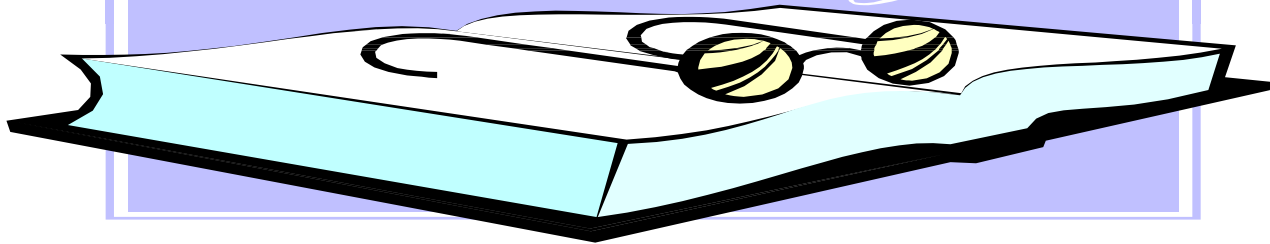
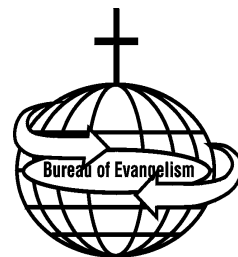


BIBLE

Study



Facilitator
The Rev. Dr. Darryl B. Starnes, Sr
Director, Bureau of Evangelism
African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church
Charlotte, North Carolina



The Book of Philippians **“The Joy of Knowing and Serving Jesus”**

BIBLE STUDY

Rev. Darryl B. Starnes, Sr., Instructor

The Book of Philippians “The Joy of Knowing and Serving Jesus”

INTRODUCTION

AUTHOR: The Apostle Paul

DATE:

RECIPIENTS: This letter is addressed to “all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops and deacons”
The church in Philippi is the first church Paul founded in Macedonia.

OCCASION: This letter is a thank-you note to the church at Philippi for their support of his ministry. It is also an occasion for the Apostle, who was writing from prison, to share with them inspired insights into the subject of Christian joy.

THEME: Only in Jesus Christ is real joy possible.

TITLE: “Joy in Knowing and Serving Jesus”

BIBLE STUDY

Rev. Darryl B. Starnes, Sr., Instructor

The Book of Philippians The Joy of Knowing and Serving Jesus

Lesson #1: “Joy in Advancing the Gospel of Christ”

Scripture Lesson: Philippians 1:1-18

Key Verses: Philippians 1:18

PROPOSITION: The gospel of Christ is advanced through fervent prayer and in spite of fiery persecution.

I. The Greeting (1, 2)

- A. From Paul and Timothy, *bondservants* of Jesus Christ (1)
- B. To all the *saints* in Christ Jesus, who are in Philippi (1)
- C. Grace and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ (2)

II. We advance the gospel of Christ through *fervent prayer* for our partners in the gospel. (3-11)

- A. We must pray with *thanksgiving*. (3)
- B. We must pray with *joy*. (4, 5)
- C. We must pray with *confidence*. (6)
- D. We must pray with *affection*. (7, 8)
- E. We must pray with *specificity*. (9-11)
 - 1. We should pray for love to increase more in knowledge and depth of insight.
 - 2. We should pray for ability to discern what is best.
 - 3. We should pray for purity and blamelessness until the day of Christ.
 - 4. We should pray for the fullness of the fruit of righteousness by Jesus Christ.

III. We advance the gospel of Christ in spite of *fiery persecution*. (12-18)

- A. God can make our persecutions serve to advance the gospel of Christ. (12)
- B. God can make it evident to all that our persecution is for the sake of Christ. (13)
- C. God can use our persecution to inspire others to boldly proclaim the gospel. (14)
- D. God can use people with varied motives to preach the gospel of Christ. (15-18)
 - 1. Some preach from envy, rivalry, and selfish ambition to add to persecution.
 - 2. Some preach from goodwill and love for the defense of the gospel.
 - 3. Joy comes from knowing that the gospel of Christ is advanced.

BIBLE STUDY

Rev. Darryl B. Starnes, Sr., Instructor

The Book of Philippians The Joy of Knowing and Serving Jesus

Lesson #2: **“Joy in Living for Christ”**

Scripture Lesson: Philippians 1:19-30

Key Verses: Philippians 1:21

PROPOSITION: Living for Christ is the source of our greatest joy.

I. We are living for Christ when we exalt Him in our bodies. (19-26)

- A. Our deliverance comes through prayer and the help of the Spirit of Christ. (19)
- B. Our expectation should be to never bring shame to the name of Christ. (20)
- C. Our goal should be to exalt Christ in our bodies, whether by life or by death. (20-26)
 - 1. For us to live is Christ.
 - a. Our living means fruitful labor.
 - b. Our living means service to others.
 - c. Our living means joy to others.
 - 2. For us to die is gain.
 - a. Our dying means departing to be with the Lord.
 - b. Our departing to be with the Lord is far better for us.

II. We are living for Christ when our conduct is worthy of the gospel of Christ. (27)

- A. We must be faithful to God despite the presence or absence of our leaders.
- B. We must promote Christian unity for the sake of the gospel.
 - 1. We must stand fast in one spirit.
 - 2. We must stand fast with one mind.
 - 3. We must strive together for the faith of the gospel.

