

GO DEEPER

use these questions for further study

Read Philippians 1:1-11 Make 2-3 observations of what you see in the text and note any questions that you have. Try to answer your questions by using information you find in the passage. Then answer some or all of the questions below.

Paul begins his letter by calling himself as a “slave of Messiah Jesus.”

How do you think the free Roman citizens in Philippi might react to Paul (also a free-man and Roman citizen) calling himself a slave?

Why might Paul have chosen this title instead of “Apostle”?

Paul uses the title Messiah (Christ) 7 times.

Why does he use a Jewish title for king while writing to a Gentile church?

When you speak/pray/think of Jesus do you treat “Christ” as a title or as a sort of last name? Why is it important to know what this title means?

Paul adds the title “Lord” to Jesus, why is this significant?

Paul calls all the Philippian Christians “saints” (holy ones)

What makes someone a saint?

Why does Paul go out of his way to address ALL the believers as saints?

Do you think of yourself and other Christians as saints? Why/why not?

Consider Paul’s blessing/greeting in vs 2. What is significant about it?

In vs 3-8 Paul expresses his deep love for the Philippian church.

Why does Paul feel this way about them?

Does this fit with your image of who Paul was? Why/why not?

What is helpful about seeing Paul’s heart toward this church?

What is Paul’s ultimate hope for the Philippian church?

In vs 9-11 Paul prays for the people of the Philippian church.

What is the core of his prayer for them?

How does love lead to knowledge, wisdom, and right action?

How do we as Christians grow in love?

Where does righteous fruit come from? How do we produce it?

Paul prays that Christians will be able to discern what is best.

Invite the Holy Spirit to help you discern if there are things in your life which are not “best” and which may need to be released.

How will you take steps of obedience? Who can help you?

Invite the Spirit to reveal if there are new things you need to embrace.

How will you take steps of obedience? Who can help you?

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