

*A People of the Book*  
*A Textual Study*

A Study of

# Philippians

Billy Herald and Mike White

A Study of Philippians – Practicing the Mind of Christ  
Lesson 1  
Introduction & Opening

1. Purpose: The book of Philippians is all about relationships. Its focus is our relationship with Christ and how that affects our relationship with one another.
2. The key thought in this Book is found in **Philippians 2:5**
  - Attitude or mind = that of Jesus Christ. **What does Paul mean by that?**
    - a. Mindset
    - b. How we think
    - c. perspective
    - d. opinions
    - e. this involves our will, affections, and conscience
  - **What are the chief characteristics of the mind of Christ?** **Philippians 2:6-8**
    - f. Selflessness
    - g. Servant
    - h. Humility
    - i. Obedience regardless of the consequences
    - j. WWJD????? Ever ask yourself this Q?
2. Background
  - City of Philippi
    - a. How did Paul get there? **Acts 16:6-10, 2 Cor 2:12-13**
    - b. Decisions how do we make them?
      1. consistent with the Word
      2. affirmed by the Spirit
      3. open door of God
  - Who were some of the members of the Philippi Church of Christ? **Acts 16:6-40**
  - Lydia
  - Slave girl
  - Jailer
  - **What can we say about this group of folks?**
3. Why was the Letter written?
  - Epaphroditus brought a gift and some stories from the Church @ Philippi ....**did Paul love this Church?** **Phil 4:14-18**
  - He is sent back with the letter **Phil 2:25-30**
  - Paul is in prison and can't go back Phil 1:14
  - What were some issues facing the Church?
    - External opposition to the Church? **Phil 1:27-30**
    - internal quarrels **Phil 4:2-3**
    - Jewish teaching **Phil 3:1-3**

#### 4. Paul's Response Begins **Phil 1:1-11**

- Why does Paul refer to himself & Timothy as servants?
- Why does Paul emphasize “all” the saints?
- Why does Paul include the leaders?
- Why does Paul start off by emphasizing prayer?
- What is the importance of the word “partnership” to Paul’s description of their relationship?
- Paul refers to God working within each one of us. Why is that important to know and understand about one another?
- We share God’s grace with one another. What does that mean from a practical standpoint in our relationships with one another?
  
- Can we have a spiritual relationship with one another if I don’t pray for you and you don’t pray for me?
- What did Paul pray for those at Philippi?
  - Love might abound more & more
  - In wisdom
  - In discernment
  - In holiness of our lives
  - Produce fruits of righteousness = service toward one another
- Who gets the praise? Who gets the glory?

#### 5. **Challenge for this week: when dealing with our spouse, children, members of the Church or our colleagues in the workplace...let’s practice having the mind of Christ **Phil 2:5****

A Study of Philippians – Practicing the Mind of Christ  
Lesson 2  
Paul's Example

1. Purpose: The book of Philippians is all about relationships. Its focus is our relationship with Christ and how that affects our relationship with one another.
  
2. Lesson 1 Review
  - Paul @ Philippi
  - Background for the writing of the letter
  - Challenges facing the Church (external opposition, Jewish teachers, internal quarrels)
  - The key thought in this Book is found in **Philippians 2:5**
  - Attitude or mind = that of Jesus Christ & this involves our will, affections, and conscience
  - **What are the chief characteristics of the mind of Christ?** **Philippians 2:6-8**
    - Selflessness
    - Servant
    - Humility
    - Obedience regardless of the consequences
  
3. Paul Practices the Mind of Christ Philippians 1 **How?**
  - **Phil 1:1** thinks of himself as a **servant**
  - **Phil 1:1** addresses letter to **all** the saints not just some
  - **Phil 1:3** prays for **all** the saints not just some
  - **Phil 1:5** refers to their **partnership** in the gospel = he values their contributions
  - **Phil 1:6** confident that **God is @ work in them** = they are all connected by God
  
4. **Phil 1:7-11** Sharing in God's Grace
  - What does it mean to long for someone with the affection of Christ?
  
  - What do we pray for?
  
  - What kind of love is Paul referring to?
  
  - What does this kind of love need to be manifested in our lives?
    1. knowledge?
    2. insight?
    3. discernment?

