

Bible Reading Notes  
**Philippians**

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## Philippians 1

Philippians is a prison epistle written to a church that Paul established (Acts 16). Paul is awaiting verdict from his trial before Caesar.

**1:4 – joy** – This is a key term for the letter occurring in every chapter of the book. Paul will make the point that the Christian is called to live in joy no matter the circumstances.

**1:5 – partnership** – The Philippians had helped Paul with financial gifts and sent men to support him in his imprisonment.

**1:12-18** – Paul’s imprisonment has actually advanced the gospel in Rome for which he is thankful.

**1:19-26** – Paul knows that death will bring great joy to him but believes his trial went well and he will soon be released. Since he is living for Christ, he is willing to remain in Christ’s service.

## Philippians 2

**2:1-11** – This paragraph gives us important teaching about the person of Christ but notice that Paul’s main purpose is a call to live in humility in imitation of Christ. This theme continues through the rest of the chapter.

**2:12-13** – Sanctification is the work of God alone, but he uses the efforts of his people to further their sanctification. We grow as we use the means of grace that God has provided.

**2:19-29** – Timothy and Epaphroditus are two examples of men who lived as humble servants following the example of Christ.

**2:25 – Epaphroditus** – Philippian church’s founding pastor and the one who had brought a gift to Paul. He was arrested in Rome while delivering that gift.

## Philippians 3

- 3:2 – **mutilate the flesh** – Those who practice circumcision as a means of being right with God.
- 3:3 – **confidence in the flesh** – This is the key concept of this section and is used in vv. 4-5. In the rest of the paragraph Paul uses himself as an example of one not putting confidence in the flesh for salvation.
- 3:7 – **counted** – The verb tense indicates that Paul is referring back to his conversion.
- 3:14 – **press on** – Paul and the Philippians need to persevere in their faith until they receive the fullness of their salvation in the resurrection (v. 21).

## Philippians 4

- 4:8 – **think about** – This refers to a deliberate and prolonged meditation on something.
- 4:13 – Note the context for this well-known verse. We can learn to be content through the power and work of God in us.
- 4:15-18 – The Philippian's multiple gifts to Paul are significant since they lived in one of the poorest districts of the Roman empire.