

Wycliffe Associates

Bible Translation Reviewers' Guide

Philippians

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1:1-11

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Paul greeted the Philippian believers. [1:1-2]
- ☐ Paul thanked God for the Philippians because they were partners with him in the gospel. [1:3-5]
- ☐ Paul was confident that God would complete the good work that he started in the Philippians. [1:6-8]
- ☐ Paul prayed that their love would continue to grow in knowledge so they would approve what was excellent and be blameless when Christ returned. [1:9-11]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. Who was this letter from and who was it written to? [1:1-2]
This letter is from Paul and Timothy (Paul is probably the main writer). The letter was written to the believers living in Philippi.
2. What did Paul say about Philippian Christians in 1:3-4?
Paul said he thanked God for them every time he remembered them in his prayers.
3. Why did Paul love the Philippian Christians and long to be with them? [1:5, 7]
They were partners with him for the sake of the gospel. They helped him while he was in prison. They shared in God's grace with him.
4. About what was Paul confident in 1:6?
Paul was confident that he who began the good work in the Philippians would also complete the good work in them.
5. Who do you think began this good work? [1:6]
God began the good work.
6. What good work do you think will be completed in them? [1:6]
Perhaps the good work referred to their salvation and new life. God saved them from sin and death and gave them a new life so they are able to obey him.
7. In verse 9, what was Paul's prayer?
He prayed that their love would abound in knowledge and understanding.
8. Why do you think learning and understanding more could cause a person to love more? [1:9]
Perhaps as they gained more knowledge and understanding about God, they would begin to know what it was to love as God loves.

Philippians 1:1-11 continued

9. In verse 10, what other reason did Paul give for his prayers?

He wanted them to be able to approve what was excellent, so that they would be sincere and blameless until the day of Christ.

10. What else did Paul want for the Philippians? [1:11]

Paul wanted the Philippians to be filled with the fruit of righteousness that came through Jesus Christ.

Comment Section:

1:12-26

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Paul said that being in prison helped to spread the gospel and to give confidence to Christian brothers. [1:12-14]
- ☐ Some of the brothers spoke the gospel out of love, and some spoke it out of selfish ambition, but Paul rejoiced either way because people were hearing about Christ. [1:15-20]
- ☐ Whether Paul lived or died, he wanted Christ to be exalted. [1:21]
- ☐ If Paul lived, he could do more work for Christ, but if he died he would be with Jesus. [1:22]
- ☐ Paul believed he would live so he could continue helping the Philippians. [1:23-26]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. What did Paul say about the result of his being in chains? [1:12 -14]
Paul said that being in chains advanced the gospel. He said most of the brothers had far more confidence in the Lord, and courage to speak the word.
2. Why do you think he wanted the Philippians to know this? [1:12 -14]
Perhaps Paul knew the people were concerned for him and were praying for his release from prison. Perhaps he wanted to reassure them that God was working good in the situation even if he was not released. Perhaps he wanted them to rejoice at how the gospel was going out.
3. How did Paul's imprisonment cause the gospel to be spread? [1:13 -16]
Paul spoke about the following ways:
 - The palace guard and everyone else around Paul realized that he was in prison because of the gospel.
 - Most of the Christian brothers were encouraged to speak the word fearlessly.
 - Even those who did not like Paul were speaking about the gospel.
4. Why do you think Christians would be encouraged to speak the word more boldly when they learned that Paul was in prison? [1:14]
Perhaps they would think that if God gave Paul courage to preach the gospel even in prison, they could be confident that God would help them preach the gospel anywhere, even if people might put them in prison for doing so.
5. What did Paul say about those preaching the gospel in 1:15-16?
Paul said that some people preached out of envy and strife, and others preached out of good will. Paul said those who preached out of good will did so out of love, knowing Paul was put in prison for defense of the gospel.
6. Why was Paul grateful for people to spread the gospel even if the motives of some of the preachers were not good? [1:16 -18]
Paul rejoiced because people were hearing the gospel, no matter the motives of the preacher.