- Why is it so important in our relationships to be pure & blameless or holy in our living?
  1. sin changes our character?
  2. sin desensitizes us to other people?
  3. sin clouds our thinking?
- Outcome of love motivated to serve through a holy life is always an act of righteousness. What is the litmus test for acts of righteousness?
  1. motivated by our relationship with Christ?
  2. glory goes to the Father and not to us?

5. **Phil 1:12-30** Are you committed to having the mind of Christ? **SELF TEST**

- Do you see God working in your life? **Phil 1:12-14**
- Does the preaching and teaching of Christ bring you joy? **Phil 1:15-18**
- Do you covet the prayers of others? **Phil 1:19**
- Do you depend upon the Holy Spirit of God to help you? **Phil 1:19**
- Do I live for Christ? **Phil 1:20-26**
  1. fruitful labor
  2. help others with their progress and joy in the faith
- Can you make spiritual progress without joy in your faith?
- What does it mean to die is gain? **2 Cor 5:5-9**

Are you afraid of those who oppose you spiritually? **Phil 1:20-30**

- **1 John 4:4**
- **1 John 4:18**

6. **Challenge for this week: wake up every AM and pray that God will help you be committed to Him.**

A Study of Philippians – Practicing the Mind of Christ  
Lesson 3  
Forming the Mind of Christ

1. **Purpose:** The book of Philippians is all about relationships. Its focus is our relationship with Christ and how that affects our relationship with one another.
  
2. **Lesson 2 Review:** Paul's Example: **Phil 1**
  - If you have the mind of Christ you will pray for people.
  - If you have the mind of Christ you will partner with people in the Lord's work.
  - If you have the mind of Christ you will be confident that God is working in their lives too.
  - If you have the mind of Christ you will recognize that we all share in God's grace together.
  - **WHAT EXPLAINS PAUL'S ABILITY TO REJOICE EVEN THOUGH HE IS IN CHAINS?**
  - **IS POSSESSING JOY ESSENTIAL TO OUR PROGRESS IN THE FAITH?**
  
3. **The Benefits of Unity** – **Phil 2:1-4**

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Encouragement from being united with Christ</b></li><li>• <b>Comfort from the love of Christ</b></li><li>• <b>Fellowship with the Spirit of Christ</b></li><li>• <b>Experience of the tenderness and compassion of Christ</b></li></ul> |
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4. **Essential characteristics in the Christian to experience unity** **Phil 2:1-4**

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Be like minded</b></li><li>• <b>Have the same love</b></li><li>• <b>Be one in spirit &amp; purpose</b></li><li>• <b>Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit</b></li><li>• <b>In humility consider others better than yourselves</b></li><li>• <b>Look out not only to your own interests but to the interests of others</b></li><li>• <b>IF ALL CHRISTIANS HAD THESE CHARACTERISTICS IN THEIR LIVES WOULD THERE BE DISUNITY IN THE CHURCH?</b></li><li>• <b>IN YOUR SELF ASSESSMENT WHICH CHARACTERISTICS DO YOU NEED TO FOCUS ON WITH GOD'S HELP?</b></li></ul> |
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5. **ARE WE COMMANDED TO HAVE THE MIND OF CHRIST?** **Phil 2:5**

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Selflessness</b></li><li>• <b>Servant</b></li><li>• <b>Humility</b></li><li>• <b>Obedience regardless of the consequences</b></li></ul> |
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A Study of Philippians – Practicing the Mind of Christ  
Lesson 4  
Practical Application

1. **Purpose:** The book of Philippians is all about relationships. Its focus is our relationship with Christ and how that affects our relationship with one another.
2. **Lesson 3 Review:** Paul's focus in Phil 2:1-4 is to stress the importance of unity to the Church and to demonstrate exactly what it takes to achieve it.

- Benefits of Unity **Phil 2:1**

- ✓ Encouragement from being united with Christ
- ✓ Comfort from the love of Christ
- ✓ Fellowship w/the Spirit of Christ
- ✓ Experience the tenderness and compassion of Christ

**CAN YOU HAVE THESE BENEFITS RECEIVED IN YOUR LIFE FROM CHRIST IF YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHERS IS TORN?**

- What are the qualities in our lives that we must possess to achieve this unity?

