

Philippians (Part Two)

We are reading letter which St. Paul wrote while he was in prison and didn't know whether he could get out alive. He wanted to thank the church a Philippi, which had sent him gifts of money, and to encourage them in their own difficulties.

1. At the heart of this letter is a "Hymn to Christ" in **Philippians 2:6-11**. Here is another version of that hymn. In the space at the right summarize what you think this poem is all about.

Although existing in the form of God,
he did not regard it as a prize
to be equal with God;
rather he emptied himself
and took the form of a slave.

So being in the likeness of humans
and found in shape as a human,
he humiliated himself,
and became obedient unto death,
even death on a cross.

Therefore God also exalted him
and granted him the Name,
the one above every name,
that at the name of JESUS
every knee should bow,
whether in heaven or on earth
or underground,
and every tongue should acknowledge
that "JESUS CHRIST IS LORD!"
to the glory of God the Father.

2. Christ's behavior is meant to be an example for the rest of us.
Read **Philippians 2:1-18** and describe the ideal behavior of a Christian.

3. We have not read three seditions of this letter. So now read **Philippians 3:12-4:1** and summarizes what in your opinion is the best piece of advice Paul gives here.

4. **Philippines 4:4-9** sounds like a short collection of maxims. Pick the one you like best and write it out here.

5. Finally, Paul says "thank you" to the Philippians for the gift they sent him. Read **Philippians 4:10-23** and discuss why this gift was so important, both to the apostle who received it and to the church which sent. Have you ever been in a situation where a gift you gave or received was a blessing both to you and to the other person? What was that like?

6. Some people think this is the most joyful of all Paul's letters. Go back and highlight or circle all the references to joy, rejoice, happy, glad, and the like, including grace, gift, and thanksgiving which are based on the same root. You may be surprised!

7. Underline or color one or two of your favorite verses from this letter and list their references here:
