

“Love Lifted Me Recovery Ministries”

Philippians Bible Study

Philippians 2:19-30 & 3:1- 3 Lesson #6

**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.

19-23 But I trust in the Lord Jesus **to send Timothy to you shortly, that I also may be ENCOURAGED when I KNOW your STATE.** For I have no one like-minded who will sincerely care for your state. For all seek their own, not the things which are of Christ Jesus. But **you know his PROVEN CHARACTER, that as a SON with his father he SERVED with ME** in the gospel. Therefore I hope to **SEND HIM at once, as soon as I SEE HOW it GOES with ME.**

• **I Timothy 1:1-2** “Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the commandment of God our Savior and the Lord Jesus Christ, our hope, to _____, my true _____ in the _____: grace, mercy, and peace from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord.”

Definition: “I also may be ENCOURAGED when I KNOW your STATE” – State in this sense means CONDITION, or in other words, **HOW they are DOING.** Paul is writing from prison, being **imprisoned for his faith in Jesus Christ.** He wants to know that the Believers in the church in Philippi are in good condition and doing well in following the Lord. Paul also sent messengers to the different churches to let them know how he was doing. They were worried about Paul being in prison, and he wanted to comfort them by letting them know he was all right.

• **Acts 15:36** “Then after some days _____ said to Barnabas, ‘Let us now go _____ and _____ our _____ in every city where we have _____ the _____ of the _____, and _____ they are _____.’”

• **Colossians 4:7** “Tychicus, who is a _____, a faithful _____, and a fellow _____ in the Lord, will tell you all the _____ about me.”

Ephesians 6:21-22 “But that you also may _____ my _____ and how I am _____, Tychicus, a beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord, will make all things known to you; whom I have _____ to _____ for this _____, that you may know our affairs, and that he may _____ your _____.”

Definition: “You know his PROVEN CHARACTER, that as a SON with his father he SERVED with ME” – Paul had led Timothy to faith in Jesus Christ, so that is why Paul refers to him as his “son in the faith”. He was not Paul’s son by blood, but by faith in Christ. Paul helped Timothy to come to Christ and be born again, so he feels like **his spiritual father** and calls him his “son” in that sense, but Timothy is still his BROTHER in Christ, as well.. In some of Paul’s epistles, Timothy is traveling with Paul, since Paul says “and Timothy” when beginning his letter, such as to the Colossian church. **Timothy SERVED faithfully with Paul** for many years.

• **Colossians 1:1-2** “_____, an _____ of Jesus Christ by the will of God, _____ our _____. To the _____ and faithful brethren in Christ who are in Colosse: grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.”

• **II Timothy 1:1** “Paul, an _____ of Jesus Christ by the _____ of

_____, according to the promise of _____ which is in Christ _____, to _____, my beloved _____: grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.”

• **Acts 16:1** “Then he came to Derbe and Lystra. And behold, a certain _____ was there, named _____, the son of a certain _____ woman who _____, but his father was _____. He was _____ spoken of by the _____ who were at Lystra and Iconium.”

Definition: “I hope to SEND HIM at once, as soon as I SEE HOW it GOES with ME” – Paul is writing this letter from prison, and is hoping that he will be released soon and will be able to visit the Philippian church in person.

• **I Timothy 3:14-15** “These things I _____ to you, though I _____ to _____ to you shortly; but if I am _____, I write _____ that you may _____ how to _____ in the _____ of _____, which is the _____ of the living _____, the pillar and ground of the truth.”

24-27 But I trust in the Lord that I myself shall also come shortly. Yet I considered it necessary to send to you **Epaphroditus, my brother, fellow WORKER, and fellow SOLDIER**, but your messenger and the one who ministered to my need; since he was longing for you all, and was distressed because you had heard that he was sick. For indeed he was sick almost to death; but **God had MERCY on him, and NOT ONLY on him but on ME also**, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow.

• **Philippians 4:18** “Indeed I have all and abound. I am full, having _____ from _____ the things which were sent from you, a sweet-smelling _____, an acceptable _____, well _____ to God.”

Definition: “Epaphroditus, my brother, fellow WORKER, and fellow SOLDIER” – Paul had many faithful Believers who traveled with him in his missionary journeys, both MEN and WOMEN, and **Epaphroditus** was one of them.

• **Romans 16:1-2** “I _____ to you Phoebe our _____, who is a _____ of the _____ in Cenchrea, that you may receive _____ in the Lord in a manner worthy of the saints, and assist _____ in whatever business she has need of you; for indeed _____ has been a _____ of many and of _____ also.”

• **Romans 16:9** “Greet Urbanus, our _____ in _____, and Stachys, my beloved.”

• **Romans 16:21** “_____, my _____, and Lucius, Jason and Sosipater, my kinsmen, greet you.”

• **Philemon 1-2** “Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and _____ our brother, to Philemon our beloved friend and _____, to the beloved Apphia, our SISTER, Archippus our _____, and to the church in your house.”

Definition: “God had MERCY on him, and NOT ONLY on him but on ME also” – Paul did not want to lose his friend and fellow-worker for the Lord. **If Epaphroditus would have died**, Paul would have been very sorrowful, but God had mercy on Paul and Epaphroditus himself, also, by healing him. Before Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead (and healed him of whatever had caused him to die), Jesus was also sorrowful, and even cried tears, as **He felt the sadness of Lazarus’ sisters**.

