

Lessons Learned About God, Life, and Man

1. The relationships between Christians should be VERY close, as close as blood relatives, i.e., as a father or mother with their children, a brother with his sister, an aunt or uncle with their nieces or nephews, etc. It should be so close that you become concerned about how their life is going and whether or not God's purpose is being fulfilled in their lives, 1:3-8.
2. Christians should be confident that God will fulfill His purpose in their lives even if it takes Him until Jesus returns, 1:6.
3. If you see a fellow Christian struggling in their walk with God, you should partner with them in order to help them fulfill God's purpose for their life, 1:5, 7, 27-30.
4. Our desire and prayer for other Christians should not be that their knowledge of the Bible increases, but that they would know and discern how to live the theology they learned in the Bible so that their behavior matches the theology they know, 1:9-11, 27-30.
5. The reason we can do good works is because Jesus Christ enables us, 1:11.
6. The good works that you do glorify and praise your Heavenly Father, 1:11.
7. There is a way to look at your terrible suffering as something over which you can actually rejoice, 1:12-18.
8. Satan is very powerful, but he's no match for God. Try as he might, he will never be able to stop the Gospel of Christ. We need to be encouraged by and remember this not just when we "evangelize," but in everyday struggles, 1:12-18.
9. You don't have to be bitter against those (even fellow Christians) who try to harm you, 1:15-18.
10. You can actually get to a place where you will know with 100% certainty that everything in your life will be alright, regardless of how bad it is, even if your life is at stake, 1:19-26.
11. The only way you will know for certain that everything will be alright (regardless of the circumstances) is if Christ means EVERYTHING to you, more than your suffering, more than your needs, more than your wants, more than your hopes and dreams, more than your life, 1:19-21. What does it mean that Christ is EVERYTHING? It means that you have come to realize that He can and will supply everything you need in life, money, love, self-esteem, self-worth, contentment, everything.
12. Did you know that the Spirit of Jesus Christ will supply everything you need (the wisdom, strength, stamina, and ability) to triumph over your circumstances...even if it costs you your life, 1:19-20.
13. Our behavior should match the Gospel of Christ we believe, 1:27-30.
14. The life of a Christian involves suffering, but God is aware of it and will deliver us whether we live or die. Our goal is to remain faithful regardless, 1:27-30.

Philippians 1 Summarized

Sentences

1:1–2, Paul and Timothy, bondservants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops and deacons: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

1:3–8, I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete *it* until the day of Jesus Christ; just as it is right for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart, inasmuch as both in my chains and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers with me of grace. For God is my witness, how greatly I long for you all with the affection of Jesus Christ.

1:9–11, and this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, being filled with the fruits of righteousness which *are* by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

1:12–14, but I want you to know, brethren, that the things *which happened* to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel, so that it has become evident to the whole palace guard, and to all the rest, that my chains are in Christ; and most of the brethren in the Lord, having become confident by my chains, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

1:15–17, some indeed preach Christ even from envy and strife, and some also from good will: The former preach Christ from selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my chains; but the latter out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel.

1:18, what then? Only *that* in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is preached; and in this I rejoice, yes, and will rejoice.

1:19–20, for I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayer and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, according to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death.

1:21, for to me, to live *is* Christ, and to die *is* gain.

1:22–24, but if *I* live on in the flesh, this *will mean* fruit from *my* labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell. For I am hard pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, *which is* far better. Nevertheless to remain in the flesh *is* more needful for you.

1:25–26, and being confident of this, I know that I shall remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy of faith, that your rejoicing for me may be more abundant in Jesus Christ by my coming to you again.

1:27–28, only let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel, and not in any way terrified by your adversaries, which is to them a proof of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that from God.