________. This command is to cause the Christian to:
   (a) never consider his own life.
   (b) think he or she has no value.
   (c) expand his or her concern to see the needs of others.
6. Paul’s purpose for revealing the information in verses 6-8 was:
   (a) to satisfy our curiosity for divine secrets.
   (b) to prove Jesus was just a man.
   (c) to help us see in Christ the humility we must manifest.

7. In verses 6-8, list what Jesus was in the “form” of, and what He was in “fashion” as. Then, show the difference in meaning between the two words:

8. How did Christ look upon His being on equality with God?

9. How greatly did Jesus humble himself?

10. What was the result of Christ’s humiliation and obedience?

11. How does the response of knees and tongues help us see the meaning of the “name” of Jesus?

12. What effect is there upon God when men confess Christ?
PHILIPPIANS: LESSON 4

I. BEING LIGHTS IN THE WORLD (2:12-18)

A. Work your own salvation to completion (2:12-13)
B. Do not murmur (v.14-15)
C. Hold forth the word of life (v.16)
D. Paul’s sacrifice of joy on brethren’s sacrifice of faith (v. 17)
E. Rejoice (v. 18)

QUESTIONS:

1. What lies behind, and is the basis for the connecting phrase: “so then…obey…work out your own salvation”?

2. How consistent should our obedience be unto the Lord?

3. To “work out your own salvation”, one must:
   (a) start, but don’t be too concerned of finishing, for God’s grace will cover you.
   (b) start, but make sure you finish your race, living as a Christian.
   (c) start, but spend your time worrying about everyone else’s imperfections.

4. ___________ and ________________ should accompany the working out your salvation. Why?

5. To do all things without “questionings” or “disputing” means:
   (a) never investigate the doctrine you hear from elders and preachers.
   (b) never question the practices of your brethren.
   (c) never question God’s faithfulness and Truth.

6. What three characteristics describe the true children of God in the world?

7. We shine as lights in the world when we __________ the __________ of ____________.
8. According to Paul, he would have run and labored in vain if:

9. What kind of offering did Paul visualize himself being in connection with the sacrifice of the Philippians’ faith?

10. What should this offering produce in the Philippians?

MATCH THESE KEY WORDS:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BLAMELESS</th>
<th>“turned aside and distorted”</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HARMLESS</td>
<td>“stars”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PERVERSE:</td>
<td>unmixed, or without mixture of evil”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIGHTS:</td>
<td>“cannot find fault”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PHILOPIANS: LESSON 5

I. PAUL AND HIS MESSENGERS (2:19-30)

A. Paul hopes to send Timothy to the Philippians shortly (2:19-24)
   1. Purpose: To know the Philippians’ condition – be comforted
   2. Timothy:
      a. Like-minded with Paul – truly cares
      b. Serves Paul in the furtherance of the Gospel
   3. Paul hopes to come to the Philippians soon.

B. Paul has sent Epaphroditus to the Philippians (2:25-30).
   1. Epaphroditus:
      a. Brother
      b. Fellow-worker
      c. Fellow – soldier
      d. Philippians’ messenger
      e. Philippians’ minister to Paul’s needs
   2. Epaphroditus’ experiences:
      a. Longed after the Philippians
      b. Sick – nigh unto death
      c. Recovered due to God’s mercy
   3. Philippians exhorted to receive Epaphroditus
   4. Philippians to honor Epaphroditus for his work and courage

QUESTIONS:

1. Whom did Paul want to send shortly to the Philippians? Why?

2. How did this person differ from most?

3. How was this person like Paul?

4. Describe the relationship that Paul had with this person in furthering the Gospel?
5. In whom did Paul hope and trust his plans for the future?

6. Why was it necessary for Paul to send Epaphroditus to the Philippians?

7. Why was Epaphroditus in Rome with Paul?

8. Give evidence for the following statements concerning Epaphroditus:
   a. He was a brave man:
   b. He was a selfless and compassionate man:
   c. He was a man deserving of honor:

9. In what two ways were the Philippians to receive Epaphroditus?

10. Is it true that if you are a Christian you will not become sick?
PHILIPPIANS: LESSON 6

I. PAUL’S WARNING AGAINST JUDAIZING INFLUENCE: HIS EXAMPLE (3:1-16)

A. Paul’s command to rejoice and willingness to remind (3:1)

B. Judaizers are not the people of God (3:2-3)
   1. They are dogs, evil workers and concision.
   2. Christians are true Israel.

C. Paul could glory in the law more than they, but will not (3:4-16).
   1. Paul’s grounds for confidence under the law (v. 4-6)
   2. Paul’s attitudes: (v. 7-16)
      a. Counted gains under law as loss
      b. Counted all things loss for Christ
      c. Desired only the intimate knowledge of Christ
      d. Did not consider himself perfect – but presses on
         (1). Let all be thus minded
         (2). Let all walk as he has attained

QUESTIONS:

1. Our rejoicing should always be done in connection with ________ ________.

2. Why was repetition not irksome to Paul?

3. What THREE characteristics describe the judaizing teachers?

   Show how each of these characteristics manifest the seriousness of the error in appealing to the Law of Moses today for the basis of our righteousness.

