

PHILIPPIANS 2

1. In this world, all people are servants. Of whom?
-People are either servants of Christ or servants of Satan.
2. What does it mean to be a servant of Christ?
-Our greatest devotion is to the Lord Jesus more than to any other human or human organization.
3. Could God alone teach the entire world?
-Yes, but He prefers that we work with Him.
4. Who is the one who has begun a good work in all Christians?
-God.
5. Having begun a good work in all Christians, what is God's promise to us?
-That God will complete His work in us.
6. What will be God's complete work in all Christians?
-That one day, we will be completely perfect without sin.
-We will be completely like the Lord Jesus, except that we will not be God.
7. How is it possible for Christians to be like the Lord Jesus?
-By allowing God the Holy Spirit to have complete control of our lives just like Jesus did when He walked on the earth.

8. How is God changing us to be like the Lord Jesus?
-He helps us to humble ourselves as Christ did.
-He helps us to serve others as Christ did.
-He helps to suffer injustice as Christ did.
-He helps us to reach out to the lost as Christ did.

9. What is the lesson of Paul in chains yet not thinking about himself, but others?
-When we think about our own difficulties, we can become discouraged, but when we think about God and our family in Christ, this will encourage us.

Let's read Philipians 1:12

12-Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel.

- What happened to Paul?
- He was put into prison in Rome.

-How did Paul's imprisonment serve to advance the Gospel?

Let's read Philipians 1:13-14

13-As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ.

14-And because of my chains, most of the brothers and sisters have become confident in the Lord and dare

all the more to proclaim the gospel without fear.

-First, the palace guard and everyone else knew that Paul was in chains for Christ.

-Secondly, many Christians became bold to proclaim the Gospel without fear.

-Christians may think that God abandoned Paul because Paul was in prison.

-Does God ever abandon true Christians?

-No.

-Jesus promised His disciples that He would be with them always, even until the end (Mt 28:20).

-Nothing can separate true Christians from the love of Christ (Romans 8:38-39).

-Christians may think that Paul was in prison because he had sinned.

-Was Paul in prison because he had sinned?

-No.

-Why does God allow difficulties in our lives?

-To strengthen our faith.

-To strengthen the faith of other Christians.

-To bring non Christians to faith in Christ.

-Can God still use us even though we are having difficulties?

-Yes.

-In fact, God may use us even in a greater way because we have difficulties.

Let's read Philippians 1:15-18a

15-It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill.

16-The latter do so out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel.

17-The former preach Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing that they can stir up trouble for me while I am in chains.

18-But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice.

-How can anyone preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, out of selfish ambition and not sincerely?

-It seems as if some teachers were happy that Paul was in jail.

-It seems as if some teachers wanted to give Paul a bad name to push him down and to make themselves more important than Paul.

-Why is it never good for one Christian to push another

down so that they will become more important?

-It not only hurts the entire family of Christ, but it also hurts even more the one who is pushing the other down.

-In Matthew 23:12, Jesus said that those who exalt themselves will be humbled.

-Instead of worrying about those who were trying to push him down, what was Paul doing?

-He was rejoicing that the Word of God was being taught even though they were trying to push him down.

Let's read Philippians 1:18b-19

18-Yes, and I will continue to rejoice,

19-for I know that through your prayers and God's provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance.

-As Paul rejoiced with Silas in the jail in Philippi, Paul was also rejoicing in his imprisonment in Rome.

-Paul knew that God was using his imprisonment for not only Paul, but also for many others.

-Only God can take imprisonment and other difficulties and turn them into good.

-This is what Joseph told his brothers in Egypt:

-“You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives” (Genesis 50:20).

-God is in control of all of life, and for Christians, God will work out everything for good.

Let's read Philippians 1:20-21

20-I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death.

21-For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

-Of what did Paul not want to be ashamed?

-Of doing something which would hurt Christ.

-Because Christ has given us eternal life in heaven, we should never do anything which would hurt Christ.

-What does it mean “to live is Christ and to die is gain”?

-Our lives should be full of Christ for Christ is our best, both in this world and the next.

-No Christian should be afraid of death.

-Why should we Christians not be afraid of death?

-Because death brings us face to face with the Author of

life, the One who gave us life, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Let's read Philippians 1:22-23

22-If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know!

23-I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far.

-What does it mean to depart and be with Christ?

-No more sin and temptation.

-No more pain or death.

-Being with family & friends who are already in heaven.

-Being with God Himself.

Let's read Philippians 1:24-26

24-But it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body.

25-Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith,

26-so that through my being with you again your boasting in Christ Jesus will abound on account of me.

-In verse 20 above, Paul talks of his possible death.

-Now, in these verses, Paul talks of remaining in the body.

-If God wanted Paul to remain on earth, then Paul wanted that too.

-If God wanted to take Paul to heaven, then Paul wanted that too.

-None of us knows for sure when God will take us to heaven, but we do know that it will be in God's time.

Let's read Philippians 1:27-30

27-Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel

28-without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you. This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved—and that by God.

29-For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him,

30-since you are going through the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have.

-As Christians, we should work together and be bold in the work of Christ.

-As Christians, we will also suffer for Christ, as God uses this in our lives to make us like Christ.