



Wednesday in the Word

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Philippians: Choose life

*"I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. **Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live, loving the LORD your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days, that you may dwell in the land that the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob, to give them.**" - Deuteronomy 30:19-20 (emphasis mine)*

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All Scripture quotations are from the English Standard Version.

Observation: Answer the "5Ws and H"

USE THE CONTEXT to answer the "5Ws and H" (who, what, why, where, when and how). Try to follow Paul's flow of thought through the whole chapter. To answer these questions, you may need to look back at the previous lesson and you may also need to read ahead. Here are a few example questions for using the "5Ws and H".

WHO IS

- .. Paul talking about? Or talking to?
- ...accomplishing the action?
- .. benefiting? Being warned?

WHAT IS the

- ...author's meaning of each key word (not the modern English meaning)?
- ...significance of this word or phrase in this context?
- ...relationship between this phrase and the one before it? And the one after it?
- ...implication of this statement?

WHY did Paul

- ... choose this word/phrase/statement/command?
- ... not say _____?
- ...make this point to this audience?
- ...make this point right now in his flow of thought?

HOW

- ... does this passage relate to the previous passage? To the next?
- ... does this continue/further/change the flow of thought?
- ... was this action accomplished?
- ... does this passage change my understanding? Or add to it?

WHEN

- ...will this situation occur?
- ...was this action accomplished?

WHERE

- ...have I seen this idea before in this letter? In the New Testament? In the Old Testament?

For more help: <http://www.wednesdayintheword.com/biblestudy101-5wh/>

Key Words in Philippians

While the list below is not complete, these key words provide clues to the message and theme. The following key words/phrases are loosely grouped together and are from the New American Standard (1995) Version. *Note: "52x/51v" means the phrase occurs 52 times in 51 verses. "3x" means the word occurs 3 times in 3 verses.*

- **Christ/in Christ** (37x/35v) - Strong's G5547 in 1:1; 1:2; 1:6; 1:8; 1:10; 1:11; 1:13; 1:15; 1:17; 1:18; 1:19; 1:20; 1:21; 1:23; 1:26; 1:27; 1:29; 2:1; 2:5; 2:11; 2:16; 2:21; 2:30; 3:3; 3:7; 3:8; 3:9; 3:12; 3:14; 3:18; 3:20; 4:7; 4:19; 4:21; 4:23
- **rejoice** (8x/6v) - Strong's G5463 in 1:18; 2:17; 2:18; 12:28; 3:1; 14:4 / **joy** (5x) - Strong's G54791:4; 1:25; 2:2; 2:29; 4:1
- **gospel** (9x/8v) - Strong's G2009 in 1:5; 1:7; 1:12; 1:16; 1:27; 2:22; 4:3; 4:15
- **Spirit/spirit** (8x) - Strong's G4151 in 1:19; 1:27; 2:1; 4:23; Strong's G4761 in 2:2; Strong's G2473 in 2:20; (4:5 implied)
- **glory** (8x)s - Strong's G1391 in 1:11; 2:11; 3:19; 3:21; 4:19; 4:20; Strong's G2745 in 2:16; Strong's G2744 in 3:3
- **mind** (4x) - Strong's G5590 in 1:27; Strong's G5426 in 2:2; Strong's G5012a in 2:3; Strong's G1380 in 3:4 / **attitude** (3x/2v) - Strong's G5426 in 2:5; 3:15
- **love** (4x) - Strong's G26 in 1:9; 1:16; 2:1; 2:2
- **death** (5x) - Strong's G2288 in 1:20; 2:8; 2:27; 2:30; 3:10
- **imprisonment** (4x) - Strong's G1199 in 1:7; 1:13; 1:14; 1:17

Useful Links

- How to do a word study: <http://www.wednesdayintheword.com/biblestudy101-word-studies/>
- For help on bible study: <http://www.wednesdayintheword.com/biblestudy101/>
- To listen to MP3s of lectures: <http://www.wednesdayintheword.com/philippians/>
- Study resources: <http://www.wednesdayintheword.com/philippiansresources/>
- How to do an analytical outline: <http://www.wednesdayintheword.com/analyticaloutline/>
- An example analytical outline of Philippians:
<http://www.wednesdayintheword.com/resources/analyticaloutline-philippians.pdf>

Lesson 1 - Introduction

1. **Place of Writing:** Determine the a) date of writing; b) Other epistles written at the same time (<http://www.wednesdayintheword.com/paulchronology/>).
2. Read through the letter. Where was Paul when he wrote this letter? What were his living conditions?
3. **Destination:** Read through the letter and note the use of the second person pronoun ("you"). What can you conclude about the recipients of the letter, the situation in the church and why Paul is writing this letter to them?
4. Paul visited Philippi on his 2nd journey. Read Acts 16. What can you learn/deduce about Paul's relationship to the church at Philippi?
5. **Geography:** Look up Philippi in a Bible Atlas and write a brief description of where it was located (<http://bibleatlas.org/philippi.htm>)