• **John 11:32-38** “Then, when _____ came where _____ was, and saw Him, she fell down at His feet, saying to Him, “_____, if _____ had _____ here, my brother would _____ have _____.” Therefore, when Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her weeping, He groaned in the spirit and was troubled. And He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to Him, “Lord, come and see.” Jesus _____. Then the Jews said, “See how He loved him!” And some of them said, “Could not this Man, who opened the eyes of the blind, also have _____ this man from _____?”

Definition: “Jesus WEPT” — The Greek indicates that this was a gentle, controlled weeping, **NOT the loud weeping and wailing** of the sisters and mourners. **Jesus FELT the PAIN** of Mary and Martha (that’s what it means by **He “was troubled”**), even though He knew He was going to raise up Lazarus. **Jesus also feels OUR PAIN.** By His crying, He is also telling us it’s okay to cry. Tears are one of God’s means of cleansing our emotions, and relieving ourselves of stress.

• **Hebrews 4:15** “For we do _____ have a High Priest (Jesus) who _____ with our _____, but was in _____ points _____ as we are, yet without _____.”

28-30 Therefore I sent him the more eagerly, that when you see him again you may rejoice, and I may be less sorrowful. Receive him therefore in the Lord with all gladness, and hold such men in esteem; **because for the WORK of CHRIST he came CLOSE to DEATH**, not regarding his life, **to SUPPLY what was LACKING in your service toward me.**

• **1 Corinthians 16:17-18** “I am glad about the coming of Stephanus, Fortunatus, and Achaicus, for what was _____ on _____, they _____.”

Definition: “Because for the WORK of CHRIST he came CLOSE to DEATH” – Paul uses the expression “risked their own necks” in Romans 16:4, but it means the same thing. The Believers in Jesus in the early church (and many in other places of the world right now) were risking their lives and coming close to death, and some even were (and are now) dying for the sake of their faith in Christ.

• **Romans 16:3-4** “Greet _____ and Aquila, my _____ in _____, who _____ - their own _____ for my life, to whom not only I give thanks, but also _____ the _____ of the Gentiles.”

Definition: “To SUPPLY what was LACKING in your service toward ME” – Was Paul making a jab at the Philippians, or complaining that they had not helped him, and that someone else had to fill in for them? No, because in chapter 4 verse 10 he says they DID CARE, but LACKED the OPPORTUNITY to help him.

• **Philippians 4:10** “But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that _____ at _____ your _____ for _____ has flourished again; though you surely did _____, but you _____.”

Chapter 3

1-2 Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. For me to write the same things to you is not tedious, but for you it is safe. Beware of dogs, **beware of evil workers, beware of the mutilation!**

Definition: “Beware of the MUTILATION” – The Greek word here is not the same as the word for

circumcision. **Circumcision was an outward SIGN for the Jews**, the nation of Israel. False teachers called “Judaizers” were coming to the church in Philippi and trying to make all the Gentile (non-Jewish) Christians get circumcised, and that was NOT what God said they had to do, so it was only a form of MUTILATING their bodies - it was NOT for God.

3 For **we are the CIRCUMCISION, who WORSHIP God in the SPIRIT**, rejoice in CHRIST JESUS, and have NO confidence in the FLESH.

•**John 4:23-24** “But the _____ is coming, and now is, when the _____ will _____ the Father in _____ and _____; for the Father is seeking such to _____ Him. God is _____, and those who worship Him _____ in _____ and _____.”

Definition: “The Circumcision” — This was a term used to refer to the Jews, because circumcision was the “sign” of their covenant with God. Jesus brought in the NEW COVENANT (New Testament), and there is no longer any “sign” of our covenant that is in our flesh (our physical bodies). Our covenant with God is through the blood of Jesus, and it is a SPIRITUAL covenant. The Holy Spirit performs a spiritual circumcision, a REMOVAL of our SIN nature from us, and causes us to be re-born and **MADE ALIVE in our spirits**. A person who has NOT had this SPIRITUAL RE-BIRTH is **spiritually DEAD**, and they **cannot WORSHIP God in the spirit**. **When Paul says, “We are the CIRCUMCISION” he means we, the Believers in Jesus Christ, as the TRUE worshipers of God.**

•**Read Colossians 2:11-13** “In Him you were also _____ with the circumcision made _____, by putting off the body of the _____ of the _____, by the circumcision of _____, buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were _____ with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. And you, being _____ in your trespasses (sins) and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made _____ together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses (sins).”

Definition: “WORSHIP in SPIRIT and TRUTH” — These are the two vital ingredients for true worship of God. **This is why ALL RELIGIONS CANNOT BE RIGHT**. If we try to come to God when **still SPIRITUALLY DEAD**, we cannot worship Him “in spirit.” If we try to come to God with **FALSE IDEAS or BELIEFS** about Him, we cannot worship Him “in TRUTH.”

•**Exodus 20:1-5** “And God spoke all these words saying: ‘I am the _____ your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall have _____ gods before (besides) Me. You shall not make for yourself any carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall NOT _____ to them nor serve (worship) them....”

•**Proverbs 16:25** “There is a _____ that _____ right to a man, but its end is the _____ of _____.”

•**John 14:6** “Jesus said to him, ‘I _____ the _____, the _____, and the _____. _____ ONE comes to the _____ except through _____.”

•**I Timothy 2:5** “For there is ONE _____, and one _____ between God and men, the Man _____.”

•**Psalms 145:18** “The Lord is _____ to all who _____ upon Him (worship or pray to Him), to all who call upon Him in _____.”