



A Study of Galatians, Ephesians, **Philippians**, Colossians

Review of Chapter 2:

The Philippians struggled with some of the same issues that many congregations faced. Paul writes to them:

- Live a life worthy of the calling you have received
- In humility, consider others better than yourselves.
- Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.
- Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus

1. What was the problem that many congregations and people struggle with?

2. What was the example that Paul used as the example of the way we should live?

3. Continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling.....
 - What sinful attitude is he talking about?

 - What God-pleasing attitude should we have?

A summary of the chapter was: Serve the Lord in humility or Live your faith serving others

Chapter 3: Read verses 1-4

Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord! It is no trouble for me to write the same things to you again, and it is a safeguard for you.

² Watch out for those dogs, those men who do evil, those mutilators of the flesh. ³ For it is we who are the circumcision, we who worship by the Spirit of God, who glory in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh—

1. Sometimes we think that we hear the same things about God (Jesus, salvation, forgiveness, new life) over and over. We think that we don't need to hear that again. What does Paul say about this type of thinking?
2. How does the Holy Spirit safeguard our faith when we hear these things again and again?
3. What are the three phrases that Paul uses that seem out of place in a letter of joy?
4. Some explanation may be needed. Who is Paul talking about?
5. Use the context.... How does he feel about them? Why?
6. When Paul says, "It is we who are circumcision, we who worship by the Spirit of God." Is he talking about physical or spiritual circumcision? How do you know?
7. In the religious culture today, would we expect to hear this kind of language used to describe someone that is watering down the Gospel? Why or why not?
8. Is it worth our time to point out when the truth of the Word is compromised? Why or why not?

Read Verses 4-11

though I myself have reasons for such confidence.

If anyone else thinks he has reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for legalistic righteousness, faultless.

⁷ But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. ⁸ What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ—the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.

9. According to whose rules does Paul have reason for confidence?
10. What were those rules based on?

11. What had Paul done his whole life that had given him reason for confidence?

12. How does he feel about those qualifications, those rules, now that he has been called by Christ?

13. What is the difference between salvation by works and salvation by grace?

14. In the end, whose righteousness did Paul realize he needed? A righteousness from himself or a righteousness from God? Which is better?

Read verses 12-14

¹²Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. ¹³Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

15. How are both correct:

1. Heaven is already ours....
2. Paul saying press on to take hold of the prize....

16. How is pressing on to the goal a lot like work out your salvation with fear and trembling?

17. Where is the only place where the fight will be done?

Read verses 15-16

¹⁵All of us who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you. ¹⁶Only let us live up to what we have already attained.

18. What are some immature views of Christian living that people have today?

19. What is the mature view we have already talked about?

Read verses 17-21

¹⁷Join with others in following my example, brothers, and take note of those who live according to the pattern we gave you. ¹⁸For, as I have often told you before and now say again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things. ²⁰But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

20. How can a mind on earthly things get in the way of the heavenly things that are to come?

21. This is an exhortation. An exhortation is a godly encouragement. What is Paul encouraging the Philippians to do?

22. How can we do a better job of that ourselves?