

SHARE THE JOY! **An Overview of Philippians¹**

THE PURPOSE: Paul has several purposes in writing Philippians. First, Paul expresses gratitude for the financial and emotional support (1:5; 4:10–20). Second, Paul gives an update on his imprisonment and situation (1:12–26; 2:23–24). Third, Paul encourages perseverance and joy amidst adverse circumstances (1:27–30; 4:4). Fourth, Paul urges humility and unity amidst of discord and division (2:1–18; 4:2–3). Fifth, Paul commends Timothy and reassures concerning Epaphroditus (2:19–30). Sixth, Paul warns against negative teaching and false teachers (3:2–3, 17–21).

THE THEME: The most prominent theme of Philippians is the joy in serving Jesus. Despite writing from prison, Paul chose joy and challenged the church at Philippi to be content in all circumstances (4:11–13). Another significant theme is “partnership in the gospel” (1:5, 7; 2:1; 3:10; 4:15). These passages highlight the Philippians’ active involvement in Paul’s ministry. By supporting Paul, the Philippians became partners with him in the furtherance of the gospel. Paul illustrates this concept of “partnering” with the lives of Jesus Christ (2:5–11), Timothy (2:19–23), Epaphroditus (2:25–30), and Euodia and Syntyche (4:2–3).

THE AUTHOR: The letter of Philippians claims the apostle Paul as its author (1:1) and reflects his personality. Internal and external evidence also strongly support Paul’s authorship.

THE AUDIENCE: There are a number of important characteristics about the Philippian church. First, the church consists primarily of Gentiles. Second, women played an important role in the life of the church. Third, the church is a model of generosity. Fourth, the church is loyal, as evidenced by its gifts of support to Paul and her desire to know Paul’s situation during his Roman imprisonment.

THE DATE AND SETTING: External evidence indicates that Paul wrote this letter within his first Roman imprisonment (cf. 1:7, 13; cf. Acts 28:30–31). However, since there had already been some correspondence between Paul and the Philippians, it is likely that this letter was written at least halfway through his imprisonment. Furthermore, since Paul expresses confidence in his imminent release (1:25; 2:24), the letter must surely have been written toward the end of his stay. Therefore, a date of AD 60–62 seems most reasonable.

KEY WORDS: Paul uses the noun and verbal forms of “rejoice” and “rejoice with” sixteen times in this short letter.² He uses the noun and verbal forms of “share” and “share with” six times.³ The title of this sermon series “Share the Joy” is founded upon the two key words in the letter: “share” and “joy.” The apostle employs fifteen different terms prefixed by the Greek preposition *syn* (“with”), implying partnership and unity. Words related to the mind, to thinking, and to remembering occur almost three dozen times.

KEY PHRASE: “In Christ,” “in the Lord,” or “in Him” occur twenty-one times.⁴ In a letter of 104 verses, Jesus’ name or title appear fifty-one times. Christ is central in Paul’s heart, mind, and theology.

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² The breakdown is as follows: “joy” (*chara*, 1:4, 25, 2:2, 29; 4:1); “rejoice” (*chairō*, 1:18 [2x]; 2:17, 18, 28; 3:1; 4:4 [2x], 10); and “rejoice with” (*synchairō*, 2:17, 18). Thirty percent of Paul’s references to joy are in Philippians.

³ The occurrences are as follows: “participation/fellowship” (*koinonia*, 1:5; 2:1; 3:10); “share” (*koinoneō*, 4:15); “share with” (*synkoinoneō*, 4:14); and “fellow partaker” (*sygkoinonos*, 1:7).

⁴ This is the highest concentration in any of Paul’s letters except Ephesians and Philemon.

KEY VERSES: “For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain” (1:21).

“Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or remain absent, I will hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel” (1:27).

“Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!” (4:4).

