**Philippians – L1-8 Study Summary**

Lesson 1 – Philippians 1:1-11 Completion at the Day of Christ

Q1 – Philippi was the leading city of Macedonia and a Roman colony. From Acts we find two important stories there: the Philippian Jailer, and Lydia the merchant (seller of purple goods).

Q2 – New Testament elders/overseers are modern day pastors, charged with giving instruction in sound doctrine. Deacons are modern day lay leaders with duties to serve the local church.

Q4 – God --- who began a good work in us --- will be faithful to complete it!

Q8 – Christians ought to develop Bible knowledge and discernment between truth and error, which can lead us into a blameless and pure life --- as Jesus fills us with the fruit of His righteousness.

Lesson 2 – Philippians 1:22-30 Christian Dilemma: Die Now and be with Christ or Stay Alive and Serve?

Q2 – There are two types of preachers in this world: those preaching out of goodwill, pure motives and love, and those preaching out of envy, rivalry (competition), self-ambition, and insincerity. Yet, both can share the Gospel accurately --- and God is still able to reach people.

Q4 – Paul anticipated dying soon as a Christian evangelist, and he was torn in spirit. Dying, for him, was to gain Jesus immediately…but by living he could help them progress in their joy in the faith.

Q5, 6 – A life worthy of the Gospel unites Christians in one spirit as they work side-by-side in the faith, and this united testimony condemns those who oppose the Bible and Jesus in our day and age.

Lesson 3 – Philippians 2:1-11 Christ's Example: Humility

Q1, 2 – A healthy Christian community is united, with nothing being done through selfish ambitions, but rather, in humility, people look out for the needs of others and count others as more important than themselves.

Q6-8 – Jesus --- God Eternal --- emptied Himself of His heavenly status and humbled Himself to become a servant, i.e., a human being. He lived a godly, obedient life all the way to His sacrificial death on the cross.

Q9 – God the Father rewarded Jesus' obedience with a Name that is above all other names, and, in time, every knee shall bow before Him, and every tongue confess, that Jesus Christ is Lord!

Lesson 4 – Philippians 2:12-18 Shine Like the Stars of God's Universe!

Q1 – The true sign of obedience is to obey even when no one is watching.

Q2, 3 – Good works will never get us to heaven; we are saved only by faith, by believing in Jesus.

Q4 – "Working out our own salvation" speaks to personalizing our faith journey: figuring it out, and embracing it! Discover how faith applies to family, work, church, life and politics. It is to live and walk through life daily with the Holy Spirit, in reverence for, and awe of, God.

Q5 – After salvation, we must figure out: 1) What is my gift in the church? 2) Is the Fruit of God's Spirit evident in my life? 3) What good works does God have for ME to do? 4) How can I add to my faith? 5) Am I teachable, growing in understanding God's Word from milk to meat?

Q7 – We can be obedient to God but with a bad attitude; act without grumbling or complaining!

Q9 – Godly Christians in a crooked and twisted generation shine as lights in a dark world.

Lesson 5 – Philippians 2:19-3:11 Timothy, Epaphroditus and Paul: Ministers of the Gospel

Q1 – Timothy had proven himself worthy in ministry, and Paul considered him as his own son.

Q2 – Epaphroditus came from Philippi and was an appreciated helper, but he nearly died from sickness.

Q5, 6 – Paul was a true Jew, highly-educated and zealous to serve God as a Pharisee (who believed in resurrection) – but it no longer mattered to him! He chose to set aside everything from his past to embrace Jesus and have Jesus' righteousness rather than trying to please God with his own.

Lesson 6 – Philippians 3:12-4:1 Working Towards a Life Goal

Q1-3 – Paul did not believe he was a perfect Christian man, but he felt compelled to rise up to the high calling and standards of God despite his imperfections. He believed God's promise that God was strong in Paul's weakness. Putting his past behind him, he pressed on to live appropriately.

Q4 – A true challenge for anyone is to live up to the parts of the Bible we DO understand…!

Q5 – Paul encouraged believers to imitate him, and also to learn by observing mature believers in the church who lived life according to his example.

Q6 – Within the church are self-focused people keen only to meet their own needs and to be noticed. Their minds are on earthly goals, and their end is destruction. They are not true believers at all, and Paul calls them "enemies" of the cross of Jesus.

Lesson 7 – Philippians 4:2-9 How God Works Through Attitude and Prayer

Q1 – Churches are to judge and settle disputes between people in their congregations, preventing civil actions. When a member is actively sinning, grounded spiritual members are to speak to him or her with a view to reconciliation. Don't go through life criticizing and judging others, even the unsaved, but give yourself to the ministry of reconciliation with God and with one another.

Q2 – Rejoice in the Lord always! Nehemiah adds that joy in the Lord gives Christians strength.

Q3 – Christians should be known for their "reasonableness" (NIV = gentleness), not for being obstinate, quarrelsome, and difficult people. As much as it depends on us, we are to live peaceably with others (Romans), being kind, gentle, and showing courtesy to all (Timothy and Titus).

Q4 – Overcome your life worries through prayers and requests to God, with thanksgiving, and His peace – beyond understanding – will guard your heart and mind in the midst of troubles.

Q5, 6 – Have the same attitude as Jesus --- humbly yielding oneself to serve others --- and let the Holy Spirit transform your mind. Control your thoughts to focus on positive things like truth, justice, purity, love and commendable things. When you are looking for good or bad in people and situations, you'll always find it --- so discipline yourself to focus on looking for the good.

Lesson 8 – Philippians 4:10-23 God Provides in ALL Circumstances

Q3 – The Biblical model for missionary support is a partnership (sponsorship) between a church (or individual) and a specific missionary.

Q4 – Learning to be "content" in all circumstances, coupled with "godliness," is a great benefit for the Christian. People consumed with getting more wealth subject themselves to many temptations and snares. Hebrews warns us to keep our lives free from the love of money --- and be content.

Q5, 6 – Paul explains his ability to find contentment in this statement: "I can do all things through Him who strengthens me." But this life verse applies to much more than contentment in having or not having money: it is about confidence in, and dependence upon, the Lord in the whole of life.

Q8 – The teaching on Christians with money is that everyone goes through cycles of having and not having money. Christians share when they have abundance, and they receive when they lack it. Sharing is not meant as a hardship where someone always gives, while another always receives!