Philippians 1:12-26 continued

7. What did Paul say he knew in 1:19?
Paul knew that by the prayers of the Philippians and the help of the Spirit, he would, in one way or another, be delivered. Here, “delivered” could mean released from prison or receive his final salvation after he dies.
8. What did Paul say was his eager expectation and hope? [1:20]
He was certain in the hope that he would not be ashamed but would be bold, so Christ would be exalted whether Paul lived or died.
9. Why do you think he expected or was certain of this? [1:20]
Perhaps Paul had experienced God’s faithfulness in his life before. He knew he could trust God to keep him above shame and to glorify himself through Paul.
10. What do you think Paul meant when he said, “to live is Christ and to die is gain”? [1:21-24]
He probably meant that if he remained alive he would get to continue serving Christ and making more disciples. But if he died, he would be with Christ.
11. Why do you think Paul said it would be far better to depart and be with Christ? [1:23]
Perhaps Paul meant that his suffering would end and that Christ would bring him to a glorious life with God in heaven.
12. Why did Paul think remaining alive was more necessary? [1:24- 26]
If he remained alive, he could help the Philippians grow in their faith. Also, the Philippians would rejoice greatly in Christ Jesus because he caused Paul to return to them.

Comment Section:

1:27-2:18

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Paul told the Philippians to live their lives in a way that would be worthy of the gospel. [1:27]
- ☐ Paul told them to not be frightened of their opponents, because it was their gift to suffer for Christ. [1:28-30]
- ☐ Paul told them to remain united and have the mind of Christ, who humbled himself even to the point of death, and God exalted him. [2:1-11]
- ☐ The Philippians were to work out their salvation in fear and trembling, doing everything without complaining so they will be blameless when Christ returns. [2:12-16]
- ☐ Paul told them that even though his life was being poured out like a sacrifice, he still rejoiced and so should the Philippians. [2:17-18]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. What was the sign that those who opposed the Philippians would be destroyed, but the Philippians would be saved by God? [1:27-28]
The sign was the Philippians' ability to remain united and to not be afraid, even though they had opponents.
2. Paul said that God not only gives people the gift of believing in Christ, but he also gives them the gift of doing what for Christ? [1:29-30]
God gave them the gift of suffering for Christ.
3. In what ways do you think suffering for Christ was a gift? [1:29]
 - Perhaps Paul wanted the Philippians to think about the following:
 - It was an honor to be treated as Jesus was treated.
 - It was a good thing to endure opposition for being a Christian.
 - Suffering strengthened faith and trust in God.
 - God rewarded those who endured through suffering.
4. What four "if" statements did Paul list in 2:1?
 - If there was any encouragement in Christ
 - If there was any comfort provided by love
 - If there was any fellowship with the Spirit of God
 - If there was any tender mercies and compassion to others
5. Based on what Paul wrote in 2:1, how did Paul want the Philippians to behave? [2:2-5]
 - Paul wanted the Philippians to make his joy full by:
 - Being of the same mind, and having the same love
 - Being united in spirit, and having one purpose
 - Being empty of conceit, rather to be humble
 - Being of the same mind which was also in Christ Jesus
6. As a result of Jesus' life and work described in 2:6-8, what did God the Father do in 2:9-11?
God honored Jesus and gave him authority over all people. Also, everyone in heaven, on earth, and under the earth will bow to him and acknowledge that he is Lord. This will glorify God the Father.

Philippians 1:27-2:18 continued

7. Why do you think Paul included this information about Jesus in 2:5-11?
The purpose of this description of Jesus was to provide an example of how the Philippians should live. They should be as humble as Jesus, who gave up everything and became a servant. They should be willing to suffer and even die in obedience to God the Father.
8. After Paul taught about Jesus, what did Paul want the Philippians to do? [2:12]
With awe and reverence for God, they were to work to do the good things that showed God had saved them.
9. What do you think it meant for the Philippians to “work out their salvation”? [2:12]
They were saved from their sins because of faith, so perhaps Paul meant they were to honor God by the way they lived. Paul was not telling people to work in order to save themselves.
10. What do you think Paul meant when he told them to work out their salvation “with fear and trembling”? [2:12]
He may have meant that they should fear God, meaning that they should have great respect for him. Or he may have meant that because they loved God, they were to have a fear that caused trembling when they sinned against him.
11. In verse 13, what motive did Paul give for the Philippians to continue working out their salvation?
They were to continue working out their salvation because God was already working in them so that they were willing to obey him and do what pleased him.
12. What else did Paul command the Philippians to do in 2:14?
Do everything without complaining and arguing.
13. What would be the result of doing everything without complaining or arguing? [2:15]
They would be blameless and pure before God, and they would shine as lights in a world that was wicked.
14. What would Paul boast about if the Philippians did as he commanded them? [2:16]
He would boast that the Philippians held on to the word of life and that he had not labored in vain.
15. What did Paul say he was doing, even if he was about to die for preaching about Christ? [2:17-18]
Paul was rejoicing with the Philippians.
16. Why do you think Paul and the Philippians rejoiced, even when he was facing death? [2:17-18]
Perhaps they rejoiced because it is an honor to die for Christ. Paul's life was not pointless. He fulfilled God's purposes for his life. And, perhaps they rejoiced because if Paul died, he would get to be with Jesus forever. Being with Jesus is something Paul was eagerly waiting for.

