

ONE STORY | ONE SAVIOR - UNIT 7 | LESSON 16




Letters – The Promise Explained Through the KING’S Church

God is a PROMISE Completing God

JESUS as the 1) **PROMISED KING** has 2) **RESCUED** His people through His Perfect Law Keeping Life and Sacrificial, Substitutionary Death on the Cross, whereby 3) **DEFEATING** the enemy of sin and death, and is 4) **RESTORING** them to the PLACE OF REST where Heaven and Earth are rejoined and God reigns and abides 5) so that His people shall be with Him forever for their **JOY**.

“Standing Firm in One Spirit” Philippians 1:27-30

²⁷ I may hear of you that **you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel,** ²⁸ and not frightened in anything by your opponents.

	<p>THE HEAD - To Know how JESUS ONLY can sustain us even when we suffer. Q – What are some difficult situations where JESUS ONLY could get us in “trouble?”</p>
	<p>THE HEART - To Choose JESUS ONLY as our sole means of “happiness.” Q – What are some things we look to for our happiness, but end up replacing Jesus only?</p>
	<p>THE HAND - To Pray the Holy Spirit continues to enable us to HOLD FAST TO CHRIST. Q – How is believing JESUS ONLY strengthening others? What are things we can do to encourage others who believe JESUS ONLY?</p>

EMPHASIS

The EMPHASIS of this lesson is . . . [These four points align with our structure]

Intermingled, but notable in each section:

1. From **overflowing affection** for Christ and His Church (1:3-11),
[Notice **Paul’s Passion** for Christ and His Church]
2. Paul invites his readers to **rejoice** when confronted by **adversity**, because of holding fast to Christ (1:12-18)
[Notice **Paul’s Persecution** by the enemies of Jesus]
3. knowing adversity is essential in **perfecting faith** (1:19-26)
[Notice **Paul’s Perseverance** in believing in Jesus]
4. and inevitable when **proclaiming Christ** (1:27-30)
[Notice **Paul’s Purpose** in his life].

The Basis or Reason as to **why we can rejoice and hold fast** to Christ [2:16; 4:1] is because of His preeminence (Philippians 2:1-11 [see also – Col. 1:15,16]). The suffering of this present world cannot compare to the glory to follow (2:9-11). Jesus is Lord (3:8).

“The center of this letter contains a poem which articulates the Gospel of Jesus as the long-promised Messiah (2:6-11). If one sees this central poem as a focus for these exhortations, then this letter shows how the life of Jesus is a profound centerpiece for the believer.”¹

LITERARY CONTEXT

“The book of Acts reveals many events in Paul’s ministry in Philippi like the conversion of Lydia (Acts 16:11-15), his and Silas’ imprisonment (Acts 16:16-30), and the conversion of the Philippian jailer (Acts 16:31-40). Along with these events in Paul’s ministry, **the whole of Acts displays the suffering of Jesus’ followers that is a hallmark of the letter to the Philippians**. As the latter portions of Acts reveal various imprisonments of Paul, this letter explains how Paul is writing the letter during one of these times of captivity (Php. 1:13-14).”²

1. Philippians contains no Old Testament quotations (but see note on Job 13:16).
2. It is a missionary thank-you letter in which the missionary reports on the progress of his work. Philippians is Paul’s warmest letter (4:10ff) [Holman Christian Standard Bible, page 2005].
3. It manifests a particularly vigorous type of Christian living: (1) self-humbling (2:1–4); (2) pressing toward the goal (3:13–14); (3) lack of anxiety (4:6); (4) ability to do all things (4:13).
4. It is outstanding as the New Testament letter of joy; the word “joy” in its various forms occurs some 16 times.
5. It contains one of the most profound Christological passages in the New Testament (2:5–11). Yet, profound as it is, Paul includes it mainly for illustrative purposes.³

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

“One of, if not the main theme, of Paul’s letter to the Philippians is one of joy and rejoicing. It is profound that Paul talks so much about suffering in this letter, but mingles that discussion with joy. Though Paul is imprisoned he still manages to vocalize his joy continuously throughout the letter.”⁴

“Paul’s primary purpose in writing this letter was to thank the Philippians for the gift they had sent him upon learning of his detention at Rome (1:5; 4:10–19).”⁵

“Of the four Prison Epistles, Paul likely wrote Philippians last, near the end of his Roman imprisonment in AD 61 or 62. Paul sent the other three Prison Epistles—Ephesians, Colossians, and Philemon—by the hand of Tychicus, as their destinations were near one another. However, the letter to the Philippians was to be delivered by Epaphroditus, who had come to Paul in Rome with financial help from the church at Philippi (Philippians 2:25; 4:18).”⁶

STRUCTURE

Intermingled, but notable in each section:

1. From **overflowing affection** for Christ and His Church (1:3-11), [Notice **Paul's Passion** for Christ and His Church]
2. Paul invites his readers to **rejoice** when confronted by **adversity**, because of holding fast to Christ (1:12-18) [Notice **Paul's Persecution** by the enemies of Jesus]
3. knowing adversity is essential in **perfecting faith** (1:19-26) [Notice **Paul's Perseverance** in believing in Jesus]
4. and inevitable when **proclaiming Christ** (1:27-30) [Notice **Paul's Purpose** in his life].

JESUS IN THE TEXT

Philippians 2:5-11 is a profound description of the person and work of Christ.

In Philippians 2:15, Paul reminds the Philippians that how they live is a display of God working in them "among whom you shine as lights in the world."

APPLICATION

1. From our faith in Christ comes our affection for His people.
2. As Christians, we shall face adversity for our faith.
3. This adversity has a purpose and is inevitable for all who live godly in Christ Jesus.

VISUALS | CRAFTS

1. Tug of War – two opposing sides, each struggling for "victory."
2. A chain with multiple links. As we hold fast to JESUS ONLY with others, we are strengthened and are encouraging others to HOLD FAST TO JESUS ONLY.
3. Wrap small boxes with objects in them. We do not know what is inside the box until it is opened. Have candy in boxes. Suffering and persecution shows people what is inside.

MEMORY VERSE

Philippians 1:27-30

²⁷ Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that **you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel,** ²⁸ and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God. ²⁹ For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake, ³⁰ engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

QUESTIONS FOR ADULTS

1. What is Paul looking for among the Philippians?
2. How does Paul view suffering?
3. What does Paul advise when facing opposition?
4. What is the nature of Paul's struggle?

RESOURCES

ENDNOTES

¹ An Overview of Philippians, Jacob Michalski, June 13, 2020.

² An Overview of Philippians, Jacob Michalski, June 13, 2020.

³ <https://www.biblica.com/resources/scholar-notes/niv-study-bible/intro-to-philippians/>

⁴ An Overview of Philippians, Jacob Michalski, June 13, 2020.

⁵ <https://www.biblica.com/resources/scholar-notes/niv-study-bible/intro-to-philippians/>

⁶ <https://www.insight.org/resources/bible/the-pauline-epistles/philippians>