OUTSTANDING CHARACTERISTICS:

- Paul wrote Philippians to express his appreciation and affection for the church (1:3–5, 25–26; 4:1) rather than to address a crisis or concern.
- More than any other church, the believers in Philippi offered Paul financial support for his ministry (4:15–18; cf. 2 Corinthians 8:11).
- Paul uses the personal pronoun “I” fifty–two times expressing the deeply personal nature of the letter.
- Paul refers to “God” twenty–three times in a mere four chapters.
- Paul uses the word “all” thirty–three times emphasizing the corporate nature of Philippians.
- “Gospel” is mentioned nine times (1:5, 7, 12, 16, 27 [2x]; 2:22; 4:3, 15). This is tied with Romans for the most occurrences of “gospel” in Paul’s letters, but Romans is three times the length of Philippians.
- “Confident” is used more in Philippians than in any other NT book (1:6, 14, 25; 2:24; 3:3, 4).
- “Abound” is used five times in Philippians (1:9, 26; 4:12 [2x], 18). It is one of Paul’s favorite words for describing the richness of the Christian life.
- Paul emphasizes suffering as a key element in the Christian life (e.g., 1:14–18, 29–30; cf. 2:16–17).
- Paul’s description of Christ in 2:6–11 is one of the most theological texts in the NT.
- Paul provides his religious résumé in 3:5–6 (seven traits in all).
- Philippians 3:9 is one of the most emphatic statements concerning justification (i.e., declared righteous by God) in the entire NT.
- Paul emphasizes imitating him (3:15, 17, 4:9) and others, such as Jesus (2:5), Timothy (2:19–24), and Epaphroditus (2:29).

CHRIST IN PHILIPPIANS: The letter begins and ends with references to the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ (1:2; 4:23). On average, Christ is mentioned once every eighteen words explicitly (name/title) or implicitly (pronoun) for a total of ninety–three occurrences.⁵ Christ is depicted in His equality with God, His willingness to become a servant, His *kenosis* (the “emptying-out”), His incarnation, His life of obedience, His humiliating crucifixion, His resurrection, His exaltation, and His eternal lordship.⁶

SUMMARY STRUCTURE:⁷

Phil 1:1–26	Joy in suffering
Phil 1:27–2:30	Joy in serving
Phil 3:1–4:1	Joy in believing
Phil 4:2–23	Joy in giving

⁵ Matthew Harmon, *Philippians*, A Mentor Commentary (Ross-Shire: Christian Focus, 2015), 51 n. 76.

⁶ Philip W. Comfort, “Philippians,” *Cornerstone Biblical Commentary* (Carol Stream: Tyndale, 2008), 148.

⁷ Bruce B. Barton, Mark Fackler, Linda Taylor, Dave Veerman, *Philippians, Colossians, & Philemon*, Life Application Bible Commentary (Wheaton: Tyndale, 1995), 13.



May 21, 2023 | Pastor Keith Krell
Philippians 1:1-11 | “Team Up!”

Sermon Application Review from Luke 7:36-50

What specific sin did the Holy Spirit convict you of this past week?

How did you express worshipful gratitude for Jesus’ forgiveness?

Scripture References

Philippians 1:1–11

Romans 1:8–15

Acts 2:42–47; 16:12–40

2 Corinthians 11:23–28

1 Thessalonians 3:9–13

1 Corinthians 3:10–15

Colossians 1:9–14

Study Questions

1. Do others consider you a servant (1:1)? Why or why not? How are you presently serving those closest to you? In what specific ways do you still struggle with selfishness? How can you become more selfless and sacrificial in your home, work, and church relationships?
2. What is the emotional connection between gratitude and joy (1:3–4)? How can you give thanks to God in all circumstances (1:3)? Why should joy be such a vital part of your prayer life (1:4)? What are some situations in your life that make it difficult to rejoice? How can you increase your expression of gratitude toward others?
3. In what specific ways do you partner with CBC (1:5–7)? How are you giving of your time, talent, and treasure? How do you determine what to give and where to serve? Which acts of Christian giving and serving have given you the most fulfillment?
4. How has God preserved CBC’s mission and your own ministry fruitfulness (1:6)? What is CBC presently doing to maximize kingdom influence? What is one area of your life that requires attention before Christ returns? How will you use Philippians 1:6 to encourage other believers in Christ?
5. How can you progress in your love for other believers at CBC (1:9a)? In what ways are biblical knowledge and discernment linked to love (1:9b)? How do these qualities prepare us for the judgment seat of Christ (1:10)? How can CBC be “filled with the fruit of righteousness” (1:11)?