**Phil 2:2-4**

- ✓ Be like minded
- ✓ Have same love
- ✓ Be one in spirit & purpose
- ✓ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit
- ✓ Have humility of heart
- ✓ Look out for the interests of others

**CAN WE POSSESS ONE OR ANY OF THESE QUALITIES ON OUR OWN EFFORTS?** **John 15:5**

- Qualities of the mind of Christ that Paul commands that we express in our lives: **Phil 2:5-8**

- ✓ Selfless
- ✓ Servant minded
- ✓ Humble = dependent upon God
- ✓ Obedient regardless of the consequences

3. **Do I have the mind of Christ?** If I do then these qualities should be evident to myself and others: **Phil 2:12-16**

- **Consistency** – our walk is not dependent upon whose watching us
- **Activity** – if we do not give time, effort, & energy to His Church are we working out our salvation?
- **Spirituality** – we must recognize that God is working in our lives
  - ✓ **Jer 29:11**
  - ✓ **Acts 13:26**
  - ✓ **Psalms 138**
- **Sincerity** – if we complain and grumble do we know the power of God in our lives? **Numbers 14**

4. We have three examples of the mind of Christ expressed in the lives of three soldiers of the cross. As you look at the qualities of the mind of Christ what about each of these three men is important to you in describing what the mind of Christ means to your living the Christian life?

- Paul : Phil 2:16-18  
✓

- Timothy : Phil:16-18

✓

✓

- Epaphroditus: Phil 2:25-30

✓

5. **Challenge this week:** Lord make me a servant....Lord make me like you....give me the sacrificial spirit of Paul, caring concern of Timothy, and dedication of Epaphroditus.



A Study of Philippians – Practicing the Mind of Christ  
Lesson 5  
Stay Focused-Sharpening the Saw

1. **Purpose:** The book of Philippians is all about relationships. Its focus is our relationship with Christ and how that affects our relationship with one another.

2. **Lesson 4 Review:**

- Qualities of the mind of Christ that Paul commands that we express in our lives: **Phil 2:5-8**

- ✓ **Selfless**
- ✓ **Servant minded**
- ✓ **Humble = dependent upon God**
- ✓ **Obedient regardless of the consequences**

- **Do I have the mind of Christ?** If I do then these qualities should be evident to myself and others: **Phil 2:12-16**

- ✓ **Consistent**
- ✓ **Active**
- ✓ **Spiritual**
- ✓ **Sincere**

- We have three examples of the mind of Christ expressed in the lives of three soldiers of the cross.

- ✓ **Paul :** **Phil 2:16-18**
- ✓ **Timothy :** **Phil:16-18**
- ✓ **Epaphroditus:** **Phil 2:25-30**

3. Paul begins to end his letter **Phil. 3:1** by telling them to rejoice in the Lord. But then he begins to provide some admonitions to the Church at Philippi which are essential to keeping them focused on their relationship with Christ.

❖ **CAN ONE LIVE A CHRIST LIKE LIFE IF WE CANNOT REJOICE IN THE LORD?**

4. **Sharpening the Saw:**

- **We must put no confidence in the flesh** **Phil 3:2-6**
  - ✓ Rites
  - ✓ Race/nationality
  - ✓ Religion
  - ✓ Record of accomplishment
  - ✓ Personal righteousness

❖ **WHY IS PLACING CONFIDENCE IN THE FLESH INCOMPATIBLE WITH HAVING THE MIND OF CHRIST?**

❖ **WHAT ARE SOME OF THE RED LIGHT INDICATORS THAT TELL US WE ARE PUTTING OUR CONFIDENCE IN THE FLESH?**

- **We must know Christ** Phil 3:7-11

- ✓ Power of his resurrection
- ✓ Fellowship of sharing in his sufferings
- ✓ Becoming like him in his death

❖ WHAT DOES PAUL MEAN BY “KNOWING” CHRIST?

❖ WHY IS SUFFERING USED SO OFTEN IN THE N.T. IN GENERAL & IN THIS PASSAGE IN SPECIFIC AS A NECESSITY FOR A CHRISTIAN?

- **We must press on!** Phil. 3:12-14

- ✓ It's not over til it's over – FINISH STRONG!!!!
- ✓ Recognize you have the Victory...you just need to cross the finish line!
- ✓ Forget what is behind and strain toward what is ahead
- ✓ Must have heaven as a goal!