4. What THREE characteristics describe God’s true people today?

5. What does it mean to “worship by the Spirit of God”?

6. How could Paul boast according to “the flesh” if he wanted to do so?
7. What does the word “Pharisee” mean, and how did such people regard the law?

8. How did Paul manifest his zeal before he became a Christian?

9. Paul was blameless in the sight of God before he gained Christ. (T) (F)

10. In what light did Paul regard his Jewish heritage in comparison to his gaining Christ?

11. To what degree did Paul want to know Christ?

12. Of what did Paul desire to lay hold?

13. What was the “one thing” Paul did that describes the “perfect” man?

14. What is the “prize” for the Christian?

15. Describe the way we should walk as we continue to grow in knowledge as a Christian:
PHILOPIANS: LESSON 7

I. PAUL’S WARNING AGAINST EVIL INFLUENCES: HIS APPEAL (3:17-4:9)

A. Imitate Paul and Observe Others in their manner of living (3:17-21).
   1. Reasons for imitating Paul:
      a. because many are enemies of the cross (3:18-19)
      b. because our citizenship is in Heaven (3:20-21)

B. Stand fast in the Lord (4:1)

C. Exhortation for Euodia and Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord (4:2-3)

D. Rejoice in anxious times (4:4-7)
   1. Be forbearing to all
   2. Pray with thanksgiving

E. Think on proper things (4:8-9)

QUESTIONS:

1. What does Paul say about himself in the midst of evil influences?

2. What does it mean to “mark” those who are living as Christians?

3. Paul’s attitude toward the issue of those living in error is:
   (a). Ignore it for it will not affect Christians.
   (b). Rejoice in exposing the adversary.
   (c). Saddened in the necessity of exposing those in error, but insistent.
   (d). Saddened in having to expose those in error, so will not bring up the subject often.

4. What lies ahead for the enemies of the cross of Christ?

5. What characteristics go along with making one’s own lusts his “god”?

6. The Christian’s citizenship is in Heaven now.  (T) (F)

7. What hope for the future does the Christian have for his or her body?

8. The Philippian Christians were Paul’s ______________ and ______________.
9. In the midst of evil influence the Christian must _____________ ______________ in the ________________.

10. What did Paul exhort Euodia and Syntyche to do?

11. In what did these two help Paul?

12. In what book is the faithful Christian’s name written?

13. What personal characteristic should we manifest to all men?

14. What thought and action should replace anxieties?

15. What two qualities of the “peace of God” should help displace your anxieties?

16. Match the proper definition:
   (a). Not deceive; reliable  Things True
   (b). Things fit for the presence of God  Things Honorable
   (c). Things fit for God to hear  Things Just
   (d). Winsome; things that call forth love  Things Pure
   (e). Things rightly due to God and man  Things Lovely
   (f). Things dignified  Things of Good Report

17. From verse 9 alone, give as many characteristics of the Christian life you see:
PHILIPPIANS: LESSON 8

I. PAUL’S REASONING FOR REJOICING AND FINAL SALUTATIONS (4:10-23)

A. Paul feels joy and contentment (4:10-23)
   1. Joy in the Philippians’ opportunity and help (v. 10)
   2. Contentment in the Lord (v. 11-13)

B. Paul reflects on the Philippians’ fellowship with him (4:14-16)
   1. At the present (v.14)
   2. In the past (v. 15-16)

C. Paul’s reasoning behind his joy (4:17-20)
   1. He sought fruit for them (v. 17).
   2. He was now well-supplied (v. 18).
   3. He knows God will supply their needs (v.19-20).

D. Paul’s salutations (4:21-23)
   1. Paul and brethren with him salute every saint in Philippi (v.21)
      a. Includes salutations from saints of Caesar’s household (v. 22)
   2. Paul desires God’s grace to be with the Philippians’ spirit (v. 23)

QUESTIONS:

1. What did the Philippians do that caused Paul to rejoice?

2. What were some of the circumstances in which Paul had learned to be content?

3. Paul can do _____ things in __________ who __________________ him.

4. How did the Philippians have fellowship with Paul’s afflictions?

5. The fellowship the church had in Philippi with Paul in the matter of giving and receiving was:
   (a). the Philippian church was a sponsoring church for the brotherhood: they received gifts from other churches and gave to Paul.
   (b). the Philippian church was the only church who gave to Paul, who received their gift.

6. What was more important to Paul that receiving the Philippians’ gift?
7. How did God view the financial offering to help Paul?

8. How will all needs of the Christian be supplied?

9. What does the word “salute” mean?

10. What had occurred in Caesar’s household that manifests the power of the Gospel?

11. “The ______ of the _______________ be with your ____________.”

   What does this statement mean?