

Philippians 1:1-26 – BIBLE STUDY 1

For starters

- Do you think there is a difference between happiness and joy?
- Share a few things that bring you either happiness or joy

Read Phil 1:1-11

1. Add up all the things you learn about Jesus from v1-2 and indicate how these might contribute to one's joy.
2. In v3-6 Paul joyfully thanks God for their partnership (lit 'fellowship') in the gospel. How does this partnership express itself?
 - 1:19
 - 2:25
 - 4:18
3. How might we experience (and kindle) the same kind of joy through our partnership in gospel-work today?
4. In v9-11 Paul prays for the Philippians love to grow, but why does it need knowledge for this growth? How are love and knowledge related?
5. In what way could our love at St Andrew's abound more in knowledge and insight?

Read Phil 1:12-18

6. What forms the basis for Paul's win/win attitude in these verses?
7. What is the key thing that causes Paul to rejoice? Does this cause our rejoicing? What dampens this joy for us?

Read Phil 1:19-26

8. Once again Paul has a win/win attitude.
 - What are the positives if Paul stays ministering on earth?
 - What are the positives if he departs from this life?

9. What does it mean to say, 'to live is Christ'? How could we grow in this conviction?
10. Would we agree that 'to die is gain'? What might we not understand that Paul does?
11. If Paul's joy is not dependent on his circumstances or his mood, then what is it dependent on? How can this challenge our own sense of joy? What might it look like for us to 'rejoice always' this month?

Pray that we'd experience joy because of

- Our identity in Christ – (Joy because of grace and peace)
- Our partnership in the Gospel – (Joy through shared mission and affection)
- Advancing the Gospel – (Joy because the gospel spreads despite circumstance)

Philippians 2:1-18 – BIBLE STUDY 2

For Starters

1. In David's Sunday sermon he outlined how we tend to view Jesus through the two lenses, Lord and Saviour.
 - Jesus as Lord — the one to whom we surrender; whose authority and reign reshape our priorities.
 - Jesus as Saviour — the one who rescues us; who forgives and restores.

Do you think you (or we as a Church) tend to focus on one and overlook the other? How so? What might be the danger of doing so?

Read Philippians 1:27-30

Paul calls the Philippians to “*conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel.*” The Greek word *politeuesthe* means *to live as citizens* — a nod to Philippi's pride as a Roman colony. The CSB (Christian Standard Bible) tries to translate it with this sense in mind. *1:27 Just one thing: As citizens of heaven, live your life worthy of the gospel of Christ.* (Also 3:20).

2. What might it look like to live as citizens of heaven in our everyday lives? How does this challenge our Australian instincts for independence or comfort?
3. Evidence that they are living in a manner worthy of the gospel is that they will be (1:27)
 - Standing firm in the one Spirit
 - Striving together as one for the faith of the gospel
 - Not being frightened by those who opposeWhat might this look like on the ground?

How do we express this unity in and around and for the gospel? Good question! Enter Chapter 2 ...

Read Philippians 2:1-5

4. What does Paul mean by “*in humility consider others better than yourselves*”? Where do you see that kind of attitude being challenged in modern life? Why do we find humility so hard?

Read Philippians 2:6-11

This might be the ‘real’ first hymn! Or it could be a creed or just Paul waxing lyrical as he reflects on the life of Christ. Whatever genre we take it as, it is a profound meditation on Jesus humility.

5. According to 2:6-8 how is Jesus' humility seen
 - In his incarnation?
 - In his life?
 - In his death?

6. How is Jesus both similar to and different from Adam? (Hint in v6)
7. How does God respond to Jesus' humility? (v9-11) How should humanity respond to Jesus? Why don't we?

Read Philippians 2:12-18

8. Paul moves from theology to practice ('therefore' v12). What does it mean to '*work out your salvation with fear and trembling*'? If this is not about working 'for' one's salvation, what is it about?
 - How is v13 a comfort? (Also, Phil 1:6, and 2:1)

We're not on our own, for we participate in God's life! We are in Christ (2:1) and his spirit is in us enabling us!

9. Remember the context is about practicing Christlike humility to foster unity (2:5). How would grumbling and arguing (2:14) help or hinder this humble unity?
10. How is the Christian life to mirror the pattern of Jesus life? In what sense do we 'die' (and even 'rise') daily?
11. What might you need to *die to* today — a habit, ambition, or self-protective posture?
And what might *resurrection* look like in that space? (renewed joy, freedom, reconciliation?)
12. We are to be different to the world around us (v15-16). What is stopping us from shining like stars in a warped and crooked generation?
13. In summary what attitude do we need to adopt if we are to express and foster unity in Christ as we hold onto and advance the gospel together?
What's one action we might take to pursue God's will here?

Pray together about the mind of Christ becoming our mindset

Philippians 3:1-11 BIBLE STUDY 3

Read Philippians 3:1-11

1. A spirituality that says “you get in by grace but stay in by works” — does that sound possible? Does it work as a coherent way to think? Why or why not?
2. What did some of the first-century Jews in Philippi boast in? Look at verses 4–6. What were the badges of honour that made someone “righteous” in Jewish culture?
3. Paul says he could win that game — describe what you think Paul was like as a person.
How might his personality and background draw him toward an “in-by-grace, stay-in-by-works” spirituality?
4. Read verses 10–11 — why do we have to go through death to get to resurrection?
How does this pattern — suffering, dying, rising — mirror the story of Jesus?
5. What parts of ourselves need to die for Christ’s life to grow in us?
6. Where are we tempted to swap “stay in by grace” for “stay in by performance” today? What does that look like in Christian service, ministry, or personal faith?
7. What do we need to die to in the 21st century? Think about our culture’s idols: productivity, comfort, self-image, control, possessions. Which of these quietly competes with Jesus for your loyalty?
8. Do we fall in love with what we invest in?
Read Matthew 6:21. How do your habits — time, money, attention — shape your loves?
9. How is love for Christ the fuel for dying to self and rising to new life?
When love, not fear, motivates obedience, how does that change the way you live?
10. What habits will you practise this week?
Think simple, grace-shaped practices that help you “know Christ.”
 - Silence or prayer instead of scrolling.

- Serving someone unnoticed.
- Sabbath rest.
- Generous giving.
- Confession and receiving grace again.

Closing Reflection

Paul's story invites us to trade self-confidence for Christ-confidence.

To *lose everything* that props up our ego so we can *gain Christ* and grow up in him.

Knowing him means walking his road — through dying and rising — and discovering that resurrection life begins even now.

Pray together about these things ...