

Sunday School Lesson

January 8, 2023

Proclaiming Christ

Philippians 1:15-26

Instructor: Ralph Gordon

Questions for Us Today

January 8, 2023

2

Has someone encouraged you even though they were suffering?

Have you encouraged someone even though you were suffering?

Sunday School Lesson Objectives

January 8, 2023

To understand the relationship between the Apostle Paul and the church at Philippi.

To understand why Paul exhorted those believers – and us – to be joyful.

Sunday School Lesson Segments - 1

January 8, 2023

1. Bibliography

2. Points of Information: Philippi

3. Points of Information: Philippians

Sunday School Lesson Segments - 2

January 8, 2023

4. Lesson Context

5. Lesson Text

6. Remember These Things

Points of Information – Philippi

Philippi was a flourishing commercial center in ancient Macedonia, a part of Northern Greece.

6

Philippi, an autonomous Roman colony during the time of the Apostle Paul, had been named for Philip II of Macedon, the father of Alexander the Great.

Points of Information – Philippi

In a vision, the Apostle Paul saw a man telling him to go to Macedonia. He and his colleagues (including Luke and Timothy) assumed that this was a message from God.
Acts 16:9-10.

7

So, they immediately went to Macedonia and the Apostle established a church in Philippi. This was during Paul's second missionary journey.
Acts 16:11-40.

Points of Information – Philippi

In Philippi, the Apostle Paul met a merchant woman named Lydia. She listened to Paul's preaching and she became a Christian believer. Paul baptized her and her household after which she invited Paul and Luke to stay in her home. This, they did.

Acts 16:13-15.

Points of Information – Philippi

When the Apostle Paul rid a girl of demons, her profiteering handlers were angered. They roused officials and a mob to beat Paul and Silas and then had them jailed. Following an earthquake in that facility, the jailer asked the anointed prisoners this: "What must I do to be saved?"

Points of Information – Philippi

The church in Philippi sent a man, named Epaphroditus, to Rome to minister to the needs of the imprisoned Apostle Paul.

The Philippian church had Epaphroditus deliver financial aid to the Apostle Paul.

Points of Information – Philippians

The Apostle Paul wrote this letter while he was imprisoned (under house arrest) in Rome. This is one of the four letters known as the Captivity (Prison) Epistles in the New Testament. The others are Ephesians, Colossians and Philemon.

Proclaiming Christ

Lesson Context - 1

12

In the beginning of this letter (Verses 1-7), the Apostle Paul strongly professes his love and appreciation for the church in Philippi.

Proclaiming Christ

Lesson Context - 2

13

In Verses 12-14, the Apostle Paul speaks of his imprisonment and how things are going for his ministry.

Proclaiming Christ

Text – UMI Outline #1

Philippians 1:15-18

A New Effort

Philippians 1:15-16 (NIV)

It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill.

The latter do so out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the Gospel.

Philippians 1:17

The former preach Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing that they can stir up trouble for me while I am in chains.

Philippians 1:18

But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice.

Proclaiming Christ

Text – UMI Outline #2

Philippians 1:19-26

A Certain Victory

Philippians 1:19

for I know that through your prayers and God's provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance.

Philippians 1:20

I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death.

Philippians 1:21-22

For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know!

Philippians 1:23-24

I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far;

but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body.

Philippians 1:25-26

Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith,

so that through my being with you again your boasting in Christ Jesus will abound on account of me.

Remember these things:

Pray to the Lord for discernment, to be able to distinguish between what is true and what is false or driven by the wrong motives.

As the Apostle Paul advised the Philippian Christians, we should hold on to the joy of Jesus, even in tough times.

Bibliography - 1

Africa Bible Commentary. Tokunboh Adeyemo, General Editor.

Bible Handbook, The.

Bible Knowledge Commentary, The –
New Testament. John F. Walvoord and
Roy B. Zuck, General Editors.

Bibliography - 2

Holman Bible Handbook.

Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary.

Holy Imagination. Judy Fentress-Williams.

In Search of Paul. John Dominic Crossan and Jonathan L. Reed.

Bibliography – 3

Life Application Bible Commentary – Acts.

Life Application Bible Commentary –
Philippians.

Life Application Study Bible.

MacArthur Bible Commentary, The. John
MacArthur.

Bibliography - 4

Precepts for Living [UMI]. Vince L. Bantu [Editor].

Spirituality According to Paul. Rodney Reeves.

Tony Evans Study Bible, The.

Writings of the New Testament, The. Luke Timothy Johnson.