



## Philippians 1:1-2

September 13, 2020

“I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 3:14

**Begin with prayer.** “Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law” (Psalm 119:18).

Through the letter to the church at Philippi, Paul provides the inspiration and encouragement of a friend, mentor, and fellow believer who finds Christ's strength and peace while struggling with opponents, anxiety, physical needs, and fear for his life. He pressed on toward the goal God had for his life and the reward that waited for him at the end. In this 11-week study, we will see how Paul meets obstacles and overcomes them in Christ, making this letter very relevant for our day, too.

This week read all four chapters of Philippians. It should take about 15 minutes.

### Following God's Direction

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**Read Acts 16:6-15** for background for the letter to the Philippians.

[Q] How was Paul directed by God to go to Macedonia and the city of Philippi? What means did God use? What was Paul's response in verse 10?

What do you learn about the very beginning of the church in Philippi from Acts 16:11-15?

#### How does God direct us?

Rarely does God give extra-ordinary visions. Sometimes His Spirit nudges us or brings His Word to mind. God may use circumstances and people to direct our path. But first and foremost, His normal way of directing us is through His Word.

[Q] How does saturating our minds with God's Word help us to know what He wants us to do?

“Believer! There is enough in the Bible for you to live upon forever. If you should outnumber the years of Methuselah, there would be no need for a fresh revelation; if you should live until Christ should return to the earth, there would be no necessity for the addition of a single word; if you should go down as deep as Jonah, or even descend as David said he did, into the depths of hell, still there would be enough in the Bible to comfort you without a supplementary sentence.” — Charles Spurgeon

[Q] What do you think your life could look like a year from now if you spend a few minutes each day reading your Bible? Do you have a Bible reading plan?

**Check out** Bible reading plans: [bible.com/reading-plans](http://bible.com/reading-plans) or [biblegateway.com/reading-plans/](http://biblegateway.com/reading-plans/)

**When you have time, read this article:** [desiringgod.org/articles/three-tips-for-better-bible-reading](http://desiringgod.org/articles/three-tips-for-better-bible-reading)

[Q] Do you have any big decisions in your near future? What are some relevant biblical passages that speak into this situation? How might it impact your family, small group, or church? Spend time in prayer, but also get advice from a pastor, or trusted friends who know you best. Pray that the Holy Spirit would lead you through God's revealed Word as well as through the wise counsel of godly individuals.

"The will of God for our lives is that we seek first His kingdom and His righteousness. The most important decision we face is the daily decision to live for Christ and die to self." — Kevin DeYoung

**Recommended books on understanding God's will:** *Just Do Something* by Kevin DeYoung;  
*Found: God's Will* by John MacArthur

## Servants and Saints, Grace and Peace

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**Read Philippians 1:1-2.**

**Servants** - The Greek word *doulos* can also be translated "slaves." Paul was an apostle and Timothy a leader, but they describe themselves as servants, or slaves. This is Jesus' call to anyone who wants to be great in the kingdom of God.

[Q] What does Jesus say about the path to be greatness in Mark 10:43-45?

[Q] Read Romans 6:22. what does it mean to be a slave to God?

**Saints in Christ** - The Greek word *hagioi*, translated as "saints" or "holy ones," refers to those who are set apart or belong to God. This describes all true Christ-followers!

[Q] According to the following verses, how did we become holy? How might seeing yourself that way change your day today??  
Ephesians 1:4

Colossians 1:21

**Grace and peace** was a standard greeting in the ancient world but it is filled with so much significance for Christians! God's work through Christ (grace) brings people into a harmonious relationship with God and one another (peace).

## Application Questions:

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[Q] Looking back over this study, how might God want to change the way you think? Strengthen what you believe? Cultivate godly desires? Help you follow His direction this week?