

## PHILIPPIANS 3

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

-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.

2. Does God ever abandon true Christians?

-No.

3. Was Paul in prison because he had sinned?

-No.

4. 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.

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

-Yes.

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

6. 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.

7. Of what did Paul not want to be ashamed?

-Of doing something which would hurt Christ.

8. 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.

9. 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.

10. 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 2:1-2

1-Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion,

2-then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind.

-Yes, we Christians do have encouragement from being united with Christ.

-Yes, we Christians do have comfort from His love.  
-Yes, we Christians do have common sharing in the Spirit.

-Yes, we Christians do have tenderness and compassion from our Christ.

-Even though Christ has given us everything, what is our problem?

-We do not use that which He has already given us.

-It is like a man who has a car, but does not use it.  
-It is like a woman who has a bed, but does not use it.  
-It is like a child who has a blanket, but does not use it.

-It is also God's desire that we Christians be one in spirit and one in mind with Christ and with the family of Christ.

-The unity of Christians should be like the unity of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

-This was the Lord Jesus' prayer in John 17:26:

-“That all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you.”

-A lack of unity among Christians must make God very sad.

-By ourselves, in our own flesh, Christians will not have unity.

-We must allow God the Holy Spirit in us to live His life out through us so that we would be one with God and others.

Let's read Philippians 2:3-4

3-Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves,

4-not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

-What is the root of all sin?

-Selfishness.

-What is selfishness?

-Selfishness is wanting our own will instead of wanting the will of God.

-This was Satan's first sin when he wanted his own will instead of the will of God.

-This was Adam and Eve's first sin when they wanted their own will instead of the will of God.

-We also sin when we value ourselves over others.

- This is called pride.
- Pride is building ourselves up by tearing others down.
- Whenever we build ourselves up or value ourselves over others, we lose.
- Why do we lose when we value ourselves over others?
- Because pride can destroy us.
- Why do we win when we value others over ourselves?
- Because we lose ourselves and gain more of God.
- When we empty ourselves before God and others, God pours Himself into our lives.
- This is the way God has designed life.
- This is the example that Christ has given us on the cross.

Let's read Philippians 2:5-6

- 5-In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:
- 6-Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage.
- Our relationships with fellow Christians should be like the example of Christ.

-Even though the Lord Jesus is God, He did not use this to His own advantage.

-Before the Lord Jesus was born into this world, He was God Himself, one with the Father and the Holy Spirit.

-It was the Lord Jesus with the Father and the Holy Spirit who created this world and all life.

-All that belonged to the Father and the Holy Spirit also belonged to the Lord Jesus.

-Yet in order to save us from sin, the Lord Jesus left His glory in heaven to come to earth to die for us.

Let's read Philippians 2:7

7-Rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

-The Lord Jesus made Himself nothing, becoming a servant to the people whom He had created.

-When Christ made Himself nothing, does this mean that He was no longer God when He became a man?

-No.

-Christ will never stop being God, and He will always be God.

-What does it mean that Christ made Himself nothing?

-It means that for the time that Christ was on earth, He humbled Himself and depended completely on the Father.

Let's read Philippians 2:8

8-And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!

-The Lord Jesus humbled Himself before God the Father so that the Father would control His life.

-In John 5:19, the Lord Jesus talked of how He had humbled Himself when He said this:

-“The Son can do nothing by himself.”

-Even though the Lord Jesus created the world, He humbled Himself before the Father while on earth, not doing anything by Himself.

-How much did the Lord Jesus humble Himself?

-The Lord Jesus allowed the people whom He had created to kill Him on a cross.

-Our best is to humble ourselves before Christ so that Christ would control our lives.

-What is a difference among Christians?

-Some Christians do not humble themselves much before Christ so that it is difficult to see Christ in them.

-Some Christians humble themselves very much before Christ so that it is easy to see Christ in them.

Let's read Philippians 2:9-11

9-Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name,

10-that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

11-and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

-Because the Lord Jesus humbled Himself, what did the Father do?

-He exalted Christ to the highest place and gave Him the name that is above every name.

-In Matthew 23:12, the Lord Jesus said this:

-“For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

-One day, every knee will bow before the Lord Jesus.

-It is much better to humble ourselves now on earth than be humbled when we stand before God.