Recommended Reading

Jerry Bridges, *True Community* (NavPress, 2018)

Christopher J. H. Wright, *The Mission of God’s People: A Biblical Theology of the Church’s Mission* (Zondervan Academic, 2010)

Randy Alcorn, *Money, Possessions, & Eternity* (Tyndale, [1989] 2003)

D. A. Carson, *A Call to Spiritual Reformation: Priorities from Paul and His Prayers* (Baker Academic, 1992)



May 28, 2023 | Pastor Keith Krell
Philippians 1:12-26 | “A Win-Win Situation”

Sermon Application Review from Phil 1:1-11

Who did you remember in prayer this past week?
How did you exhibit thanksgiving and joy for other gospel partners?
In what ways did you increase your partnership with God’s church?

Scripture References

Philippians 1:12–26
Acts 4:1–22; 28:30–31
2 Timothy 2:8–10; 4:1–8
John 15:18–25; 16:1–4, 33
Matthew 16:21–27
2 Corinthians 4:7–5:10
2 Corinthians 5:11–21

Study Questions

1. What is the most significant trial you have ever endured (1:12)? How did you feel when this ordeal began? Over time, how did your perspective and attitude change? What did God teach you through this traumatic period? How did this low point prepare you for future trials? Read James 1:2–12.
2. During adversity, how has God opened doors for you to share Christ (1:13)? How has your bold gospel witness inspired other believers (1:14)? How have people responded to your joy and confidence in the Lord during these awful circumstances? How did you respond to their questions and comments? Is there anything you would say or do differently as a result of studying Philippians 1:12–26?
3. In what ways is death actually “gain” for a believer (1:21; cf. 2 Corinthians 5:1-8)? How might you encourage someone who is suffering loss or grieving death? In what practical ways might you live out Paul’s declaration “For to me, to live is Christ” (1:21)? Write out a Personal Mission Statement this week: “I exist to . . .”
4. What does it mean to experience “fruitful labor” (1:22)? How are you bearing fruit for Christ in your daily life (1:22–24)? In what ways do you hope to increase your spiritual fruitfulness? Read John 15:1–11. Is there someone in your life who will hold you accountable to serve those in your sphere of influence?
5. In what ways do you have a vision to help others grow in their faith (1:25–26)? With whom are you intentionally investing time and effort? Is this person also investing in others? Read 2 Timothy 2:1–2. What can you do to ensure you are helping others progress in their faith?

Recommended Reading

D. A. Carson, *How Long, O Lord?: Reflections on Suffering and Evil*, 2nd ed. (Baker, 2006)
Jerry Sittser, *A Grace Disguised: How the Soul Grows through Loss* (Zondervan, 2004)
Erwin W. Lutzer, *Heaven and the Afterlife: The Truth about Tomorrow and What it Means for Today* (Moody, 2016)



June 4, 2023 | Pastor Keith Krell
Philippians 1:27-30 | "Citizens of Heaven on Earth"

Sermon Application Review from Phil 1:12–26

How have you seen your adversity advance the gospel (1:12–14)?

How has the Lord shaped your perspective on pain and death (1:21–24)?

Who did you help progress in the faith (1:25–26)?

Scripture References

Philippians 1:27–30

Ephesians 4:1–6

2 Timothy 3:12–14

Matthew 10:28, 32–39

2 Corinthians 11:23–29; 12:7–10

1 Peter 1:6–7

Hebrews 2:10

Study Questions

1. How are you impacted by the phrase: "As citizens of heaven, live your life" (1:27a CSB)? How do you think your Christian citizenship relates to earthly allegiances to your own city or country? What specific strengths does Crossroads possess in areas of unity, courage, and perseverance? How does CBC model the gospel in the community?
2. How do you "strive together for the faith of the gospel" with other believers both local and global (1:27)? Where do you see evidence of Crossroads doing this as a church? Where have you observed such evidence in the global church? In what ways do you seek to maintain unity in the body of Christ? Would those who know you say that you love the church and uphold unity? Read Ephesians 4:1–6 and John 17.
3. When have you witnessed local or global opposition to the gospel (1:27)? How can you best confront the resistance that you personally face due to your allegiance to Christ? What are some ways you can encourage others to stand firm amidst opposition?
4. Are you currently intimidated by an unbeliever (1:28)? If so, why does this individual intimidate you? What is the worst thing this person can do to you? Read Matthew 10:32–33 and 2 Timothy 1:7–8. How can you overcome your fear of people? Is there a bold believer you respect who can help you courageously witness for Christ?
5. When (if ever) have you suffered for Christ (1:29–30)? What was this experience like? What has God taught you through the persecution you endured? Read 2 Timothy 3:12; Acts 14:22. How has suffering been a gracious gift in your life? How can you begin to see the positive fruit that only occurs through suffering?

Recommended Reading

John Foxe, *Foxe's Book of Martyrs* (1563)

Nik Ripken, *The Insanity of Obedience: Walking with Jesus in Tough Places* (B&H, 2014)

Tom Doyle, *Standing in the Fire: Courageous Christians Living in Frightening Times* (Thomas Nelson, 2017)

Tom & JoAnn Doyle, *Women Who Risk: Secret Agents for Jesus in the Muslim World* (Thomas Nelson, 2021)



June 11, 2023 | Pastor Keith Krell
Philippians 2:1-4 | "THE United Way"

Sermon Application Review from Phil 1:27–30

In what way did you unite with the body of Christ this past week?
How did you share the good news of Jesus?
How did you embrace suffering as a gift of grace?

Scripture References

Philippians 2:1–4
Colossians 3:12–17
Romans 12:9–13, 16
Romans 15:1–6
Galatians 5:22–26
Galatians 6:1–10
Ephesians 4:1–3

Study Questions

1. How have you experienced the spiritual provisions God has given you (2:1)? Which is the most meaningful to you? Which do you struggle to understand and experience? How will you daily live out your Christian life with gratitude to God for His gracious gifts?
2. How do you apply and employ God's provisions in your relationships with other believers (2:2)? In what ways do you love your Christian brothers and sisters with Christ's unconditional love? How do you exude Christian unity at CBC? Where have you hindered unity? How do you model unity among other believers at your work, school, neighborhood, and community? In what sense should your joy (2:2a) be dependent upon the behavior of others?
3. It's been said, "Life is 10% what happens to us and 90% how we react to what happens." How do you react when another believer treats you poorly? How do you "believe the best" about this person and give him/her the benefit of the doubt? How can you learn to be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry (James 1:19)?
4. What have been some of the most notable causes for disunity among fellow believers (2:3)? Are any of these things true in your life now? When do you sense that you are the most selfish? How can you cultivate selflessness amid stress, busyness, and weariness? When do you most struggle with pride? Who can help hold you accountable to elevate others?
5. How can you look to others' interests instead of your own (2:4)? What can you do in the next two months to intentionally promote unity at CBC and the church of the Eastside? How large is the circle of your prayers? Outside of your family, who is on your prayer list? Do you pray for more than just your family and yourself? Who from CBC can you begin to diligently pray for?

Recommended Reading

Jerry Bridges, *The Blessing of Humility* (NavPress, 2016)
Tony Evans, *Stronger Together, Weaker Apart: Powerful Prayers to Unite Us in Love* (Harvest House, 2020)



June 18, 2023 | Pastor Keith Krell

Philippians 2:5-11 | “Work Your Way *Down* the Ladder”

Sermon Application Review from Phil 2:1–4

How often did you reflect on your four spiritual blessings this past week (2:1)?

How did you look out for the interests of others (2:4)?

