

# Correspondence Bible Study

## Lesson #43 – Philippians and Colossians

### PRAYER:

As you study God's Word, my prayer for you is the same as Paul's found in Philippians 1:3-1.

### Notes on Philippians:

This letter is among Paul's letters from prison. It is often dated around 61 AD. Paul was under house-arrest in Rome at the time. Visitors could come and go and bring him supplies. He thanks the Philippians for their help and he reports on how the Gospel is at work even though he is in prison. One of the recurring themes of this letter is the joy we can have because Christ is our Savior. Generally, the Philippians are told to hold fast to the faith delivered to them by Paul.

### Favorite verse from Philippians:

### Questions on Philippians:

1. As you read, count the times Paul uses the word **rejoice** or **joy** or a synonym. How many? \_\_\_\_
2. Chapter 1:20-26 – How is it possible for Paul to speak so frankly about dying? What does he know about a Christian's death?
3. In the life of Christ we look at His humility and exaltation. In 2:6-11 we see a classic description of both natures of Jesus' being. List the words that describe His . . .  
HUMILITY (Jesus the Man):

Exaltation (Jesus as God):

4. Chapter 3:7-11 – What are some of the things we sometimes place too high a value upon and thereby cheapen the work of Christ?
5. Chapter 4:10-13 –What strength do you find in these words of Paul?

Your question on Philippians...

## Notes on Colossians:

Around 60 AD, Paul writes to the Colossians a very important letter warning them of the dangers of listening to human philosophies of the time. Basically, the goal of the dangerous ideas was to add to the work of Christ. To be a good Christian, it would be necessary to believe in Christ, plus do certain things (rituals – foods, etc.) and have a certain “knowledge” that only a select few are privileged to have. Paul is intent to show that all we need is Jesus Christ. In comparison to Christ, all human ideas are empty promises.

Paul’s connection with Colosse is Epaphras. Apparently Epaphras had taken to Colosse and founded the church. When heretical teachings were coming into the church, Epaphras came to Paul for help. The result is this letter.

Verse to remember from Colossians:

## Questions on Colossians:

1. Throughout the book, look for Paul’s pointed remarks that remind us that in Christ we have all we need for salvation. Make a list of at least 6 of these remarks.
2. Chapter 1:15-20 – Point out some of the parallel thoughts of Paul compared to John’s Gospel in John 1:1-14.
3. The theme of the book is plainly seen in 2:8-10. What are some of the “deceptive philosophies and basic principles of the world” that are a threat to the church today?
4. Chapter 3:15-17 – What are some practical ways we can apply this advice to our everyday lives?
5. Chapter 4:2-16 – Paul shows his concern that the Gospel reach those outside the church. In your own words, what should our actions and words be like toward those outside the Church?

Your questions on Colossians:

Begin reading 1 & 2 Thessalonians