❖ WHY IS PAUL SO ADAMANT ABOUT NOT LOOKING @ THE PAST BUT RATHER FOCUSING ON THE FUTURE?

❖ WHAT ROLE DOES PERSERVERANCE PLAY IN PRESSING ON?

5. Paul states that if we are mature we will pay attention to the three pieces of spiritual direction he has provided. He goes on to say if we do not God will make that clear to us. Phil 3:15-16

❖ HOW DOES GOD MAKE IT CLEAR TO US IF WE AREN'T STAYING FOCUSED?

6. **Challenge for the week:** Commit to finishing strong in the faith & just do it!

1. **Purpose:** The book of Philippians is all about relationships. Its focus is our relationship with Christ and how that affects our relationship with one another. The key verse is found in **Phil. 2:5**.

- Qualities of the mind of Christ that Paul commands that we express in our lives: **Phil 2:5-8**

- ✓ **Selfless**
- ✓ **Servant minded**
- ✓ **Humble = dependent upon God**
- ✓ **Obedient regardless of the consequences**

2. Living the Mind of Christ. **Phil. 4:2-9**

- **Euodia & Syntche** - two sisters in a disagreement
    - ✓ Yokefellow probably Epaphroditus
    - ✓ **HOW DO YOU GET INTO AGREEMENT?**
    - ✓ **PAUL SAYS TO HELP THEM. HOW DO YOU GO ABOUT DOING THAT?**
    - ✓ We need to recognize the overwhelming truth that we are saved in Christ = “in the Book of Life”
    - ✓ **WHAT IF FOLKS ONLY KNEW YOU BY ONE THING?**
  - **WE ARE TO REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS!**
    - ✓ **WHAT DOES THIS MEAN TO YOU?**
    - ✓ **WHAT DOES ONE DO IF WE DO NOT HAVE JOY?**
    - ✓ **1 Thes 1:6, Gal 5:22, Rom. 15:13**
  - **LET OUR GENTLENESS BE KNOWN TO ALL**
    - ✓ Fairness, balance, mercy
    - ✓ **Any examples in your life when you have been on the receiving end?**
    - ✓ **John 8** – Jesus as an example of gentleness
    - ✓ **How can we make this characteristic of our life evident to all?**
  - **BE AWARE OF THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD**
    - ✓ Important to SEEK the Lord **Psalms 53: 1-2**
    - ✓ The Lord’s coming can be at any time
  - **DO NOT BE ANXIOUS ABOUT ANYTHING**
    - ✓ **WHY IS BEING ANXIOUS A SIN?**
    - ✓ **1 Peter 5:7-8** **WHAT DOES HUMILITY HAVE TO DO W/ANXIETY?**
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- **THE Rx FOR ANXIETY IS TO PRAY**

- ✓ WHY DOES PRAYER PRODUCE PEACE IN OUR LIVES?

- ✓ Psalms 5:3, Psalms 92:2

- ✓ WHAT IS THE PEACE THAT PASSETH UNDERSTANDING?

- ✓ Mark 4:35-41, Psalms 112:6-7

- **THINK ON GOOD THINGS**

- ✓ WHY IS THIS COMMAND IMPORTANT TO HAVING THE MIND OF CHRIST?

- ✓ 1 Cor 13:4-8

- **WE MUST BE LEARNERS**

- ✓ Can we learn if we do not seek God?

- ✓ Psalms 53:1-2, 2 Chronicles 15:1-2, John 14:21

- ✓ HOW DO WE GET INSIGHT TO MAKE SPIRITUAL PROGRESS?

- ✓ Psalms 119: 97-100 – from the Word

- ✓ 2 Tim 2:7- from our reflection on the Word

- ✓ Proverbs 3:5-6 – from obedient application

- ✓ We are to pray for insight in the lives of our fellow Christians-

- ✓ Phil 1:9-10

- ✓ Application to learn must be continuous and habitual in our life

3. Challenge for this week:

- ✓ Rejoice always

- ✓ Take everything to God in prayer

- ✓ Think on good things

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A Study of Philippians – Practicing the Mind of Christ  
Lesson 7  
Living the Mind of Christ

1. **Purpose:** The book of Philippians is all about relationships. Its focus is our relationship with Christ and how that affects our relationship with one another. The key verse is found in **Phil. 2:5**.