Scripture References

Philippians 2:5–11

Matthew 20:20–28

Mark 10:35–45

Romans 10:9–10; 14:7–12

Colossians 1:15–20

Hebrews 2:8–18

Revelation 5:11–14

Study Questions

1. How does your attitude reflect Christ’s attitude (2:5)? In what area do you have the greatest challenge reflecting the attitude of Christ? What can you do this week to improve your outlook? Who can help you with an attitude adjustment?
2. What astonishes you most about Jesus’ humility (2:6–8)? What portions of His life and ministry really stand out to you? In what specific ways do you humble yourself before others? How can you follow Christ’s example and live as a “bond-servant”? Who are the most difficult people in your life to serve? This week, how can you show these people God’s sacrificial love?
3. How is Jesus currently being exalted in your personal life? What are you doing to ensure that your family is exalting the Lord Jesus? When are you most prone to take credit for something? How can you naturally deflect the praise to God?
4. Who do you have a relationship with that needs to hear the good news of the gospel? What can you do this week to share Christ with this individual? How can you imitate Jesus’ example and use practical service to open a door for the gospel?
5. How should the future exaltation of Jesus impact our lives as believers today (2:10–11)? In your Christian life, how do you strive to submit to Christ’s lordship? What area are you presently struggling to relinquish to the Lord? How is this area holding you back in your spiritual growth? Who can help you submit this area to Christ?

Recommended Reading

Murray J. Harris, *Jesus as God: The New Testament Use of Theos in Reference to Jesus* (Wipf & Stock, 2008)

R. T. Kendall, *Meekness and Majesty: Rediscovering Jesus and Changing your Life* (Christian Focus, [1992] 2010)

Anne Spangler, *Praying the Names of Jesus* (Zondervan, 2006)



June 25, 2023 | Pastor Keith Krell
Philippians 2:12-18 | “God’s Gym”

Sermon Application Review from Phil 2:5–11

How did you adopt Christ’s humble attitude this past week?
What small acts of selfless servanthood did you perform?

Scripture References

Philippians 2:12–18
Ephesians 2:8–10
Exodus 15:22–25
Psalm 95
John 15:11; 16:24; 17:13
Isaiah 42:6; 49:6
Matthew 5:14–15

Study Questions

1. In what specific ways have you sought to work out your salvation in your church family (2:12)? How have you sensed God working in you (2:13)? In what ways has He increased your desire and obedience? How have you responded to Him in the past several weeks? In what practical ways have you grown spiritually in the last six months? What dominant truth has the Lord taught you? What steps of obedience have you taken?
2. Why is it so hard to “do all things without grumbling or disputing” (2:14)? How have you violated this command this week? How might you share legitimate concerns or issues with someone without violating the command? Read Romans 1:18–32 (1:21–22); 1 Corinthians 10:1–11 (10:8); and 2 Timothy 3:1–9 (3:2). How do these verses categorize grumbling and ingratitude? What difference does this make in shaping your perspective on whining?
3. Paul exhorts Christians to be “children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation” (2:15). Billy Graham once said, “Every generation is strategic. We are not responsible for the past generation, and we cannot bear full responsibility for the next one; but we do have our generation. God will hold us responsible as to how well we fulfill our responsibilities to this age and take advantage of our opportunities.” Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not? What can you do to ensure that you are a wise and responsible steward of your generation? How are you currently fulfilling this mandate?
4. As Christians, we are to hold out the word of life (2:16). How is your life functioning as a “light” that brings pleasure to your leaders and your God? In what way has the world noticed your godly behavior? How has this served as a witness? Where can you improve? Who will hold you accountable?
5. How do you sacrifice yourself for your local church (2:17–18)? When did you begin serving in the church? Was there something in particular that led you to serve in this capacity (perhaps an experience, a person, or something you read)? What has God taught you through your service? How has your service met a need or encouraged someone else? How has your service brought you joy? What would you say to others who are contemplating whether or not to serve?

Recommended Reading

Jerry Bridges, *The Discipline of Grace: God’s Role and Our Role in the Pursuit of Holiness* (NavPress, 1994)
Donald Whitney, *Spiritual Disciplines within the Church: Participating Fully in the Body of Christ* (Moody, 1996)
Joseph M. Stowell, *The Weight of Your Words* (Moody, 1998)



July 2, 2023 | Pastor Keith Krell
Philippians 2:19–30 | “Two of a Kind”

Sermon Application Review from Phil 2:12–18

How have you succeeded at “NO Whining” (2:14)?

