

Bible Question Class Books

Bible Study Questions on the Book of Philippians

by David E. Pratte

**A workbook suitable for Bible classes,
family studies, or personal Bible study**



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Introduction:

This workbook was designed for Bible class study, family study, or personal study. The class book is suitable for teens and up. The questions contain minimal human commentary, but instead urge students to study to understand Scripture.

Enough questions are included for teachers to assign as many questions as they want for each study session. Studies may proceed at whatever speed and depth will best accomplish the needs of the students.

Questions labeled “think” are intended to encourage students to apply what they have learned. When questions refer to a map, students should consult maps in a Bible dictionary or similar reference work or in the back of their Bibles. (Note: My abbreviation “**b/c/v**” means “book, chapter, and verse.”)

For class instruction, I urge teachers to assign the questions as homework so students come to class prepared. Then let class time consist of **discussion** that focuses on the Scriptures themselves. Let the teacher use other Scriptures, questions, applications, and comments to promote productive discussion, not just reading the questions to see whether they were answered “correctly.” Please, do **not** let the class period consist primarily of the following: “Joe, will you answer number 1?” “Sue, what about number 2?” Etc.

I also urge students to emphasize the **Bible** teaching. Please, do not become bogged down over “What did the author mean by question #5?” My meaning is relatively unimportant. The issue is what the Bible says. Concentrate on the meaning and applications of Scripture. If a question helps promote Bible understanding, stay with it. If it becomes unproductive, move on.

The questions are not intended just to help students understand the Scriptures. They are also designed to help students learn good principles of Bible study. Good Bible study requires defining the meaning of keywords, studying parallel passages, explaining the meaning of the text clearly, making applications, and defending the truth as well as exposing religious error. I have included questions to encourage students to practice all these study principles.

Finally, I encourage plain applications of the principles studied. God's word is written so souls may please God and have eternal life. Please study it with the respect and devotion it deserves!

For whatever good this material achieves, to God be the glory.

Note that many of our free online Bible study materials are available for sale in print in a slightly different format at <https://www.gospelway.com/sales>

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Assignments on Philippians 1

Please read the whole book of Philippians at least once as we study chapter 1. Answer the following questions on chap. 1.

1. Who wrote this letter, and to whom is it addressed – 1:1?
2. List some things you know about Paul.
3. List some things you know about Timothy.

4. **Special Assignment:** Study a Bible dictionary or similar book about the city of Philippi. List some things you learned.

5. Make a list of Bible **passages** outside the book of Philippians that refer to the city or church at Philippi (use a concordance and cross-references).

6. Summarize what the Bible says about Philippi (the city or the church) outside the book of Philippians.

7. After you have read the whole epistle, state the theme of the book.

8. List some of the main points discussed in each chapter.

9. List other **passages** about saints.

10. **Case Study:** Many people believe that saints are especially good Christians who died and have been appointed by a church so people can pray to them. How would you respond?

11. **Define** “bishop.” List other **passages** about bishops.

12. **Case Study:** Some churches teach that bishops are a different office from elders. Others use “pastor” as just another name for a preacher. According to the Scriptures, what is the difference between bishops, elders, and pastors?

13. **Define** “deacons.” List other **passages** about deacons and their work.

14. How did Paul express his view of the Philippians in 1:3,4?

15. For what in particular did he give thanks in 1:5? Explain what he meant.

16. What confidence did Paul express in 1:6? How does God work in the lives of His people? Conditionally or unconditionally? Explain.

17. In what ways did the Philippians partake of Paul’s work and blessings – 1:7? Explain.

18. List the things for which Paul prayed on behalf of the Philippians in 1:8-11.

19. Explain the connection between love, knowledge, and discernment. How do they relate to one another? Why should we abound in them?

20. What results would this love, knowledge, and discernment have in their lives if they applied them properly – 1:10,11? Why is it important to be sincere and without offense?

21. What are the fruits of righteousness? How much fruits of righteousness should we seek to have? What would the end result be?

22. Where was Paul at the time he wrote this (1:7,13-16)? How did he view the results of the troubles that he faced – 1:12?

