



PAUL'S EPISTLE
TO THE
PHILIPPIANS

Philippians Outline

1:1-2

Greeting

1:3-8

Thanksgiving

1:9-11

Prayer

1:12-4:20

Body

4:21-23

Salutation

Paragraph-based Outline

Body

Two Distinct Divisions

1:27-2:18 (A)

Body

Two Distinct Divisions

1:27-2:18 (A)

The God Honoring Life (A)

...is exemplified by unity among believers; as well as humility, obedience, and selflessness- like Christ, who went to the cross for others.

Body

Two Distinct Divisions

2:19-2:30 (B)

Timothy & Epaphroditus (B)

**I hope to send both
Timothy and Epaphroditus
to you**

Body

2:1(1:27)-2:4

Life, "worthy of the Gospel" is lived humbly and selflessly. It is living united with believers in mind and Spirit; standing courageously vs opposition to the Gospel (and this may be painful).

Body

2:5-2:11

Our example of humility is Christ who relinquished his rights as God to take human form and die on the cross for others. Someday everyone who has ever lived will bow and acknowledge that Jesus is Lord of All.

2:5-11 additional comments

“Here we find the locus classicus of Paul’s doctrine of the person of Christ and the nature and scope of Christian salvation.”

-Though he was in the form of God...

-humbly relinquished that form to take on the form of humanity

-obedient unto death, death on a cross.

-In response, God has given him the highest place of authority.

-One day everyone will bow and acknowledge his Lordship.. To the glory of God

God takes human form, yet...

“In becoming man the Lord stripped himself of his glory: he lived a life of humble obedience . But he cast off none of his essential deity.”

Body

2:12-2:13

“Work out” your salvation through obedience. Let God change your desires so you do his will.

2:14-2:18

Specifics: Be blameless and innocent. Rejoice rather than grumble or question. Live distinctly from the world, so I (Paul) can be proud of you

“Work out your own salvation”?

1:27-2:15// Romans 12

“I appeal to you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be

conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind that you may prove what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”

Body

2:19-2:24

I hope to send Timothy, my spiritual son, who cares for you deeply.

2:25-30

I also hope to send Epaphroditus, your messenger, who nearly died in the service of the Gospel.

What's the Point?

A-Paul wants the Philippians to emulate Christ; living obediently, humbly and w/o grumbling. Also, to know that living the Christian life is done in community, courageously united against all opposition to the Gospel.

B-Paul cares for the Philippians. He wants to send Timothy to get news re: their church; to send Epaphroditus that they might rejoice at having him safely home. Finally, he hopes to visit as well.

Application Guidelines

Distinguish the Biblical core from peripheral concepts.

Distinguish NT morality.

Distinguish the NT's uniform and consistent witness.

Distinguish NT principles from situational statements.

Distinguish available cultural options.

Distinguish between 21st century and 1st century culture.

Exercise Christian charity for believers with a different emphasis.

Look Again..1:27-2:18

**Distinguish the Biblical
core from peripheral
concepts.**

Obedience

Unity of Believing Community

Humility

Servanthood

Look Again..1:27-2:18

**Any discussion of NT
morality?**

(The Philippians are living their faith. Paul encourages them to continue on with an emphasis on greater unity, to strengthen the church, overcome opponents, stand out as blameless and innocent in a perverse world.)

Look Again..1:27-2:18

Distinguish the NT's uniform and consistent witness.

Christ is our example.

The Gospel is worth living and/or dying for.

Live to honor God

Rejoice - whatever comes your way

Note: NT uniform witness or cultural situation

-1:29 Paul states that the Philippians may suffer for the sake of Christ.

-2:7-8 Paul talks of Christ's "emptying himself" of his Godly rights and dying on the cross.

-2:17 Paul too might be "poured as a libation"; as a sacrifice, as a drink offering - speaking of his possible death based upon the result of his trial for his proclamation of the Gospel.

Look Again..1:27-2:18

Distinguish the NT principles from situational statements.

S- Sending Timothy and Epaphroditus

S- Suffering for Christ

P-The church is to live united in mind and Spirit.

P-Have the mind of Christ. Live his example.

P-God develops those who want to actualize their salvation.

Look Again..1:27-2:18

Distinguish available cultural options.

Religious options of the day.

-Religion provides the answer to the question: how should we live?

Political structure

-Citizens request to go before Caesar

Look Again..1:27-2:18

Distinguish 1st and 21st
century cultures.

Relationships

-With God

-Within the church

-Distinctively in the World

-Specific Individuals

Look Again..1:27-2:18

Exercise Christian charity for believers with a different emphasis.

“I’m a Christian, but I don’t go to church.”

For next time...

Read Philippians in one sitting (often).

Develop a skeletal paragraph driven outline for chapter 3

Write a one-two sentence statement for each paragraph

Write a “What’s the Point” statement regarding Paul’s progression of thought in chapter 3.

Examine the chapter using our Application Guidelines