In what ways did you “hold fast/hold forth the word of life” (2:16)?

Scripture References

Philippians 2:19–30

1 Corinthians 4:16–17

2 Timothy 2:1–4

Matthew 6:25–34; 16:24–27

Matthew 20:20–28

1 Corinthians 12:14–26

John 20:19–23

Study Questions

1. Identify some people you respect for their godly lifestyle. Why do you admire them? How can such godly examples motivate you in your life and ministry? In what ways are you deeply concerned about the spiritual well-being of other believers (2:19–20)? How do you pursue the interests of others above your own (2:21)? In what specific areas are you genuinely selfless? What areas need work?
2. Whom are you presently serving (2:22)? Practically speaking, what does this look like? How do you engage in ministry as a team or partnership? How do you openly champion the labor of others? Would others say you are a person of “proven worth”? How can you seek to serve those in your life this week?
3. Would anyone in your life call you his or her brother/sister, a fellow worker, and a fellow soldier (2:25)? Why or why not? Who would you describe with these terms in your life? How has this individual helped you grow spiritually? Do you regularly express your deep love, respect, and appreciation for this person? If not, will you do so today?
4. What qualities in Timothy and Epaphroditus could be applied in your life? If Paul were writing about you to the folks at Philippi, how do you think he would describe your service for Christ? What are some practical ways you can honor servants of the gospel at CBC (2:29)?
5. Paul says that Epaphroditus risked his life for the work of Christ and the gospel (2:30). How have you sought to sacrifice for another brother or sister? How have you risked your own neck or reputation to share the good news with unbelievers?

Recommended Reading

Ken Boa, *The Perfect Leader: Practicing the Leadership Traits of God* (Chariot, 2006)

Peter Scazzero, *The Emotionally Healthy Leader: How Transforming Your Inner Life Will Deeply Transform Your Church, Team, and the World* (Zondervan, 2015)

Lonnie Pacelli, *Straight A's: 5 Proven Steps to Empower Your Team* (Pacelli, 2023)

Larry Gilbert, *Team Ministry: Gifted To Serve: How Spiritual Gifts Can Unleash the Power of Everybody* (Churchgrowth.org, 2014)



July 23, 2023 | Pastor Keith Krell
Philippians 3:1-11 | Lose your Religion!

Scripture Reading

Philippians 3:1–11

Galatians 1:6–9; 5:2–4; 6:14

Romans 8:5–9

Mark 8:35–38

Jeremiah 9:23–24

Romans 2:28–29; 3:21–28

Ephesians 2:8–9

Study Questions

1. Would those who know you well say you regularly “rejoice in the Lord” (3:1)? What do your words, facial expressions, and body language say about your attitude, heart, and focus? In what areas do you battle discontentment? How can you rejoice in God’s character despite adverse circumstances?
2. In what ways is your religious background or present spirituality an impediment to your faith (3:4–6)? What accomplishments are you most prone to trust in (e.g., status, education, wealth)? How can you place your focus on Christ alone?
3. What does it mean to “know Christ,” to “gain Christ,” and to “be found in Him” (3:8–9)? Does your desire to know Christ exceed all other aspirations? If not, how can you prioritize your relationship with Christ?
4. How does righteousness obtained through faith differ from righteousness obtained through works (3:9)? Are you able and willing to explain the gospel to a coworker, neighbor, classmate, or family member? With whom have you recently shared Christ? How does Philippians 3:9–11 summarize the gospel?
5. How have you learned to know (i.e., experience) the power of Christ’s resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings (3:10)? Why are these pursuits preparatory for your eternal reward (3:11)? How might a greater focus on our resurrection and reward assist us in living our lives in Christ today?

Recommended Reading

Brian S. Rosner, *Paul and the Law: Keeping the Commandments of God* (InterVarsity, 2013)

Rankin Wilbourne, *Union with Christ: The Way to Know and Enjoy God* (David C. Cook, 2018)

J. Lanier Burns, *Pride and Humility at War* (P&R, 2018)



July 30, 2023 | Pastor Keith Krell
Philippians 3:12-16 | "Spiritual Olympics"

Sermon Application Review from Phil 3:1-11

How did you make a choice to rejoice this past week (3:1)?

