

PHILIPPIANS 4

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

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

2. What is the root of all sin?

-Selfishness.

3. What is selfishness?

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

4. Why do we lose when we value ourselves over others?

-Because pride can destroy us.

5. Why do we win when we value others over ourselves?

-Because we lose ourselves and gain more of God.

6. 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.

7. 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.

8. How much did the Lord Jesus humble Himself?

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

9. 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.

10. 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.

Let's read Philippians 2:12

12-Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling,

-Does “work out your salvation” mean that we must work to be saved?

-No.

-There is nothing we can do to be saved.

-Only Christ can save us.

-We must remember that God through Paul is writing this letter to all Christians who have already been saved.

- What does it mean to “work out your salvation”?
- It means to understand all that God has done to save us so that we would allow Him to continue working in us.
- Before salvation, God alone can save us.
- After salvation, God alone can make us like Christ.
- What is our work?
- Our work is to deny our flesh, and to allow God to finish His work in our lives.
- It is our work to allow God to save us.
- It is our work to allow God to finish His work in our lives.

Let’s read Philippians 2:13

- 13-for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.
- This verse teaches us that it is God who is working in us Christians to fulfill His purpose.
- After God saves us and we believe in Christ, God continues to work in our lives.
- What is God’s work in us Christians?
- God works in us that we might hate sin.

- God works in us that we might desire His righteousness.
- God works in us that we might become like Christ.
- As we read in Ephesians 2:10, we are God’s workmanship or handiwork.
- Just as God will create a new heaven and a new earth which will be perfect, God is creating in all of us Christians a new being which will be perfect.

Let’s read Philippians 2:14

- 14-Do everything without grumbling or arguing.
- Most people complain and argue about everything.
- When God asked Adam why he ate the fruit, Adam complained about Eve.
- When God asked Eve why she ate the fruit, Eve complained about the snake.
- After God had save Israel from Egypt and led them into the desert, Israel complained against God.
- The Pharisees complained about the Lord Jesus eating and drinking with sinners (Lk 5:30).
- When Jesus said, “Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you,” many of His disciples complained and left Him (Jn 6:53-66).

-Why do Christians complain?

-Because we allow flesh to take control.

-Because we do not fully understand all that God has done for us.

-If we fully understand that our God is sovereign, we would not complain about difficulties that come to us.

-If we fully understand that our God has given us eternal life, we would not complain about our small problems on earth.

-When we Christians complain, who are we complaining against?

-God.

-Why should we complain against God when God has died for us and paid the price for our sins?

-Why should we complain against God when God has given us Christians eternal life?

Let's read Philippians 2:15-16

15-So that you may become blameless and pure, "children of God without fault in a warped and crooked generation." Then you will shine among them like stars in the sky.

16-As you hold firmly to the word of life. And

then I will be able to boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor in vain.

-God desires that we become blameless and pure which means that we are not to complain and argue.

-Together, with Christ, we are the light of the world, sharing the Word of God which is life itself.

Let's read Philippians 2:17-18

17-But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you.

18-So you too should be glad and rejoice with me.

-Paul knew that Christ sacrificed Himself for us, and was happy to sacrifice himself for the Lord Jesus.

Let's read Philippians 2:19

19-I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, that I also may be cheered when I receive news about you.

-As we learned in the first lesson of Philippians, Timothy was with Paul in Rome to encourage him.

-Paul was hoping to send Timothy back to Philippi so that he could hear about their faith and be encouraged.

-When we hear of the faith of other believers, we should not be jealous, but rather be encouraged.

Let's read Philippians 2:20-22

20-I have no one else like him, who will show genuine concern for your welfare.

21-For everyone looks out for their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ.

22-But you know that Timothy has proved himself, because as a son with his father he has served with me in the work of the gospel.

-Timothy served alongside of Paul, and they worked and taught about God together.

-Timothy did not look out for his own interests, but rather for those of Jesus Christ.

Let's read Philippians 2:23-24

23-I hope, therefore, to send him as soon as I see how things go with me.

24-And I am confident in the Lord that I myself will come soon.

-Paul wanted to send Timothy back to Philippi to encourage them, but he also thought that he would be released from prison so that he could also go there.

Let's read Philippians 2:25

25-But I think it is necessary to send back to you Epaphroditus, my brother, co-worker and fellow soldier, who is also your messenger, whom you sent to take care of my needs.

-Paul also wanted to send Epaphroditus back to Philippi.

-Who was Epaphroditus?

-He was a leader in the church at Philippi, sent to Rome to encourage Paul.

Let's read Philippians 2:26-30

26-For he longs for all of you and is distressed because you heard he was ill.

27-Indeed he was ill, and almost died. But God had mercy on him, and not on him only but also on me, to spare me sorrow upon sorrow.

28-Therefore I am all the more eager to send him, so that when you see him again you may be glad and I may have less anxiety.

29-So then, welcome him in the Lord with great joy, and honor people like him,

30-because he almost died for the work of Christ. He risked his life to make up for the help you yourselves could not give me.

-Epaphroditus almost died, but God healed him that he would continue the work of teaching about our God.