

“Love Lifted Me Recovery Ministries”

Philippians Bible Study

Philippians 1:14-26 Lesson #3

INSTRUCTIONS: **Read the entire section of Scripture in Philippians before starting to look up the other Scripture verses and filling in the blanks. Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to give you understanding as you read God's word. Most Scriptures are from the New King James Version.

14-18 And most of the brethren in the Lord, having become confident by my chains, are much more bold to speak the word without fear. **Some indeed PREACH Christ even from ENVY and STRIFE**, and some also from good will. The former preach Christ from selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my chains, but the latter out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel. What then? **Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is preached; and in this I rejoice, yes, and will rejoice.**

Definition: “Some indeed PREACH Christ even from ENVY and STRIFE – These verses have always bothered me: **WHY would someone even BOTHER to preach about Jesus Christ unless they had pure motives?** Well, the verses go on to say that these people “preach Christ from selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my chains”, which again is inconceivable to me, but maybe I can understand that some people become preachers to try to get rich, and/or gather a large following, such as some TV evangelists and false teachers. Now, why these people would want to cause harm to Paul by “adding affliction to his chains” I don’t know, either, but the good news is that **Paul says it doesn’t matter what their motives were, because either way, they were preaching about Jesus Christ.** A classic example of someone like this is Judas Iscariot. He preached about Christ along with the other disciples for three years, and no one knew that his motives were not right (except Jesus always knew) until the very end, when he openly became the traitor and betrayed Jesus.

• **John 13:20-25** “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who receives _____ I send receives _____; and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me.” When Jesus had said these things, He was _____ in _____, and testified and said, “Most assuredly, I say to you, _____ of _____ will _____ Me.”

• **John 6:64 & 70-71** “But there are some of you who do not _____.’ For Jesus _____ from the _____ who they were who did not believe, and _____ would _____ Him.” “Jesus answered them, “Did I not choose you, the twelve, and one of you is a _____?” He spoke of _____ Iscariot, the son of Simon, for it was he who would _____ Him, being one of the twelve.”

Definition: “He who RECEIVES WHOMEVER I SEND” — Jesus is reassuring the other eleven disciples that, when they find out about Judas being a traitor, they don’t need to worry about what he did during the three years of ministry with Jesus, or worry about what people Judas might have laid hands on and prayed for. Jesus sent out ALL of the twelve disciples **under the ANOINTING of the Holy Spirit**, so if any person had faith in Jesus as God’s Messiah, they were healed or delivered, even if it was Judas who administered the laying on of hands. **God can use ANY vehicle or vessel He wants to use, even ungodly ones**, as we see many times in the Old Testament. God even used a donkey to speak to Balaam and rebuke him. **If He can use a donkey, He can use ANY human being, no matter what their motives are.**

• **John 12:4-6** “Then one of His disciples, _____ Iscariot, Simon’s son, who would _____ Him, said, “Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?” This he said, _____ that he _____ for the _____, but because he was a _____, and had the _____ box;

and he used to _____ (steal) what was _____ in _____.”

•**John 13:29** “For some thought, because _____ had the _____ box, that Jesus had said to him, ‘Buy those things we need for the feast,’ or that he should _____ something to the _____.”

Definition: “SOLD for THREE HUNDRED denarii” — A denarius was a silver coin. Isn’t this interesting? Judas couldn’t STAND to see Mary “waste” **300 pieces of silver on Jesus**, when he was only getting **30 pieces of silver for BETRAYING Jesus!** Judas was a THIEF, and his principle sin was **the sin of GREED**, which probably led to his becoming disillusioned with the way Jesus was going about as the Messiah. Judas wanted Jesus to set up an EARTHLY KINGDOM, in which **he, Judas, would have power and wealth.**

19-21 For I know that **this will TURN OUT for my SALVATION through your PRAYER** and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, according to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also **Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by LIFE or by DEATH. For to me, to LIVE is Christ, and to DIE is GAIN.**

•**II Corinthians 1:9-11** “Yes, we had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should _____ trust in _____ but in _____ who raises the dead, who _____ us from so great a death, and does _____ us, in whom we trust He will still _____ us, you also _____ together in _____ for us, that thanks may be given by many persons on our behalf for the gift granted to us through many.”

