

NT2 Lesson 4 – Philippians and Colossians

Memory trick: **G**_eneral (God)_ **E**_lectric (Expects/Excites)_ **P**_ower (Praying)_ **C**_ompany (Christians)_

Philippians - Background

- 1) Who is the author? ___Paul___, with probable help from ___Timothy___
- 2) When was the book written? _____ ~ 61 AD_____, about ___30___ years after Christ's ascension, and about ___10___ years after Paul first preached at Philippi
- 3) Where and under what circumstances was it written? Paul was in ___prison___, in the city of ___Rome___; from 1:1, one can infer that the church in Philippi was well ___established___.
- 4) Paul visited Philippi on his ___2nd___ missionary journey (Acts 16:12) when ___Lydia___ and the Philippian ___jailer___ and his family were converted.

Philippians – Purpose/Themes

- 1) One reason that Paul wrote this letter was to acknowledge a gift of ___money___ from the church in Philippi, brought by ___Epaphroditus___ (4:10-18); in comparison, ___little___ is said about doctrinal error
- 2) Some key themes:
 - a) Christ should be in our ___life___, in our ___mind___; He should be our ___goal___, our ___strength___
 - b) ___Joy___ through ___suffering___; the words “joy” and “rejoice” appear frequently (1:4,18,25,26; 2:2,28; 3:1; 4:1,4,10)
 - c) The right Christian experience is the outworking, whatever our ___circumstances___ may be – of the life, nature, and mind of Christ ___living___ in us (1:6,11; 2:5,13)
 - d) Paul ___warns___ the believers in Philippi to beware of the tendency towards legalism; Judaizers were constantly trying to return to the teaching of salvation by ___works___ (3:2-3)

Philippians – Key Verses

- 1) 1:21 -- To live is Christ, to ___die___ is gain
- 2) 3:7 -- ___Worldly___ profit and gain does nothing in the matter of our ___salvation___
- 3) 4:4 -- Rejoice ___always___, and in ___all___ circumstances
- 4) 4:6-7 -- In everything, don't be ___anxious___, and through ___prayer___ and ___petition___, with ___thanksgiving___, asking God for your requests
- 5) 4:13 -- God can enable you to do ___everything___ He desires for you

Philippians – Application

- 1) None of Paul's ___earthly___ circumstances (in jail, under verbal/physical attack by enemies, years of hard

travel) contributed to his joy; his joy came from within, through the active indwelling of the Holy Spirit, not his circumstances (4:11)

2) How should we define happiness and joy? Is there a difference? (Gen 30:1-13, Deut 24:5)

“happy” or “happiness” appears ~30 times in the Bible, “joy” or “rejoice” appears over ~300 times;

Could we say that happiness is fleeting, while true joy is eternal, based on our relationship with Christ, which is an everlasting source?

Colossians – Background

1) Who is the author? Paul, with probable help from Timothy (1:1)

2) When was the book written? ~ 58-62 AD

3) Who founded the church in Colosse? most believe Epaphras (1:7, 4:12)

4) Under what circumstances was it written? Heresy had arisen in Colosse, which endangered the church; these thoughts appear to be either Jewish-Gnosticism, or a mix of Jewish asceticism and Greek thought

Colossians – Purposes/Themes

1) This book contains doctrinal instruction regarding the deity of Christ and false philosophies (1:15-2:23), and practical exhortations regarding Christian conduct, including friends and speech (3:1-4:18)

2) The main theme is the sufficiency of Christ, in meeting our needs in every area:

a) home

c) work (school)

b) family

d) the way we treat others

3) Jewish legalism was still prevalent in Colosse (works/rituals required for salvation – circumcision); what is Paul’s response to those legalists? (2:11-15; Deut 10:16, 30:6; Jer 4:4, 9:26; Acts 7:51; Rom 2:29)

Colossians – Key Verses

1) 1:15-16 -- All things created by Him, and for Him

2) 2:8 -- Avoid thoughts that depend on human tradition, instead of Christ

3) 3:12-13 -- Clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness patience; forgive one another

4) 4:5-6 -- Be wise, with speech full of grace, and seasoned with salt when talking to others

Colossians – Application

1) Know we have total sufficiency of Christ in our lives, for our salvation and our sanctification

2) We must know and understand the gospel, or we will be led astray by heresy and legalism; other religions cannot be combined with or added to Christianity

3) Christianity provides absolute standards for conduct, is a way of life, and is a relationship