23. Who had opportunity to learn as a result of Paul's circumstances – 1:13? (Think: How might this have happened?)

24. What effect had Paul's circumstances had on most brethren – 1:14? Is this what would normally be expected? Explain.

25. What good motives did some have for preaching – 1:15-17?

26. What bad motives did others have?

27. How did Paul view the preaching of the gospel, regardless of the motives of the preachers – 1:18? Would he have thought this way if these men were teaching error? Explain.

28. Application: Give examples that illustrate how people today sometimes preach truth but with bad motives. Does God approve of their bad motives? What lessons should we learn?

29. What did Paul expect to result from his circumstances – 1:19? What did he believe would bring about this result?

30. Was he certain whether he would live or die – 1:20? In either case, what did he expect and hope would be the most important outcome?

31. What advantage did Paul believe there would be if he continued to live – 1:21-24? Explain how this would be an advantage.

32. What advantage did he see if he were to die? Explain that advantage.

33. As Paul considered the alternatives of life or death, which did he prefer? What does this tell you about Paul's faith and about his circumstances? (Think: Why might Paul be discussing this with the Philippians?)

34. What outcome did Paul have confidence would result from his circumstances – 1:25? How would this benefit the Philippians?

35. Did he hope to see them again – 1:26? What ultimate effect would this have?

36. Whether or not Paul saw them again, what kind of life did he urge them to lead – 1:27? What is required in order to live such a life?

37. How does he describe their need for unity? What can we learn from this about unity and what it takes to be united?

38. How should they view their adversaries – 1:28? What would be demonstrated about their enemies and about the Philippians?

39. What is expected of followers of Christ according to 1:29? List other **passages** about suffering for the cause of Christ.

40. **Special Assignment:** How did the Philippians' circumstances relate to those of Paul – 1:30? Explain how this may relate to the things he has discussed about his own circumstances throughout the chapter.

Assignments on Philippians 2

Try to read the whole book of Philippians again as we study chapter 2. Answer the following questions on chap. 2.

1. What attitudes and blessings does 2:1 encourage us to participate in? List and define each.
2. What should these attitudes and blessings produce in the lives of God's people – 2:2? Is unity just a matter of doctrinal correctness, or does it also require proper attitudes? Explain.
3. In order to have unity, what should not motivate our conduct – 2:3? How do these improper attitudes hinder unity in a congregation?
4. To have proper unity, how should we view others – 2:3,4? Explain how these attitudes will promote unity in a congregation.
5. Many translations of 2:3 say we should count others better than ourselves. Check other translations, and explain the meaning of this idea.
6. Where should we learn the proper attitude that Paul is encouraging – 2:5? Explain. (Note that verse 5 introduces the specific way that Jesus showed us an example in verses 6-8. These verses should be studied together as a unit.)
7. What position did Jesus have from eternity – 2:6? Compare “form of God” (2:6) with “the form of a servant” (2:7). What can you learn about the meaning of the term “form” as used here?

8. *Special Assignment:* List other *passages* about the deity of Jesus. Did Jesus truly possess the nature of God? Explain and prove your answer.

9. Notice Hebrews 13:8. If Jesus possessed the nature of deity, could He lose that nature or the qualities that are essential to that nature? Did Jesus still possess deity on earth? Explain.

10. List various translations of the last part of 2:6. Explain the significance of grasping equality with God or thinking equality with God to be robbery as in these translations (note v7).

11. List various translations of the first part of 2:7. (Think: Once again, is it possible for deity to lose the characteristics or nature of deity?)

12. **Special Assignment:** Study the first part of 2:7 in light of the rest of verses 7,8. In what sense does the passage say that Jesus emptied Himself or made Himself of no reputation?

13. In what way did Jesus demonstrate humility according to 2:7,8? What lessons should we learn from this according to the context in 2:1-5?

14. List other **passages** about the humanity of Jesus. Was Jesus really a man on earth? Was He really God on earth?

15. What position has Jesus been given because of what He did – 2:9? Explain. (Think: How is the word “name” used in verses 9,10?)

16. What honor will men give Jesus for what He has done – 2:10,11?

17. What do we learn about salvation according to 2:12? Explain the significance of fear and trembling?

18. List other **passages** that show that salvation requires us to work – that is, to obey. Does this mean we earn salvation? Explain.

19. Explain the significance of the fact we must work out our **own** salvation. List other **passages** showing that salvation is an individual responsibility.

20. In what sense does God work in us to will and to do His good pleasure – 2:13? Does this mean we have no choice about serving God? Explain.