What religious "trophy" did you relinquish to pursue Christ (3:4-8)?

How did you experience the fellowship of Christ's sufferings (3:10)?

Scripture References

Philippians 3:12-16

1 Corinthians 9:24-27

Hebrews 3:1-6; 12:1-3

2 Timothy 4:7-8

Luke 9:57-62

Colossians 1:28-29; 3:1-4

Ephesians 2:10; 4:11-13

Study Questions

1. What are your current spiritual goals and objectives (3:12, 14)? How do these affect priorities in other areas of your life? How are you relentlessly pursuing obedience to Christ? What or who is holding you back from going all-out in your Christian race?
2. What would people who know you well say is your "one thing"? What one change could you make in order to pursue the one thing that matters most? What are some of the tensions we experience as we desire to be holy and perfect in this life, and yet constantly fall short of that goal? How do you deal with those tensions?
3. What elements of your past still plague you (3:13)? Are there past sins that you feel are unforgiven by God? What past successes do you still glory in? How is your past keeping you from living in the present? What will you do this week to refocus your future gaze and ensure you persevere in your Christian race?
4. In what area of your life are you complacent (3:15-16)? How can you balance the need to be spiritually content with the call to aggressively press forward? How has God revealed to you the need to grow in various areas? In what area of your life is He currently working? How are you responding?
5. Have you trained yourself so that you don't always take the path of least resistance? Irish biblical scholar, Alex Motyer, has said, "It is easy to be a leader and to forget to be a Christian." Why is this the case? How can you correct this tendency? How can you be a leader worth emulating?

Recommended Reading

Jerry Bridges, *The Disciple of Grace* (NavPress, 1994)

Paul N. Benware, *The Believer's Payday* (AMG, 2002)

Kenneth Boa, *Life in the Presence of God* (InterVarsity, 2017)



August 6, 2023 | Pastor Keith Krell
Philippians 3:17-21 | “No Place Like Home”

Sermon Application Review from Phil 3:12–16

How did you consciously “forget” your past sins and successes?
How did you pursue the prize?

Scripture Reading

Philippians 3:17–21

Colossians 3:1–4

Romans 8:5–8

John 18:33–36

1 Thessalonians 1:9–10; 4:13–18

Titus 2:11–14

Corinthians 4:16–5:10

Study Questions

1. Who is currently following your example (3:17)? Who are your disciples? How are they currently impacting God’s kingdom? What must be altered in your life so that others will pattern themselves after you? With whom is God calling you to take a special interest?
2. In what ways are you wrongly influenced by ungodly people (3:18–19)? How do the activities of the ungodly remind you to live for Christ? In what ways are you struggling against the “god [of your own] appetite” (3:19a)? In what way does glorying in shame threaten to enter the church today (3:19b)? How can you help other Christians avoid the behaviors of 3:18–19?
3. How does 3:20–21 contribute to your own sense of identity as a Christ follower? How should the promise of Jesus’ return affect the way you live? How often do you long for Christ’s return?
4. How often do you reflect on your spiritual citizenship and heavenly home (3:20–21)? What do you most anticipate about heaven? How can you spend more time pondering the wonder of the eternal? How would your perspective be different if you lived consistently as a “citizen of heaven”? Who do you know that lives with an eternal perspective? How can this person help you focus on what really matters?
5. In what way does the promise of a transformed body offer you hope (3:21a)? What are you most looking forward to in your glorified body?

Recommended Reading

Michael E. Wittmer, *The Last Enemy: Preparing to Win the Fight of Your Life* (Our Daily Bread, 2012)

Fred Lybrand Jr., *Heavenly Citizenship: The Spiritual Alternative to Power Politics* (Treasure House, 1993)

John Hart, *50 Things You Need to Know About Heaven* (Bethany House, 2014)



August 13, 2023 | Pastor Keith Krell
Philippians 4:1-9 | “Peace by Peace”

Sermon Application Review from Phil 3:17–21

Who did you seek to imitate this past week? Who imitated you (3:17)?
How did you anticipate the Savior’s return (3:20–21)?

Scripture References

Philippians 4:1–9
1 Thess 2:19–20
Psalm 133:1–3
1 Peter 3:8–9
Matthew 6:25–34
1 Thessalonians 5:16–18
Isaiah 26:3–4

Study Questions

1. In what specific ways do you verbally express love and appreciation for other believers (4:1)? How are you encouraged by the spiritual growth of others? Which of your disciples are your joy and crown?
2. What has been your most difficult interpersonal church conflict (4:2–3)? What would you do differently when (not *if*) a conflict happens again? How can you know when to overlook an offense and when to confront it?
3. How have you learned to “rejoice in the Lord” during various conflicts (4:4)? Would the people you are prone to have conflict with consider you a gentle person (4:5a)? Why or why not? What relationships in your life need a calmer and kinder touch? Can you think of someone who displays gentleness? In what way has this person influenced or affected you? What small habit can you begin, resume, or strengthen this week to help you experience God’s abiding presence? In what way does the promise of Christ’s return help you with difficult circumstances and people?
4. How has your prayer life been strengthened in times of conflict (4:6)? In what ways can you be thankful for the person with whom you are in conflict? How has the Lord brought peace to you amidst conflict (4:7)?
5. How have you grown in the characteristics of 4:8 during conflict? Which characteristic do you struggle the most to “dwell on”? How can you practice this characteristic (4:9)?

Recommended Reading

Robert J. Morgan, *Worry Less, Live More: God’s Prescription for a Better Life* (Thomas Nelson, 2017)
Linda Dillow, *Calm My Anxious Heart* (NavPress, 1998)
W. Bingham Hunter, *The God Who Hears* (InterVarsity, 1986)
Jamie Rasmussen *How Joyful People Think: 8 Ways of Thinking That Lead to a Better Life* (Baker, 2018)



August 20, 2023 | Pastor Keith Krell
Philippians 4:10-23 | "Money in the Bank"

Sermon Application Review from Phil 4:1-9

How did you pray for peace in a specific relational conflict?

How did you give thanks for the person with whom you are in conflict?

Scripture References

Philippians 4:10-23

1 Timothy 6:6-9

Hebrews 13:5-6

James 4:2-4

Matthew 6:19-21; 10:42; 19:21

Mark 10:29-30; 12:41-44

2 Corinthians 8:1-5; 9:6-8

Study Questions

1. What evidence in your life reveals contentment with what God has entrusted to you (4:11-13)? When have you enjoyed the greatest degree of contentment? Why was this particular time so satisfying? What situations provoke the most discontentment in you? How can you "learn" to be content in all your circumstances (4:11)? How has God's power made a difference in your contentment (4:13)? How is contentment tied to the doctrine of God's sovereignty in your daily life?
2. Who do you know that is suffering some kind of "affliction" right now (4:14)? In what way can you "share with" them (4:15) in that affliction by an act of generosity and thoughtfulness?
3. How has your financial giving helped you grow spiritually (4:17)? How are you investing heavily in your ERA (Eternal Retirement Account)? What excuses have you made to justify your lack of giving? Who will hold you accountable to sacrificial and cheerful giving?
4. How have you come to believe that giving is an act of worship (4:18)? What does this look like in your life? How have you explained to your children, grandchildren, and disciples the importance of worshiping God through giving? In what specific ways has God supplied all your financial needs (4:19)?
5. How do the concluding themes of worship (4:20), fellowship (4:21-22), and gracious enablement (4:23) contribute to the purpose of Philippians? How will you specifically encourage others to implement these themes in their individual and corporate lives? What passage in Philippians has been the most memorable for you? Where have you been most encouraged or challenged?

Recommended Reading

Jeremiah Burroughs, *The Rare Jewel of Christian Contentment* (public domain)

Randy Alcorn, *Money, Possessions, & Eternity* (Tyndale, [1989] 2003).

Verlyn D. Verbrugge & Keith R. Krell, *Paul & Money* (Zondervan, 2015)