6. **History: History:** Do a little research using a Bible dictionaries, commentaries and a Bible encyclopedia. What kind of city was Philippi? How many people lived there? What were the political, religious, social and economic influences that characterized the city?
(<http://www.wednesdayintheword.com/philippiansresources/>)

7. **Principal Personalities:** Who was Timothy? Where was Timothy from? What was his relationship to Paul? What was his relationship to the church at Philippi?
(<http://www.wednesdayintheword.com/philippiansresources/>)

8. Based on your reading make a preliminary outline, breaking the book breaks into major sections.

Lesson 2 - Philippians 1:1-8

1. Break this passage into paragraphs and summarize the main point of each one. As you read answer the "5Ws and H" (see page 3).
2. Note the use of pronouns in this section (you, your, yourselves, etc and I, my, etc.) What can you learn about Paul and the recipients. What did the recipients do that most likely prompted this letter?
3. Philippians 1:5 talks about their "partnership in the gospel" and 1:7 says they are "partakers with me of grace". What was their "partnership" and how were they "partakers"? Read Acts 16; Romans 15:26; 1 Cor. 11:0; Philp. 4:15
4. Compare and contrast Paul's greeting (1:1-3) to the Philippians with his greetings in some of his other letters. What can you learn about his relationship to the church at Philippi?
5. What is Paul thankful for in 1:3-6? Why is he thankful?
6. What is Paul confident of in 1:6-8? Why? What is the "good work" which God will complete in 1:6?
7. What is "the day of Christ Jesus" (1:6; 1:10)? See also Php 2:16; Romans 2:16; 1Cor 1:8
8. Write a paraphrase of this section in your own words.

Lesson 3 - Philippians 1:9-11

1. Break this passage into paragraphs and summarize the main point of each one. As you read answer the "5Ws and H" (who, what, when, where, why and how").
2. 1:9 says "and this I pray that your love may abound still more and more". What kind of "love" is he praying for?
3. What is the relationship between love and knowledge (1:9)?
4. In 1:9-11, what is Paul praying would happen to the Philippians? What would it look like if this prayer was answered as Paul expects? (Hint: note the connecting words: "so that," "in order to", "having been")
5. How can sinners be "sincere and blameless" (1:10)?
6. Define the "fruit of righteousness" (1:11).
7. Write a paraphrase of this section in your own words.
8. List the main theme(s) of chapter 1:1-11.

Lesson 4 - Philippians 1:12-26

1. Break this passage into paragraphs and summarize the main point of each one. As you read answer the "5Ws and H" (who, what, when, where, why and how").
2. What is happening to the gospel because of Paul's imprisonment (1:12-18)?
3. Why would Paul feel the need to assure the Philippians that the gospel is progressing?
4. Why does Paul rejoice (1:18-20)? Why can Paul rejoice even when envious and ambitious people are preaching the gospel?
5. What kind of "salvation" is Paul referring to in 1:19? What range of meaning can this word have in the NT (cf. 1:28; 2:12-13; Acts 14:9; 27:20; Romans 5:9-10; Ephesians 2:8; Hebrews 11:7)? What does it most likely mean here? And why?
6. Summarize the nature of Paul's struggle in 1:20-26.
7. IN CONTEXT, what does Paul mean in 1:21 "for me to live is Christ and to die is gain"?
8. Write a paraphrase of this section in your own words.

Lesson 5 - Philippians 1:27-2:4

1. Break this passage into its paragraphs and summarize the main point of each one. As you read answer the "5Ws and H" (who, what, when, where, why and how").
2. What does it mean to "let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ" (1:27)? What would a worthy life look like? What would an unworthy life look like?
3. In 2:1-2, note the "if there is any". Does Paul expect the answer "yes" or "no"? Why?
4. What kind of unity is Paul encouraging them to have in 2:1-4?
5. List and summarize everything this passage says about unity.
6. From this passage, what is the relationship between believing the gospel, unity and humility?
7. Write a paraphrase of this section in your own words.
8. List the main theme(s) of chapter 1.