Comment Section:

2:19-2:30

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Paul hoped to send Timothy to the Philippians so he could tell Paul how they were doing. [2:19-24]
- ☐ Paul also sent Epaphroditus back to the Philippians because he was worried when they heard he was sick. [2:25-28]
- ☐ Paul wanted the Philippians to accept Epaphroditus back with joy because he had risked his life to serve Paul. [2:29-30]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. Why was Timothy a unique helper for Paul? [2:19-23]
Timothy was unique because he truly cared for the Philippians and not for his own interests.
2. Describe Epaphroditus's situation when he was with Paul in 2:25-30?
He was sick and almost died, but he recovered. He was distressed when he learned the Philippians knew of his sickness.
3. How did Paul want the Philippians to treat Epaphroditus when he returned? [2:28-30]
Paul wanted the Philippians to welcome Epaphroditus back with joy. He was an example of the kind of people who should be honored.

Comment Section:

3:1-4:1

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Paul warned the Philippians about evil workers and not to listen to teachings about mutilating one's body. [3:1-2]
- ☐ Those who worshiped by the Spirit of God were the true circumcision. [3:3]
- ☐ Paul said he could have confidence in the flesh because he was born a Jew, circumcised, and blameless according to the Law, but these things were worthless compared to Christ. [3:4-9]
- ☐ Paul continually strove to be like Christ and encouraged the Philippians to think and act as Paul did. [3:10-17]
- ☐ Paul warned the Philippians about enemies who only thought about earthly things. [3:18-19]
- ☐ The Philippians should stay strong in their faith, because their home was in heaven, and Christ will give them glorious bodies when he returns. [3:20-4:1]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. What group did Paul warn the Philippians against? [3:2]
He warned them against a group that required circumcision in the flesh for Christians to truly belong to God. Paul called these people "dogs," "evil workers," and "the mutilation."
2. In 3:3, whom did Paul call "the circumcision"?
When Paul said, "we who are the circumcision," he was speaking about himself and the believers in Christ.
3. In 3:3, how did Paul describe those who belonged to "the true circumcision"?
He said they worshiped God by the Spirit, gave glory to Christ, and did not trust in any external rituals, even Jewish circumcision, to save them.
4. If Paul wanted to trust in external rituals, like circumcision, what other things did he say he could have trusted in 3:4-5?
 - He was circumcised on the eighth day of his life.
 - He was of the people of Israel.
 - He was of the tribe of Benjamin.
 - His parents were Hebrews as were his ancestors.
 - He had been a Pharisee.
 - He had persecuted Christians.
 - He had kept the law blamelessly.
5. Why do you think Paul's life as a Jewish Pharisee, described in 3:5, was so important to him before he became a Christian?
Perhaps those were all things that Jews valued, and perhaps Paul thought those things made him even more acceptable to God.

