

## Bible Study, Series 4, Week 2

### Personal Bible Study

#### Day: 1

*Read Philippians 1: 12-18*

1. "The things which happened to me" Paul is referring to his imprisonment in Rome. He was imprisoned in a house in Rome and he had a reasonable amount of freedom. (Acts 28: 16-20) Now you must read 2 Corinthians 11: 23-29 and have a look at all the other things that happened to him. Have you really sacrificed something for the gospel yet? If so, what? If not, do you think it is important?
2. Paul is preaching the gospel while he is in prison. What positive results of this do we see in verse 13 and 14?
3. Because of his conversation with the soldiers the gospel was spread even further. Now you have to read Philippians 4: 22.
4. Paul's consequent conduct was an encouragement to the other believers to be freer with their testimony and with spreading the gospel in Rome. (Verse 14) Have you used difficulty in such a way that it became an opportunity for God? Ask God to make that possible for you.

#### Day: 2

*Read Philippians 1: 15-16*

Because of his "testimony" in jail, Paul's fame spread through the whole city. There were others preaching the gospel in Rome as well. As Paul's fame spread, the others became less popular and that led to jealousy.

1. Those that spread the gospel with pure motifs also had two other motifs in mind according to verse 16, what were they?
2. "Knowing" a strong word is used here. We must not think about a blind fate here but, a definite plan of God for our lives. Read Luke 2: 34 and 1 Thessalonians 3:3. Paul's life was meant to be spent spreading the gospel. He himself is in the background completely - even death is profit to him. (Philippians 1: 21b) In 2 Corinthians 4: 7 Paul uses a picture to illustrate our insignificance. What do we learn from it?
3. Let's pray for more humbleness.

#### Day: 3

*Read Philippians 1: 17*

1. Paul says that some are preaching Christ for the wrong reasons. Name at least four of these wrong motifs.
2. Read 2 Corinthians 11: 4, Galatians 1: 6 and Philippians 3: 2. How does Paul's attitude towards these people differ from that in verse 17 and why?
3. What should be every spiritual workers only motif?

#### **Day: 4**

##### *Read Philippians 1: 16*

I have only just noticed that the references to verses differ in different translations. I have been looking at The Message but it seems it differs from The KJV, so please if the questions etc. does not appear correct read the verse before or after. Verse 16 for instance, in The Message is verse 17 in KJV. Of course this influences yesterday's study. I did not notice because the verses as they are in The Message correspond with my Afrikaans Bible.

Paul mentions "the Message" and he uses this word about sixty times in his letters. The original has the meaning of announcing good news. In Paul's mouth it gets the meaning of proclaiming the Godly message of salvation through Jesus Christ. The good news is: God has won! Christ has risen from the death! We have been saved by His actions. With this we (who used to be slaves to sin) has become children of God.

1. Do you experience the gospel as such - as really good news?
2. Paul said it is his duty to defend the gospel. How does one do that?

#### **Day: 5**

##### *Read Philippians 1: 18*

For Paul there is one thing that is more important than anything else - preaching the gospel of Christ. His whole life lead to it. With him there is no place for feeling sorry for himself. That shows us how spiritually mature he was.

Here are a few examples of spiritual magnanimity:

1. Such a person is humble. He is not arrogant or proud and he also does not lose hope.
2. He is strong with strong principles but flexible in the application there of.
3. He knows himself and does not have all kinds of complexes of inferiority or overrating himself.
4. He accepts himself. He admits the gifts he has with gratitude and with humbleness he is aware of his shortcomings.

Test your life to these qualities.

## **Day: 6**

*Read Philippians 1: 18 and 2 Corinthians 12: 7-9*

Every time the happiness shows in this letter more and more in this letter. Paul's circumstances are very difficult; he is awaiting trial in custody. However, the gospel is being preached and Christ glorified. That is all that is important to Paul.

Now let us have a look if we cannot learn from 2 Corinthians 12: 7-9 how to deal with a problem in a positive and spiritual way.

"I was given the gift of a handicap" possibly a physical problem or handicap that gave Paul lots of problems and where a problem hampering his work. There are many theories to what it actually was and what it really was is not important, what is important that it felt like an attract from Satan on him.

1. What does Paul do in his difficult circumstances? (Verse 8)
2. Are Paul's prayers answered instantly? What does it tell us?
3. Paul gets something, but, is it what he asked for?
4. What did Paul have to learn in connection of:
  - God's grace
  - His own capabilities

Even if your circumstances are not changed, you can change for the better!

## **Group Bible Study**

*Read Philippians 1: 12-18*

1. In this study Paul has quite a few reasons to be happy.
2. Paul's life and actions while in custody became a very strong message. (Verse 12-14)
3. What was the influence on the pagans as well as the Christians?
4. How does one have to live for your life to carry such a strong message to both sides?
5. What are the reasons for a powerless message and preaching? (See Romans 1: 17-24 and 2: 1-5)
6. According to Philippians 1: 18 it will appear as if Paul agrees with the motto that it is important that the message is carried out and that the motif and way is not all that important, motivate why you agree or disagree with this.
7. What is the correct motif for us to preach the good message?
8. Paul is prepared to leave space for people who want to carry out the gospel in another way, how much space should we allow for that?
9. What is the special message for you of Philippians 1: 12-18?