Lesson 6 - Philippians 2:5-11

1. Break this passage into paragraphs and summarize the main point of each one. As you read answer the "5Ws and H" (who, what, when, where, why and how").
2. What do you think it means the Jesus: "did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped" (2:6); "made himself nothing" (2:7) and "humbled himself" (2:8)? Are those the same idea or different?
3. What do you think it means that Jesus: was "in the form of God" (2:6); "being born in the likeness of men" (2:7); and "being found in human form" (2:8)?
4. Note the "therefore" in 2:9. Why did God highly exalt Jesus?
5. Paul begins this section by saying "Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus" (2:5 NASB). What attitude are we to have?
6. Write a paraphrase of this section in your own words.
7. List the main theme(s) of this paragraph, noting how it relates to 1:27-2:4

Lesson 7 - Philippians 2:12-18

1. Break this passage into paragraphs and summarize the main point of each one. As you read answer the "5Ws and H" (who, what, when, where, why and how").
2. Note the "so then" in 2:12, "for" in vs 13. "so that" in 2:15 and 2:16. How does this section relate to the previous section?
3. Remembering the context (1:27-2:18), what does Paul mean by "work out your salvation"?
4. How does "fear and trembling" characterize how we "work out" our salvation? (see Philippians 1:6; Ephesians 2:1-10)
5. How does God work in us "both to will and to work"? (See also Jeremiah 31:31-34; Ezekiel 36:22-27; Romans 8:1-4)
6. The concept of "joy" appears throughout this book. What is the specific source of his joy in this section?
7. Write a paraphrase of this section in your own words.
8. List the main theme(s) of this paragraph, noting how it relates to 1:27-2:11.

Lesson 8 - Philippians 2:19-30

1. Break this passage into its major paragraphs and summarize the main point of each one. As you read answer the "5Ws and H" (who, what, when, where, why and how").
2. What do we know about Epaphroditus (also called Epaphras). See Colossians 1:7;4:12, Philemon 1:23
3. What do we know about Timothy? (See Acts 16:1; 17:14-15; 18:5; 19:22; 20:4 Rom 16:21; Col 1:1; Phlp 1:1; 1Cor 4:17; 16:10; 2Cor 1:1; 1:19; 1Thes 1:1; 3:2; 3:6 2Thes 1:1; 1Tim 1:2; 1:18; 6:20 2Tim 1:2; Phm 1:1; Heb 13:23)
4. List all the ways Paul hoped to communicate with the Philippians.
5. Why does Paul have such confidence in these men?
6. What do you think Paul means that he has no one else of kindred spirit in 2:20?
7. Write a paraphrase of this section in your own words.
8. List the main theme(s) of this paragraph, noting how it relates to 1:27-2:18.

Lesson 9 - Philippians 3:1-11

1. Break this passage into its major paragraphs and summarize the main point of each one. As you read answer the "5Ws and H" (who, what, when, where, why and how").
2. From this passage, contrast the beliefs of the false circumcision with the true circumcision .
3. Contrast Paul's attitude toward his "spiritual resume" before coming to faith and after coming to faith.
4. Why do you think Paul lists his spiritual resume? What point is he trying to make in this context?
5. Why does Paul ultimately consider his prior accomplishments of little value? What did they fail to provide?
6. Write a paraphrase of this section in your own words.
7. List the main theme(s) of this paragraph, noting how it relates to chapters 1-2.

Lesson 10 - Philippians 3:12-21

1. Break this passage into its major sections and summarize the main point of each section. As you read answer the "5Ws and H" (who, what, when, where, why and how").
2. Define "perfect" in 3:12 and "mature" 3:15. What kind of perfection/maturity is he talking about in each case?
3. In verses 12-14, what is Paul hoping to attain or laid hold of? In other words, what is the prize of the upward call of God?
4. What "attitude" does Paul want the Philippians to imitate?
5. What is the significance of our citizenship being in heaven (verse 20-21)?
6. Write a paraphrase of chapter 3 in your own words.
7. List the main theme(s) of this paragraph, noting how chapter 3 relates to chapters 1-2 and how 3:12-21 relates to 3:1-11.

Lesson 11 - Philippians 4:1-23

1. Break this passage into its major sections and summarize the main point of each section. As you read answer the "5Ws and H" (who, what, when, where, why and how").
2. Why does Paul address this conflict between the two women?
3. Philippians 4:9 are some of the most often quoted verses in the book. Why would Paul write them at this point in the letter? Specifically after mentioning the conflict in 4:2-3? And after the themes of chapters 1-3?
4. From 4:10-20, summarize Paul's attitude toward the financial gift he received from the Philippians. What message is he concerned that they receive? And what message(s) is he concerned they not receive?
5. What is the "secret" Paul learned no matter his circumstances?
6. 4:13 is another frequently quoted verse. What does it mean in the context of chapter 4?
7. Write a paraphrase of chapter 4 in your own words.
8. List the main theme(s) of this chapter, noting how it concludes the letter.

Now that you're done...

1. Summarize the challenges faced the early church in Philippi and how Paul encouraged them to handle each of these challenges.
2. Revise/combine your chapter outlines into an overall summary of the book which you can use in the future to quickly remember the flow and content of the book.
3. Revise and combine your list of themes into a summary of the main point(s) of the letter.
4. Identify key verses that you can use to remind yourself of the main points and themes.
5. From your outline and theme summary, list the principles you learned that you can prayerfully apply to your life today.

Philippians Outline

Summary: Paul is writing to:

CHAPTER	THEME	KEY VERSE
1		
2		
3		
4		