Definition: “This will TURN OUT for my SALVATION through your PRAYER” – Paul is NOT doubting his salvation and eternal life in Christ, but rather speaking of **his DELIVERANCE out of PRISON. Paul was hoping for RELEASE from PRISON, and being able to visit the churches again**, but was also willing to give his life for Jesus Christ, if that was what God wanted. Either way, he would be delivered out of prison.

•**Romans 1:10-11** “Making _____ if, by some means, now at last I may _____ a _____ in the _____ of _____ to _____ to _____. For I long to see you, that I may _____ to you some _____ gift, so that you may be _____.”

•**Acts 18:20-21** “When they _____ him to _____ a longer time with them, he did _____ consent, but took leave of them, saying, ‘I must by all means keep this coming feast in Jerusalem; but I will _____ again to you, God _____.’ And he sailed from Ephesus.”

Definition: “Whether by LIFE or by DEATH. For to me, to LIVE is Christ, and to DIE is GAIN” – The Bible teaches that a Believer in Jesus Christ goes directly to be with the Lord in heaven when he or she dies, but there are some groups that teach otherwise. There are some people who believe in something they call “soul sleep,” which means they believe both the soul and body are in a kind of limbo, or “sleep” until the resurrection. For the purpose of this study, we will use the term spirit and soul almost interchangeably. There is a difference between spirit and soul, but that would be another Bible study altogether. The two are closely associated in the word of God, and the Bible teaches that the soul and spirit TOGETHER go to be with the Lord, while the body “sleeps” awaiting the resurrection. The Apostle Paul makes it very clear that when we are **“absent from the body”** we are immediately **“present with the Lord.”** Paul also says in I Thessalonians 4 that the Lord will “bring with Him” the dead in Christ, as their bodies are being resurrected at the Rapture. If Jesus is going to **bring the departed saints with Him from heaven**, it is obvious that their souls were not

sleeping in the grave with their bodies. Also, Paul says, "**To DIE is GAIN**", which means he would rather go to heaven and be with Christ. But, he says he will stay on here in order to help the Believers, and he will honor Christ by doing so.

• **I Thessaonians 4:16-17** "For the _____ Himself will _____ from _____ with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the _____ in _____ will _____ first (Christians who have died will be RESURRECTED). Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up (taken up) together with them in the _____ to _____ the _____ in the _____. And thus we shall _____ be _____ the _____."

• **II Corinthians 5:6 & 8** "Therefore we are always _____, knowing that while we are at _____ in the _____, we are _____ from the Lord." "We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be _____ from the _____ and to be _____ with the _____."

22-26 But if I live on in the flesh, **this will mean FRUIT from my LABOR**; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell. **For I am HARD PRESSED between the TWO, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better.** Nevertheless to remain in the flesh is more needful for you. And being confident of this, I know that I shall remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy of faith, that your rejoicing for me may be more abundant in Jesus Christ by my coming to you again.

• **John 15:4-5** "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear _____ of itself, unless it _____ in the _____, neither can you, unless you abide in _____. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who _____ in _____, and I in him, bears much _____; for without Me you can do nothing."

• **Romans 1:13** "Now I do not want you to be unaware, _____, that I often planned to _____ to _____ (but was hindered until now), that I might have some _____ among you also, just as among the other Gentiles."