III. We are living for Christ when we suffer for the sake of the gospel of Christ. (28-30)

- A. We must be fearless in the face of opposition and adversity.
 - 1. To our adversaries, our fearlessness is proof of their destruction.
 - 2. To us, our fearlessness is proof of our salvation by God.
- B. We must not only believe in Christ, but also suffer for His sake.
- C. We must experience the same struggles that other Christians have endured.

BIBLE STUDY

Rev. Darryl B. Starnes, Sr., Instructor

The Book of Philippians The Joy of Knowing and Serving Jesus

Lesson #3: **“Joy in Following the Example of Christ”**

Scripture Lesson: Philippians 2:1-18

Key Verses: Philippians 2:5

PROPOSITION: Only those who enjoy the presence of Christ can follow the example of Christ.

I. Our joy comes in following Christ’s example of unselfishness. (1-4)

A. Many factors move us to follow His example of unselfishness. (1)

1. The encouragement from being united with Him
2. The comfort of His love
3. The fellowship of His Spirit
4. His tenderness and compassion

B. Many endeavors are required of us in order to follow His example of unselfishness. (2-4)

1. We must strive for unity in love, in spirit and in purpose.
2. We must do nothing out of selfish ambitions or vain conceit.
3. We must consider others better than ourselves.
4. We must look out not only for our own interests, but also for those of others.

II. Our joy comes in following Christ’s example of humility. (5-11)

A. Following Christ’s example of humility means the waiving of our rights and privileges. (5-7)

B. Following Christ’s example of humility means taking on the form of a servant. (7)

C. Following Christ’s example of humility means condescending to a lower state. (7, 8)

D. Following Christ’s example of humility means sacrificial obedience to God. (8)

E. Following Christ’s example of humility results in divine exaltation. (9-11)

III. Our joy comes in following Christ’s example of blamelessness. (12-18)

A. Following Christ’s example of blamelessness requires working out our salvation. (12)

B. Following Christ’s example of blamelessness requires the presence of God working in us to will and do according to His good pleasure. (13)

C. Following Christ’s example of blamelessness requires our doing all things without complaining or arguing. (14, 15)

D. Following Christ’s example of blamelessness requires our holding fast the word of life. (16)

E. Following Christ’s example of blamelessness results in joy and gladness for all. (16-18)

BIBLE STUDY

Rev. Darryl B. Starnes, Sr., Instructor

The Book of Philippians The Joy of Knowing and Serving Jesus

Lesson #4: “Joy in Forsaking All for Christ”

Scripture Lesson: Philippians 3:1-16

Key Verses: Philippians 3:8

PROPOSITION: The surpassing greatness of knowing Jesus Christ as Lord makes us willing to forsake all that is dear to us.

- I. We who forsake all for Christ put no confidence in the flesh.** (1-11)
- A. We are reminded to rejoice in the Lord. (1)
 - B. We are warned about evil workers. (2)
 - C. We are instructed concerning the true circumcision. (3)
 - 1. We worship by the Spirit of God.
 - 2. We rejoice in Christ.
 - 3. We put no confidence in the flesh.
 - D. We are made aware of some reasons for confidence in the flesh. (4-6)
 - 1. Ritual: Circumcision on the eighth day
 - 2. Heritage: An Israelite, from the tribe of Benjamin
 - 3. Race: A Hebrew of Hebrews
 - 4. Status: Concerning the law, a Pharisee
 - 5. Sincerity: Concerning zeal, a persecutor of the church
 - 6. Morality: Concerning righteousness which is in the law, blameless
 - E. We are shown how to forsake all of these for Christ. (7-11)
 - 1. We forsake them for the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus, as Lord.
 - 2. We forsake them in order to have the righteousness of God which is by faith in Jesus
 - 3. We forsake them in order to know Christ more fully.
- II. We who forsake all for Christ are going on toward maturity in Christ.** (12-16)
- A. We have not already reached Christian Perfection. (12, 13)
 - B. We press to lay hold of that for which Christ laid hold of us. (12-14)
 - 1. We forget those things which are behind.
 - 2. We reach forward to those things which are ahead.
 - 3. We press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.
 - C. We who are going on toward maturity have this view of things. (15)
 - D. We who are going on toward maturity seek to promote Christian unity. (16)

BIBLE STUDY

Rev. Darryl B. Starnes, Sr., Instructor

The Book of Philippians The Joy of Knowing and Serving Jesus

Lesson #5: **“Joy in Doing All in the Power of Christ”**

Scripture Lesson: Philippians 4:1-13

Key Verses: Philippians 4:13

PROPOSITION: **The empowering presence of Christ enables us to joyfully do all the things that He commands of us.**

- I. The power of Christ enables us to stand firm in the Lord. (1)**
- II. The power of Christ enables to get along with other workers in Christ. (2, 3)**
- III. The power of Christ enables us to rejoice in the Lord regardless of our circumstances. (4)**
- IV. The power of Christ enables us to let our gentleness become evident to all. (5)**
- V. The power of Christ enables us to pray, give thanks, and not worry. (6)**
- VI. The power of Christ enables us to have the peace of God which surpasses understanding. (7)**
- VII. The power of Christ enables us to keep our minds on wholesome things. (8)**
- VIII, The power of Christ enables us to practice God’s principles and enjoy God’s presence. (9)**
- IX. The power of Christ enables us to be content in whatever state we are in. (10-12)**
 1. Christ teaches us how to be content with plenty.
 2. Christ teaches us how to be content with little.
- X. The power of Christ enables us to do all things. (13)**