

The Book of Philippians

I. Introduction

A. While Paul was imprisoned, the Holy Spirit inspired him to write to the church at Philippi. **Philippians 1:1, 12-14; 4:18**

II. Be Thankful

A. While imprisoned, Paul's attitude was not one of self-pity. He expressed thankfulness instead of murmuring. His attitude of gratitude is one to imitate. **Philippians 1:3; 2:14**

III. Be Prayerful

A. Paul also exemplified the prayerful lifestyle God expects of each of us. This is a key element of being positive and Christ-focused through trials. **Philippians 1:4, 9-11; 4:6**

IV. Expect Persecution

A. Paul's positive attitude didn't mean that things were easy for him. The persecution he endured exemplifies that which all faithful Christians can expect (cf. **2 Tim. 3:12**).
Philippians 1:27-30; Acts 5:41

V. Shine Bright

A. Persecution occurs because the world is full of sin. Christians lived "in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation" nearly 2,000 years ago, just as we do today. The key for Christians is not whether or not the world is full of darkness, but whether we will join the darkness or shine as lights.
Philippians 2:15

VI. Be Like-minded

A. To shine as lights in the midst of darkness, it is crucial for brethren to earnestly pursue unity with one another.
Philippians 2:2; 4:2; 1:27

VII. Have the Mind of Christ

A. Unity also demands certain attitudes, like humility and selflessness. Christ is the supreme example of what it means to humble oneself for others. **Philippians 2:3-11**

VIII. Live for Christ

A. Since Jesus gave Himself for us, we have strong motivation to give ourselves to *Him*. **Philippians 1:21**

IX. Rejoice Always

A. One who is truly living for Christ has reason to rejoice always. **Philippians 4:4; 1:12-14, 18; 2:17-18; 4:10, 17**

X. "Forget" What Lies Behind

A. Paul also exemplified how to "forget" what lies behind. He did not remember past *good* in ways that made him over-confident, and he didn't remember past *mistakes* in ways that haunted him. **Philippians 3:12-14**

XI. "Think on These Things"

A. Instead of meditating on the past in ways that's not good, we should meditate on true, honorable, just, pure, lovely, virtuous, and praiseworthy things. **Philippians 4:8-9**

XII. Learn Contentment

A. The spiritual-mindedness called for and exemplified by Paul allowed him to learn to be content. We must learn this as well. **Philippians 4:10-13**