Definition: "This will mean FRUIT from my LABOR" – The kind of FRUIT Paul is talking about here is the SPIRITUAL GROWTH of the believers. **Paul's LABOR is his preaching and teaching** in order to see the believers in Philippi grow in their faith and begin to work and LABOR themselves in God's kingdom. Philippians 2:12-13 is often misunderstood. The Bible tells us over and over again that we are saved by GRACE through FAITH, as a FREE GIFT from God, not by the works of the law, or by performing religious ordinances, or by doing good deeds. Philippians 2:12-13 does NOT say **WORK FOR** your salvation, but rather to **WORK it OUT**. Once you already HAVE the salvation as a free gift from God in Jesus Christ, **your SPIRIT WITHIN YOU is born again**, and that **NEW LIFE in CHRIST** needs to be DEMONSTRATED ("worked out") on the **OUTSIDE**, in your daily life where people can SEE IT. The good news is that God always gives us the power to do whatever He requires of us. **God gives us the POWER, as HE WORKS in us by His Holy Spirit**, to "WILL" (have the desire) and to "DO" (carry it out) for His good pleasure.

• **Philippians 2:12-13** "Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, _____ your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is _____ who _____ in you both to _____ and to _____ for His good pleasure."

• **John 4:35-36** "Do you not say, "There are still four months and then comes the _____?" Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white (ripe) for _____. And he who reaps receives wages, and gathers _____ for eternal life, that both he who _____ and he who _____ may _____ together."

• **Matthew 9:37-38** “Then He said to His disciples, ‘The _____ truly is plentiful, but the _____ (workers) are _____. Therefore pray (ask) the Lord of the harvest to send out _____ into His _____.’”

Definition: “The FIELDS are already white for HARVEST” — Jesus is referring to the multitudes of people that are ready to hear the GOSPEL — **they are READY or ripe** for HARVEST (to be SAVED). Jesus is saying that the people are READY to hear, but there are not enough workers to PREACH the gospel to them. This is another meaning for **“FRUIT from my LABOR” - we “labor” when we do the WORK of God in bringing people to faith in Jesus Christ. Bringing people to faith in Jesus Christ is also referred to as “WINNING SOULS for Christ.”**

• **Luke 10:1-2** “After these things the Lord appointed _____ others also, and sent them two by two before His face into every city and place where He Himself was about to go. Then He said to them, ‘The _____ truly is _____, but the _____ are few; therefore pray the Lord of the _____ to send out _____ into His _____.’”

• **Proverbs 11:30** “The _____ of the _____ is a tree of life, and he who _____ is wise.”

Definition: “Gathers FRUIT for eternal life” — There are **TWO** meanings for “gathers fruit for eternal life” in this verse. **(1)** We gather SOULS as we bring other people to faith in Jesus Christ, and **they in turn receive ETERNAL LIFE**; and **(2)** We receive a **REWARD when we get to heaven** for all the people we have witnessed to that have received Christ and come into God’s kingdom.

• **I Corinthians 3:5-9** “Who then is _____, and who is Apollos, but ministers through whom you _____, as the Lord gave to each one? I planted, Apollos watered, but _____ gave the increase (growth). So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase. Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will _____ his own _____ according to his own _____. For we are God’s fellow _____; you are God’s field, you are God’s building.”

Definition: “For I am HARD PRESSED between the TWO” – You’ve heard the expression of being “between a rock and a hard place”? **Well, that’s what Paul is talking about, except that for him they are both GOOD choices.** He would like to go home and be with the Lord, but he would also like to stay with the church here on earth to help them and teach them.

Definition: “Having a desire to DEPART and BE with CHRIST, which is FAR BETTER” – Why is it **better for Paul to “depart and be with Christ”?** It’s better to be with the Lord in heaven, because He has promised us “fullness of Joy” and “pleasures forevermore” in His presence, and also promised no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying, and no more pain - those are all things we have to deal with here on earth.

• **Psalms 16:11** “You will show me the path of life; in Your _____ is fullness of _____; at Your right hand are _____ forevermore.”

• **Revelation 21:3-4** “And I heard a loud voice from _____ saying, ‘Behold, the tabernacle of _____ is with _____, and He will _____ with them, and they shall be His _____, and God Himself will be with them and be their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more _____, nor _____, nor _____, and there shall be no more _____, for the former things have passed away.’”