21. How should we serve the Lord according to 2:14? What lessons should we learn?

22. What characteristics should children of God seek to develop according to 2:15? Explain the meaning.

23. Why is it important for Christians to have such characteristics according to the passage? List other **passages** about our influence or example as Christians.

24. What role should the word of God have in our lives and example – 2:16? In what sense would their conduct affect Paul?

25. How did Paul view his service to them according to 2:17,18? In what sense was this a cause for joy?

26. What plans did Paul have for Timothy – 2:19? What was his purpose in this?

27. What praise did Paul give Timothy in 2:20?

28. What criticism did Paul raise of others in 2:21? What lessons should we learn?

29. How had Timothy demonstrated his faithfulness – 2:22? How would the Philippians know about this?

30. What hope did Paul express for the future – 2:23,24?

31. Describe the things we know about Epaphroditus according to the book of Philippians.

32. How does Paul describe Epaphroditus in 2:25? What should we learn about how to describe and address gospel preachers?

33. Explain the sense in which Epaphroditus was the messenger of the Philippians. List other related verses in the book of Philippians.

34. What had caused Epaphroditus to be distressed – 2:26? How serious was his problem – 2:27?

35. What had God done for Epaphroditus? In what sense was this a blessing to Paul?

36. **Special Assignment:** List *passages* that explain the main purpose of miracles. Explain why Paul did not work a miracle to heal Epaphroditus.

37. Why was Paul sending Epaphroditus back to Philippi – 2:28?

38. How did Paul want the church in Philippi to treat Epaphroditus – 2:29?

39. What reason does Paul give why they should especially respect Epaphroditus – 2:30?

Assignments on Philippians 3

Try to read the whole book of Philippians again as we study chapter 3. Answer the following questions on chap. 3.

1. What is the source or ground of a Christian's joy – 3:1? Is our joy based primarily on our physical circumstances? Explain.

2. What reason does Paul give why he would write to them things they already knew? Explain the value of repetition in teaching.

3. What warning does Paul give in 3:2? Explain the terms that are used. What group of people would Paul in particular be talking about (note the reference to circumcision in verse 3)?

4. Who does Paul say are the real circumcision – 3:3? List other *passages* showing the significance of being spiritually circumcised under the gospel.

5. What does it mean to have confidence in the flesh – 3:3 (note the context)? How does this apply to the people that Paul is discussing?

6. What claim does Paul make regarding confidence in the flesh – 3:4? What is his point?

7. What proofs does Paul give of his fleshly credentials – 3:5? Explain them.

8. How does he describe his zeal – 3:6? How did his conduct towards the church demonstrate his zeal?

9. What claim did he make regarding the law? What did this prove about his life as a Jew?

10. **Special Assignment:** What do verses 4-6 show about Paul's dedication to the Jewish religion? How would such facts affect the power of his influence when he was converted?

11. After Paul was converted, how did he view the advantages he had as a Jew – 3:7?

12. What reason does he give in 3:8,9 why he was willing to suffer such losses? How did the things that he gave up compare to what he gained?

13. How was Paul made righteous – 3:9? List other similar *passages*.

14. **Case Study:** Some people use verses like verse 9 to claim there is nothing we can do to be saved, but God must do everything to save us. Explain the sense in which we do not have our own righteousness but are made righteous by God. What did this have to do with the old law?

15. **Application:** Based on Paul's discussion, explain the lessons we should learn about our own willingness to sacrifice to serve God?

16. What goal did Paul pursue according to 3:10? What does it mean to know Jesus? How can we know the power of His resurrection?

17. How can we have fellowship in the sufferings of Jesus and be conformed to His death?

18. What goal did Paul pursue according to 3:11? Since all will be raised, in what sense should we seek to attain to the resurrection?

19. What did Paul say that he had not yet achieved – 3:12,13? Explain the sense in which this was true.

20. **Application:** Explain the sense in which Paul forgot the things behind and reached forward to the things ahead. Give applications that show the importance of this principle to us.

21. Toward what did Paul press – 3:14? Explain what this goal or prize is.

22. What application should Paul's discussion have to us – 3:15,16? What will God do to help us in this, and how does He do it?