Philippians 3:1-4:1 continued

6. How did Paul consider all those things after he believed in Christ? [3:7-8]
He considered them rubbish. They were of no value compared to how great it was to know Christ.
7. Why did Paul reject and consider rubbish all the things he once trusted in? [3:8-9]
Paul understood that these things could do nothing to make him righteous. He wanted to be united with Christ through faith so God would make Paul truly righteous.
8. What did Paul say he wanted in 3:10?
 - He wanted to know Christ.
 - He wanted to know the power of Christ's resurrection.
 - He wanted to know the fellowship of Christ's sufferings.
 - He wanted to become like Christ in his death.
9. In 3:11, what did Paul say was the reason he wanted the things he mentioned in 3:10?
He wanted these things so that somehow he might experience the resurrection from the dead. That is, so that God would raise him from the dead.
10. What did Paul say about himself in 3:12-14?
He said he was not yet perfect and had not yet received all the things he mentioned in 3:10, but he was doing everything he could to make sure he would receive the reward that Christ promises believers.
11. Why do you think it was important for Paul to tell the Philippians the things about himself that he mentioned in 3:12-14?
Perhaps he wanted his readers to understand that Christians were to mature in their faith and strive to be like Christ. This effort was valuable, but in this life no one would become perfect.
12. What did Paul say in 3:15-16 that mature Christians were to do?
Those who were mature Christians should think the way Paul thought, and they were to live up to what they already attained.
13. In 3:17, why do you think Paul would tell the Philippians to follow his own example?
Perhaps Paul knew that if they would live the way that he lived, they would be pleasing to God.
14. In 3:18-19 how did Paul describe those who did not follow Christ?
 - They lived their lives as enemies of Christ and the gospel.
 - The end of their lives would be destruction, not salvation.
 - They lived only to fulfill their desires and appetites.
 - They were proud of the things that they should have been ashamed of.
 - They only thought about the things of this world.
15. According to 3:20-21, how were Christians different from those who were enemies of the Cross?
Christians knew that their true home was in heaven. They eagerly waited for Jesus the Savior to return from there, and Christ would give them glorious bodies.

Comment Section:

4:2-23

Part 1

Tell in your own words what you just read in these verses.

- ☐ Paul pleaded for two Philippian women to be of the same mind. [4:2-3]
- ☐ Paul told the Philippians to rejoice and not to worry but instead pray to God for peace. [4:4-7]
- ☐ Paul told them to think on things that were excellent and praiseworthy. [4:8-9]
- ☐ Paul rejoiced because the Philippians cared for him and helped him, though he had learned to be content in all situations. [4:10-20]
- ☐ Paul ended the letter with greeting and by praying for the grace of Lord Jesus Christ to be with their spirit. [4:21-23]

Part 2

Answer the following questions.

1. Who were Euodia and Syntyche? [4:3]
They were women who worked with Paul as he preached the gospel.
2. What did Paul ask to be done for Euodia and Syntyche? [4:3]
He asked his “true companion” to help them. It is uncertain who the “true companion” was.
3. In 4:4-6 what did Paul command the Philippians to do?
 - They were to rejoice.
 - They were to let everyone see how gentle they were.
 - They were not to worry or be anxious.
 - They were to tell God what they were thankful for.
 - They were to tell the Lord about any needs they had.
4. In 4:8-9 what did Paul command the Philippians to do?
They were to think about all the things that were true, noble, right, pure, lovely, admirable, excellent, and praiseworthy. And, they were to do all the things they learned from Paul.
5. What promises did Paul give the Philippians if they followed his instructions? [4:4-9]
He promised that God would be with them, and he would give them inner peace that was greater than anyone could understand. This peace that came from Christ would keep them from worrying about the troubles of this life.
6. In 4:10, what did Paul say caused him to rejoice in the Lord?
They had renewed their concern for Paul. They had been concerned before about Paul but could not help. Now they were able to help.
7. What secret did Paul say he learned in 4:12-13?
He had learned the secret to being content in any situation, whether he was well fed or hungry or whether he had everything he needed or not.

Philippians 4:2-23 continued

8. In 4:14-16 what did Paul say the Philippians did for him in the past?
They had helped Paul when no one else did as he set out from Macedonia. They had also sent help to him again and again when he was in Thessalonica.
9. What was Paul's response to the Philippian church when they gave him help? [4:18]
He gave thanks to God and he explained that their gift to him was like a pleasing offering to God.
10. How would helping Paul benefit the Philippians? [4:17, 19]
God would give the Philippians spiritual blessings for helping Paul. God would also provide everything they needed according to the riches that he gave through Christ Jesus.
11. In 4:21-23, how did Paul end the letter?
Paul and those with him greeted all the believers in Philippi. Paul also prayed for the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ to be with them.

Comment Section: