

Bible Study 101:
12. Outline of Philippians

Chapter 1

1–2: Greeting and blessing

Notice, “bishops and deacons” were commonly recognized in the church as distinct ministries: one spiritual, the other practical

3–7: Paul’s remembrance of them and prayers for them to be with him in the “fellowship in the gospel” (material support is clearly meant here; compare with II Corinthians 8–9), which he knows they will do based on past experience (partakers of my grace)

8–11: More longing, prayer for them to abound in love in the more usual, general sense, and be filled with fruits of righteousness.

12–20: Section enclosed in verbal “quotation marks”

Speaking of things that have happened to him in Rome (palace), indication when and where the epistle was written

It’s pretty clear that Paul was released from his first imprisonment in Rome, but that is not what verse 19 means

He is talking about the effect of his bonds, that others were going out with the gospel, some with good motives, some with bad, but in any case, the gospel was being preached, so what had happened was resulting in salvation; souls being saved

Literally, “this (what has happened) to me shall turn to salvation” Clearly not “my salvation” (dative not genitive case)

Stretching it, could be “this shall turn to salvation to me,” but the word order does not really support it

His concern is, as always, for the salvation of others; he is not the least bit worried about himself, as is indicated by what follows

Whether he lives or dies, Christ will be magnified in his body; the things which befall him will be for Christ’s glory

21–26: Paul really does not care if he lives or dies, but he surmises that he will live, because he has more work to do

27–30: Encouragement for Philippian Christians to stand firm, and not let threats of suffering for Christ deter them

Chapter 2

1–4: Encouragement to love, unity, humility, care for one another

5–11: Basis for our humility: Christ’s *kenosis*, or self-emptying

12–13: “Work out your own salvation,” does not mean working as a means of earning salvation, but, as the next verse indicates, it is work that demonstrates that God is working in you

But, the idea is not to prove God is in us by the works we do

Yes, we do good works just because God is working in us; but not with the idea in mind that we have to prove something

Remember, unsaved people can do good works also

Anyway, this is part of what causes legalism and judging

Because if we conceive that we must do good to prove God is in us, then it logically follows we can judge others by works

Which is dangerous, because Christ clearly taught that Christians do not do good works to be seen of men

14–18: Good works are a shining light in this dark world, which go along with offering the word of life to the world

19–30: Plans for various trips to Philippi

Timothy, Paul himself, Epaphroditus

Don’t use Epaphroditus’ sickness as an excuse to hold back from doing the Lord’s work.

Chapter 3

1–3: Warnings against those who have confidence in the flesh

4–6: Paul could have confidence in the flesh, if anyone could

7–14: Paul counts anything he might show in the flesh as loss, and does not take even his own salvation for granted

Apprehend means lay hold of or attain; having a goal

15–17: Keep moving on; don’t slip back; follow good examples

18–19: Don’t follow enemies of the cross (salvation without works) whose focus is on earthly things

20–21: Our concern and hope is in heaven

Jesus is coming again

We are looking forward to glorified bodies

Chapter 4

1–3: Concern for quarreling members, to help them resolve issues

4–9: The Christian mind: rejoicing, moderation, free from anxiety, asking and receiving from God; peace, thoughts, do things you have learned, received, heard, and seen

10–19: Commending and thanking them for material support

20–23: Closing benediction toward God; greetings; benediction on the readers

Mention of Caesar’s household gives further proof of time, place, of writing of this epistle