

A FINAL LOOK

As we prepare for a final look at Paul's thank-you letter to the Philippians, ASK God to help you grasp and carry with you the encouragement and advice He has for you today. THANK Him that He is at work in you to will and to act according to His good purpose (Philippians 2:13).

1. Which of your memory verses was most helpful and why?

Read Acts 16:6-40.

2. Briefly tell about the beginnings of the Philippian church.

Read Philippians all the way through at one sitting. Perhaps it would be interesting to read it in a version you are not so familiar with. As you read, picture Paul in his jail cell writing to his dear friends in Christ who were themselves going through hard times in a place far away.

From your reading of Philippians (you may need to skim back over the book) answer the following questions. If you get your answer from a specific verse, note the reference beside your answer.

3. How did Paul feel about the Philippians?
4. How do *you* think the Philippians would have felt when they received Paul's letter and read it? (Consider Acts 16 also.)
5. What are some of the major themes Paul has emphasized in Philippians?

- f. about the place of suffering in the Christian life?

 - g. about the value of an eternal perspective?
- 9.
- a. Thinking about some of the people mentioned in this letter (Paul, Jesus, Timothy, Epaphroditus and the Philippians), what actions and attitudes blended to forge their deep friendship?

 - b. Do you have an example of a friendship brought about in a similar way?

 - c. What can you do to pave the way so that such a friendship might develop?
- 10.
- a. Something about Jesus Christ totally changed the course of Paul's life from one who zealously hunted out Christian men and women to throw them in prison (Acts 9) to one who endured prison himself. And Paul did more than endure. At the same time he rejoiced that the good news of Jesus went forth and he reached out to his fellow believers in love and concern. From Philippians, *who is* this Jesus (think about His attitudes and actions) and *what* does He offer you?

 - b. How is “knowing about” Jesus different from “knowing Him?”

c. How has knowing Jesus made a difference in your life?

11. What changes have you observed in your life as a result of studying Philipians?

12. What has most encouraged you as you've studied this letter?

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