

READING PLAN | PHILIPPIANS



Day 1 – Phil 1:1-11 | Psalm 1

- **Big Idea:** Paul wrote this letter to the church in Philippi when he was in prison, a fact that makes his theme of joyfulness throughout the book stand out. We find joy in experiencing God's unearned forgiveness and knowing that nothing can stop him from finishing what he has already started in our lives.
- **Question to Ponder:** In verse 3, Paul says he thanks God with joy in remembrance of the people of Philippi for their faith. Who could say this same statement about you and your faith?

Day 2 – Phil 1:12-30

- **Big Idea:** God will use every opportunity—good or bad—to spread the message of Jesus. Rather than bemoaning our circumstances, we should rejoice that God can use them to share the light of Christ. Difficult circumstances become bearable if we keep Christ and his purpose as our focus. Experiencing a wide range of emotions and staying focused on Christ leads to maturity.
- **Question to Ponder:** Paul says whether by life or death, Christ will be honored. Paul adds the oft-quoted verse "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain." How different would our lives be if we woke up every day knowing Christ is life and Christ is living through us?

Day 3 – Phil 2:1-11 | Psalm 27

- **Big Idea:** Joy is maximized when we love one another well, and Jesus modeled humility as the way to do so. Paul implores his readers to "make [his] joy complete" by living a life of love toward one another (v. 2). A similar phrase is used by Jesus in John 15:11–13: "I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends."
- **Question to Ponder:** Following the example of Jesus, what are some ways we pour ourselves out for the glory and mission of Jesus? What are some ways can look more to the interests of others this week?

Day 4 – Phil 2:12-18

- **Big Idea:** Paul's exhortation to "work out your salvation" doesn't mean work or earn to get it or keep it. But he does mean there is diligence and discipline in living the kind of life that will make others want to follow Jesus.
- **Question to Ponder:** In verse 14-15, Paul correlates not "grumbling" (complaining, criticizing), to our witness as "shining lights in the world." What are ways we grumble? And how does that affect our witness to people around us?

Day 5 – Phil 2:19-30 | Psalm 8

- **Big Idea:** Even the apostle Paul had to have teammates to carry out the work God gave him to do. In this passage, he names Timothy and Epaphroditus, but he also invokes the entire church in Philippi into service. Living and sharing in the story of Jesus requires selflessness, sacrifice, and teamwork. Everyone plays a crucial role.
- **Question to Ponder:** How do you see your role in the Great Commission? Is it active and assertive? Is it stagnant and apathetic?

WEEK TWO

Day 1 – Phil 3:1-11 | Psalm 78

- **Big Idea:** Paul lists his own “pre-conversion” confidence in his righteousness through following the law in various ways (v.4–6) and then contrasts it with the confidence he now finds in Christ alone. We simply can’t be good enough or keep the Law perfectly to be justified. Our righteousness won’t do. Only the righteousness of Jesus will eternally satisfy.
- **Question to Ponder:** Are there some things we use to justify our righteousness before God outside of Christ? If we’re honest, do we want to be “good and moral” or “Christ-seeking, obeying and God glorifying”?

Day 2 – 3:12-4:1

- **Big Idea:** Paul uses athletic imagery as he does in other letters. “The winner of the Greek races received a wreath of leaves and sometimes a cash reward.” Paul’s prize was not cash or a crown, but instead Jesus’ goal for him; to glorify God in all things.
- **Question to Ponder:** Paul’s instructions on how we should “stand firm” (4:1) includes reminding ourselves that our true citizenship is in heaven, contrasted with those who are opposed to Christ and keep their minds “on earthly things” (3:19–20). What is a practical way you keep your mind away from earthly things and toward the reality of eternity?

Day 3 – Phil 4:2-9 | Psalm 63

- **Big Idea:** Again, we see this theme of joy running throughout the letter to the Philippian church. Paul writes this as a command to obey, not an option to consider. Based on their lives, it appears the command for joy can be obeyed through conflict and adversity. Joy in the Lord overwhelms the anxiety within ourselves.
- **Question to Ponder:** How can you obey to command for joy today? How does Paul tell us to pray and make our requests known to God in verses 4-7? What is the fruit of our prayers?

Day 4 – 4:10-20

- **Big Idea:** Christians should be known for their generosity. Everything we have is God’s. And when we give generously to the mission and purposes of God, not only will He provide, but will also take care of others through you.
- **Question to Ponder:** What are 3 obstacles to our contentment? Do we make generosity a priority for the building up of the church? If not, how does looking at Christ change that?

Day 5 – Phil 4:21-23 | Psalm 51

- **Big Idea:** Paul closes his letter to the church in Philippi highlighting another theme we see if we’re paid attention: unity. Back to back, he chooses the words “saint” and “brothers.” This points to the corporate unity of believers within a single congregation AND the partnering local churches. Paul wanted all the churches to know they were partners in the advancement of the Gospel of Jesus.
- **Question to Ponder:** If we’re honest, do we see our fellow church members as “brothers and sisters” and true partners in the gospel mission? How can you pray for other churches locally and globally?