



Philippians in Review

10 minutes – Greeting & Fellowship

- Light refreshments (optional)
- Welcoming and Introducing new members or visitors to the Group
- Sharing upcoming events (Conferences, Seminars, Network Meetings, etc.)

20 minutes – This Week's Discussion

Objective: To briefly review some key points we studied during our verse by verse encounter with the Book of Philippians!

Read Philippians 1:21 - 26 - To Live is Christ - To Die is Gain

- Paul makes what some may consider a controversial statement that can be taken out of context, in declaring to Live is Christ and to die is gain, Paul is declaring that all he lives for is to glorify Christ!
- Everything in our lives should indeed be lived as an opportunity to bring Glory to God, nothing more and nothing less - it is why we are alive and not in the Presence of the Lord!
- Paul describes the conflict within, he longs to be with Christ, yet he knows that there is still work to do in his call to spreading the Gospel!
- Being fully convinced of his purpose to continue the work, Paul looks toward the continuing growth and joy in the faith of the believers, as well as their Glorifying Christ when Paul returns to them.

Read Philippians 2:14 - 2:16a - Lights in the World!

- When we walk out our faith in obedience, we have the opportunity to be Lights in the World!
- The "fuel" for the light, however may not always easy to come by... It requires doing all things without grumbling, being blameless and without blemish in this crooked and twisted generation!
- Holding fast to a lifestyle that exhibits these characteristics is NOT easy and can become discouraging at times. This is another reason that we must remain in relationships with fellow believers that we encourage and challenge us - as iron sharpens iron!
- The world is watching, the world is searching for a ray of hope and we have the Light within us that radiates even brighter in times of struggle and testing - Let your Light Shine!
- We have the Power of the Holy Spirit at work within us and we carry the message that is the Power of God to Salvation - the Gospel!

Read Philippians 3:20 - 4:1 - Where is Our Eternal Citizenship?

- We have to ultimately come to understand that while we are sojourners or aliens in the earth, our eternal residence and citizenship is in Heaven!
- We must live out our natural lives on earth, but not for earthly benefit, our lives must be lived to bring God Glory, preach the Gospel and build the Kingdom of God!
- While we dwell in the earth we await Jesus our Savior to transform our lowly bodies to glorious bodies!



20 minutes – This Week’s Discussion Questions

Question 1: In what ways are you strong in Living for Christ, and in what ways are you weak in Living for Christ? An honest personal assessment will allow us to grow stronger in Living for Christ!

- Each of us may have strengths that another is weak in, and weaknesses that another is strong in the faith, it is through fellowship and unity we are able to strengthen each other!
- In joy and frustration, in abundance and lack, in unity and disarray, our lives must be lived for Christ!
- There may be times we struggle like Paul with the conflict of being with Christ in Heaven, or in continuing the work we are called to complete on earth... While we may go through seasons of longing to be with Christ, while we are on earth we must do His Work!

Question 2: With the state of the world today, what kind of impact could we have for the Kingdom of God, if we truly lived our lives shining as Godly Light?

- We are living in a time that there is great bitterness, confusion and division. The Gospel is the only answer to the problems and questions that the world has, it will accomplish what no law or activist event ever will!
- We are carriers of the message that can bring healing and unity, while exposing those who truly have no desire to live in a Godly manner!
- We must walk boldly and confidently in the Holy Spirit, letting our Light shine brightly in darkness!

Question 3: Where is your citizenship? Does your life reflect the citizenship of Heaven and as an alien on earth, or does it reflect someone who’s citizenship is on earth and is an alien of Heaven?

- Citizens of Heaven recognize they are not a member of a democracy, but are residents of a kingdom!
- Our King, King Jesus, is the King of Kings! We must dwell under His Reign and surrender our lives to Him. If we do not, then we are struggling with our identity and citizenship.

10 minutes – Closing in Prayer

- Pray that each person learn and apply a lifestyle based on our lesson
- Pray that the group keeps each other accountable in doing so
- Pray prayers of agreement with individuals with prayer requests
- Close with a prayer that everything be sealed by the Holy Spirit and for safety in traveling

Post Meeting Fellowship

- Leader should collect contact information from any new attendees
- Time of Post Meeting Fellowship does not have to be restrictive but held within reason
- Good time to share testimonies
- Be sure no one feels they are *obligated* to stay if they need to go

Dismiss the Group

- Post meeting – Leader should log in to Connect Leader’s Web Report and enter attendance and any new member or visitor information then submit the data