23. How should Paul's instructions affect our conduct and our thinking – verse 16?

24. How should Paul's example benefit us – 3:17? Who else should serve as a pattern for us?

25. **Case Study:** Some have denied that Biblical examples constitute binding authority. What do we learn from verse 17 about the importance of following examples? List other passages about following examples.

26. Whose example should we not follow – 3:18,19? How does Paul describe them? (Think: In what sense was their belly their God?)

27. In what sense do people set their mind on earthly things? List other similar **passages**. How does this help us understand whom Paul is discussing (compare verses 1-4)?

28. Where is our citizenship – 3:20? What does this teach us about where we should focus our minds?

29. Who is already in heaven, and what do we anticipate that He will do – 3:21? List other similar **passages**.

30. What power does Jesus have? What does this show us about His character?

Assignments on Philippians 4

Try to read the whole book of Philippians again as we study chapter 4. Answer the following questions on chap. 4.

1. How did Paul describe the Philippians in 4:1? What did he urge them to do?
2. What two women did he address in 4:2? What did he urge them to do? What should we learn?
3. What had these women done, and what should others do for them – 4:3? What can we learn about women’s role in working for the Lord?
4. List other **passages** about the Book of Life. Explain the significance of having one’s name in the Book of Life.
5. What does Paul again admonish them to do in 4:4? List some reasons we have for rejoicing in the Lord.
6. 4:5 encourages us to practice “gentleness.” What do other translations say instead of gentleness? What should we learn and how does this help us to have unity?
7. In what sense is the Lord at hand? What should we learn?
8. The KJV in 4:6 says to be careful for nothing. List other alternate translations. Explain the meaning.
9. List other **passages** about anxieties and how a Christian should deal with worries.

10. **Application:** How are we taught to deal with our anxieties in 4:6? How would these practices help us when we are anxious? Explain specific applications we need to learn.

11. If we practice proper prayer and proper attitudes towards our anxieties, what will be the result – 4:7? How was Paul himself an example of this?

12. **Define** “meditate.” List the things on which Paul says we should meditate and explain the meaning of each – 4:8?

13. **Application:** Explain why it matters what we focus our minds upon. How can this help us in our choices and conduct, such as in entertainment, priorities, spirituality, courage, etc.?

14. How does the meditation that God’s word advocates differ from the meditation of Hinduism, the New Age movement, and other Oriental religions?

15. What does Paul encourage the Philippians to practice in 4:9? What can we learn about teaching by example and about following New Testament examples? (See also 3:17.)

16. What joy did Paul express in 4:10?

17. **Define** “content.” What did Paul say he learned in 4:11,12?

18. **Application:** Paul says this is a secret he learned. What are some things we need to learn in order to understand the secret? Is it always wrong to improve our circumstances?

19. What was the source of the strength Paul had – 4:13? What could he do as a result?

20. **Application:** What things can we do through the strength Christ provides? Can Satan or people around us ever place temptations before us that are impossible to overcome? Explain.

21. How had the Philippians shared with Paul according to 4:14-16? When and where had they shared with Paul?

22. According to other passages, how had the Philippians' gift been conveyed to Paul? Did churches send funds to a central board of directors or the elders of another church who in turn oversaw the use and distribution of the funds?

23. According to 1 Peter 5:1-3; Acts 20:28; 14:23, what church should any specific eldership oversee? Does any New Testament passage authorize the elders of one church to oversee the work and funds of another church in evangelism?

24. Under what circumstances did churches send funds to another church? See Acts 11:27-30; Romans 15:25-27; 1 Corinthians 16:1-4; 2 Corinthians 8 and 9.

25. **Case Study:** In the sponsoring church arrangement, churches donate funds to be supervised by the elders of the sponsoring church, which is as financially capable of doing its own work as are the sending churches; but the sponsoring church has assumed ongoing oversight of a work that was as much the responsibility of the sending churches as it was of the sponsoring church. How would the passages we have studied apply to such a case?

26. What was especially important to Paul about the Philippians' gift – 4:17? In what way would this abound to the Philippians' account?

27. How had the Philippians' gift been sent to Paul – 4:18? Explain the expressions that he used to describe the gift.

28. What blessings did Paul believe God would give to the Philippians – 4:19? Compare 2 Corinthians 9:8-10.

29. Who receives the ultimate glory when God's people serve Him – 4:20? Explain.

30. What greetings does Paul send in 4:21-23? What is the significance of the reference to Caesar's household?

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