- Qualities of the mind of Christ that Paul commands that we express in our lives: **Phil 2:5-8**

- ✓ **Selfless**
- ✓ **Servant minded**
- ✓ **Humble = dependent upon God**
- ✓ **Obedient regardless of the consequences**

2. Living the Mind of Christ. **Phil. 4:4-23**

- **WE ARE TO REJOICE IN THE LORD ALWAYS!**

- ✓ **1 Thes 1:6, Gal 5:22, Rom. 15:13**

- **LET OUR GENTLENESS BE KNOWN TO ALL**

- ✓ Fairness, balance, mercy
- ✓ **John 8** – Jesus as an example of gentleness

- **BE AWARE OF THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD**

- ✓ Important to SEEK the Lord **Psalms 53: 1-2**
- ✓ The Lord's coming can be at any time

- **DO NOT BE ANXIOUS ABOUT ANYTHING**

- ✓ **1 Peter 5:7-8**

- **THE Rx FOR ANXIETY IS TO PRAY**

- ✓ **Psalms 5:3, Psalms 92:2**
- ✓ **Mark 4:35-41, Psalms 112:6-7**

- **THINK ON GOOD THINGS**

- ✓ **WHY IS THIS COMMAND IMPORTANT TO HAVING THE MIND OF CHRIST?**
- ✓ **1 Cor 13:4-8**

- **WE MUST BE LEARNERS**

- ✓ **Can we learn if we do not seek God?**
- ✓ **Psalms 53:1-2, 2 Chronicles 15:1-2, John 14:21**
- ✓ **HOW DO WE GET INSIGHT TO MAKE SPIRITUAL PROGRESS?**
- ✓ **Psalms 119: 97-100** – from the Word
- ✓ **2 Tim 2:7** – from our reflection on the Word

- ✓ Proverbs 3:5-6 – from obedient application
- ✓ We are to pray for insight in the lives of our fellow Christians- Phil 1:9
- ✓ Application to learn must be continuous and habitual in our life- Phil 4:9

3. Paul's Example: Phil 4:10-13

- ✓ Paul had learned to be content whatever the circumstances
- ✓ **WHAT WERE PAUL'S CIRCUMSTANCES?**
- ✓ He had learned the secret of being content in every situation... **WHAT DOES BEING CONTENT MEAN TO YOU?**
- ✓ **HOW DO YOU LEARN TO BE CONTENT?** 2 Cor 12:7-10 2 Tim 4:16-18 2 Cor 1:8-9 Acts 27:21-26
- ✓ **"KNOW > DO > LEARN > BE IS THE LEARNING MODEL"**

4. Other's example:

- ✓ David - 1 Sam 17
- ✓ Moses - Exodus 14
- ✓ Elijah - 1 Kings 17
- ✓ **WHAT DID THESE MEN HAVE IN COMMON?**
  - "Hit the wall" – fully dependent upon God
  - Had confidence that God would help in the midst of the unfaith around them
  - Focus was on God and not their circumstances

5. **SO WHAT'S THE SECRET THAT PAUL LEARNED?** Phil 4:13

6. HOW DO WE GO ABOUT LEARNING THIS SECRET?

- ✓ 2 Chronicles 16:9 Commit your heart to God
- ✓ Neh 8:10 the joy of the Lord is our strength
- ✓ Is 40:28-31 Hope in the Lord
- ✓ Psalms 119:28 the Word of the Lord provides strength

**7. GOD DESIGNS YOUR LIFE TO ENSURE YOU NEED HIM!!! SO YOU BETTER LEARN THE SECRET!!**

- ✓ Proverbs 24:10
- ✓ Jeremiah 12:5

**8. YOUR FAITHFUL EXPERIENCE WILL GIVE YOU THE CONFIDENCE TO SHARE!!** Phil 4:19 Philemon 6

# A People of the Book

*Where Truth and Love Abound*



## Our Service Schedule

|            |                           |                                    |
|------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Sunday:    | 10:00 a.m.                | Bible Study (classes for all ages) |
|            | 11:00 a.m. &<br>6:00 p.m. | Worship                            |
| Wednesday: | 7:00 p.m.                 | Bible Study (classes for all ages) |

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