

Study Guide #4

(I) Paul's Supplication for the Philippian Believers (1-11)

a. For whom he prays (1-2)

Saints = Believers
(Not Dead Christians)
*Rom 1:7, I Cor 1:2,
II Cor 1:1, Eph 1:1,
Col 1:2

b. When he prays (3)

c. How he prays (4)

d. Why he prays (5-8)

Day of Jesus Christ

*I Cor 1:8; 5:5
*II Cor 1:14
*Phil 1:10; 2:16

In my heart

*Among Greeks & Hebrews included both mind & will.

Only God could truly vouch for Paul's feelings

e. What he prays (9-11)

What 4 things does Paul pray for?

(II) Paul's Explanation to the Philippian Believers (12-30)

a. The report (12-13)

b. The reaction (14-17)

A Friend's Reaction

How would Paul's imprisonment have given others the confidence to speak boldly?

c. The rejoicing (18)

Virtual Study of Philippians – Philippians 1:1-30

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Why does Paul not identify himself as an Apostle?

(Rom, I & II Cor, Gal, Eph, Col, I & II Tim, Titus)

¹ Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, To all the **saints** in Christ Jesus who are at Philippi, with the

overseers and **deacons**: < Always listed as a plurality (I Tim 3:1-13)

² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord

Jesus Christ. < Common Greeting (Rom, I & II Cor, Gal, Eph, Philem)

³ I thank my God in all my remembrance of you,

⁴ always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with **joy**,

⁵ because of your **partnership** in the gospel from the first day until now.

⁶ And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the **day of Jesus Christ**.

⁷ It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you **in my heart**, for you are all **partakers** with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel.

⁸ **For God is my witness**, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. ⁽¹⁾

⁹ And **it is my prayer** that your **love** may abound more and more, with **knowledge** and all **discernment**,

¹⁰ so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be **pure** and **blameless** for the **day of Christ**,

¹¹ **filled with the fruit of righteousness** that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

¹² I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel,

¹³ so that it has become known throughout the whole **imperial guard** and to all the rest *that my imprisonment is for Christ*.

¹⁴ And most of the brothers, having become **confident** in the Lord *by my imprisonment*, are much more **bold** to speak the word *without fear*.

¹⁵ Some indeed preach Christ from **envy** and **rivalry**, but others from **good will**.

¹⁶ The latter do it out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel.

¹⁷ The former proclaim Christ out of **rivalry**, not sincerely but thinking to **afflict** me in my imprisonment.

¹⁸ What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in that I **rejoice**.

Timothy – Most likely not a co-author, but...

*Currently with Paul (2:19)

*Present at founding of the church (Acts 16:1-12)

*Visited Philippi many times (Acts 19:22, 20:3-6)

(Gr.) κοινωνία

(Trans) koinōnía

*Phil 4:14-16

*Acts 2:42

*Rom 15:26

*I Cor 1:9

*I Cor 10:16

Same Root Word

Paul's Prayer for Love:

ἀγάπη / agapê

1. Abound

*Mt 22:34-40

Love God:

Exo 20:3-11

Deu 6:5, 10:12-13, 11:1

John 14:15, 21, 23-24

1Jn 2:3-6, 3:10, 21-24, 5:2-3

Love Neighbor:

Exo 20:12-17

Lev 19:18

Rom 13:9,10

Jam 2:8

2. Awareness

*2Tim 3:14-17

3. Authentic

*Phil 2:12-16

*Jam 1:21, 27

*Gal 5:16-21

4. Action

*Mt 7:15-20, 12:33-37

*Gal 5:22-23, 6:1-5

A Foe's Reaction

Why would they think that to "proclaim Christ" would afflict Paul?

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d. The resolve (19-26)

Note that Paul did not say "I will honor Christ..." but "Christ will be honored..." What is the difference?

Yes, and I will **rejoice**,
 19 for I know that through your prayers and the help of the **Spirit of Jesus Christ** this will turn out for my **deliverance**,
 20 as it is my eager **expectation and hope** that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always **Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death.**

(Gr.) σωτηρία
 (Trans) **sôtêria**

Lit. Salvation or Deliverance

*What did Paul Mean?

There was no bad outcome...

*Gal 2:20

*II Tim 4:6-8

Paul's labor was never easy...
 *Rom 1:13 (harvest)
 *II Cor 11:16-33

"Far Better"
 *Rom 8:17-18

What would have given Paul this confidence?

*Phil 1:24

*Acts 23:29, 25:25, 26:31-32

21 For to me to **live is Christ**, and to **die is gain**.
 22 If I am to live in the flesh, that means **fruitful labor** for me. Yet which I shall **choose** I cannot tell.
 23 I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is **far better**.
 24 But to remain in the flesh is **more necessary** on your account.

Paul is not implying that he gets to choose, but is referring to his preference...

25 **Convinced** of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and **joy** in the faith,
 26 so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.

e. The request (27-28)

In what way would this be a sign of their opponent's destruction, and their salvation?

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.

Call to Unity...

*Phil 2:2-4

f. The reminder (29-30)

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.

Why is suffering for Christ a privilege "granted" by God...
 *Rom 8:17-18
 *James 1:2-4, 12
 *I Peter 1:6-7

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Author: The apostle Paul (**1:1**), joined in his salutation by Timothy. Personal references by the author (**1:12-14; 2:19-24; 3:4-7; 4:15-16**) are certainly consistent with what we know of Paul from other New Testament sources. Paul's authorship of this letter is also supported by the testimony of early "church fathers" such as Polycarp and Irenaeus.

The City of Philippi: Named after Philip of Macedonia, the father of Alexander the Great, it was a major city of Macedonia on the road from Rome to Asia known as the Egnatian Way. It was the site of a famous battle in 42 B.C. in which Antony and Octavius defeated Brutus and Cassius. In 30 B.C., Octavian made the town a Roman colony where retired soldiers could live and enjoy the full privileges of Roman citizenship (to which Paul may have alluded in **3:20**).

The Church at Philippi: During his second missionary journey (49-52 A.D.), Paul and his traveling companions (Timothy and Silas) were making their way across Asia Minor (Turkey) when Paul received a vision at Troas. In the vision, a man of Macedonia pleaded, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." Perceiving that the Lord was calling them to go to Macedonia, they sailed from Troas (Luke having joined them) and eventually arrived at Philippi (**Ac 16:6-12**).

With the conversion of Lydia (**Ac 16:13-15**) and the Philippian jailor (**Ac 16:25-34**), the church was established at Philippi. The lack of a synagogue seems to indicate that Jews were not prevalent and so the church may have consisted primarily of Gentiles. From the conversion of Lydia and references in the epistle itself (**4:2-3**), it is evident that a number of women played a role in the growth of the church.

When it became necessary for Paul to leave, Luke seems to have stayed at Philippi (based upon careful observations of personal pronouns; e.g., "we, they", cf. **Ac 16:12; 17:1**). As Paul left Macedonia, the church at Philippi became a significant source of support (**4:15-16; 2 Co 11:9**). Paul visited the church at Philippi again on his third missionary journey (**Ac 20:3,6**).

Time and Place of Writing: Philippians is one of Paul's four "prison epistles" (**1:7,13,17**; cf. Ephesians, Colossians, and Philemon). The general consensus is that these epistles were written during Paul's imprisonment at Rome (cf. **Ac 28:16,30-31**). If such is truly the case, then Paul wrote Philippians around 61-63 A.D. from Rome.

Purpose of the Epistle: The church at Philippi had sent a gift to Paul in Rome by the hand of Epaphroditus (**4:10,18**). Paul uses this occasion not only to thank them, but to comfort them concerning his situation as a prisoner for Jesus Christ (**1:12-14**). He also writes of his plans to send Timothy soon (**2:19-24**), and why he considered it necessary to send Epaphroditus back to them (**2:25-30**). There may have also been a problem at Philippi involving two women, for Paul has a few words to say concerning them (**4:2-3**).

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Theme of the Epistle: Throughout this short and rather personal epistle, one keynote resounds again and again. That keynote is joy. Five times the word "joy" (Grk., chara) is found (**1:4,25; 2:2,29; 4:1**), and the verb "to rejoice" (Grk., chairein) occurs eleven times (twice in **1:18; 2:17,18; 4:4**; once in **2:28; 3:1; 4:10**). For this reason, the epistle to the Philippians has often been called Paul's "hymn of joy" in which the theme is: **"Rejoice in the Lord!"**

Paul Identifies Himself as an Apostle

Romans 1:1 (ESV)

¹ Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God,

1 Corinthians 1:1 (ESV)

¹ Paul, called by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and our brother Sosthenes,

2 Corinthians 1:1 (ESV)

¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, To the church of God that is at Corinth, with all the saints who are in the whole of Achaia:

Galatians 1:1 (ESV)

¹ Paul, an apostle— not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead—

Ephesians 1:1 (ESV)

¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To the saints who are in Ephesus, and are faithful in Christ Jesus:

Colossians 1:1 (ESV)

¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,

1 Timothy 1:1 (ESV)

¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by command of God our Savior and of Christ Jesus our hope,

2 Timothy 1:1 (ESV)

¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God according to the promise of the life that is in Christ Jesus,

Titus 1:1 (ESV)

¹ Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, for the sake of the faith of God's elect and their knowledge of the truth, which accords with godliness,

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Paul's Common Greeting

Romans 1:7 (ESV)

⁷To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 1:3 (ESV)

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 1:2 (ESV)

²Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Galatians 1:3 (ESV)

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ,

Ephesians 1:2 (ESV)

²Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Philemon 1:3 (ESV)

³Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Timothy

Philippians 2:19 (ESV)

¹⁹I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, so that I too may be cheered by news of you.

Acts 16:1-12 (ESV)

¹Paul came also to Derbe and to Lystra. A disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, but his father was a Greek. ²He was well spoken of by the brothers at Lystra and Iconium. ³Paul wanted Timothy to accompany him, and he took him and circumcised him because of the Jews who were in those places, for they all knew that his father was a Greek. ⁴As they went on their way through the cities, they delivered to them for observance the decisions that had been reached by the apostles and elders who were in Jerusalem. ⁵So the churches were strengthened in the faith, and they increased in numbers daily. ⁶And they went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia. ⁷And when they had come up to Mysia, they attempted to go into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them. ⁸So, passing by Mysia, they went down to Troas. ⁹And a vision appeared to Paul in the night: a man of Macedonia was standing there, urging him and saying, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." ¹⁰And when Paul had seen the vision, immediately we sought to go on into Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them. ¹¹So, setting sail from Troas, we made a direct voyage to Samothrace, and the following day to Neapolis, ¹²and from there to Philippi, which is a

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leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city some days.

Acts 19:22 (ESV)

²² And having sent into Macedonia two of his helpers, Timothy and Erastus, he himself stayed in Asia for a while.

Acts 20:3-6 (ESV)

³ There he spent three months, and when a plot was made against him by the Jews as he was about to set sail for Syria, he decided to return through Macedonia. ⁴ Sopater the Berean, son of Pyrrhus, accompanied him; and of the Thessalonians, Aristarchus and Secundus; and Gaius of Derbe, and Timothy; and the Asians, Tychicus and Trophimus. ⁵ These went on ahead and were waiting for us at Troas, ⁶ but we sailed away from Philippi after the days of Unleavened Bread, and in five days we came to them at Troas, where we stayed for seven days.

Elder's & Deacons

1 Timothy 3:1-13 (ESV)

¹ The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task. ² Therefore an overseer must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, sober-minded, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, ³ not a drunkard, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. ⁴ He must manage his own household well, with all dignity keeping his children submissive, ⁵ for if someone does not know how to manage his own household, how will he care for God's church? ⁶ He must not be a recent convert, or he may become puffed up with conceit and fall into the condemnation of the devil. ⁷ Moreover, he must be well thought of by outsiders, so that he may not fall into disgrace, into a snare of the devil. ⁸ Deacons likewise must be dignified, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, not greedy for dishonest gain. ⁹ They must hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. ¹⁰ And let them also be tested first; then let them serve as deacons if they prove themselves blameless. ¹¹ Their wives likewise must be dignified, not slanderers, but sober-minded, faithful in all things. ¹² Let deacons each be the husband of one wife, managing their children and their own households well. ¹³ For those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and also great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.

Saints

Romans 1:7 (ESV)

⁷ To all those in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

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1 Corinthians 1:2 (ESV)

²To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:

2 Corinthians 1:2 (ESV)

²Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 1:1 (ESV)

¹Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, To the saints who are in Ephesus, and are faithful in Christ Jesus:

Colossians 1:2 (ESV)

²To the saints and faithful brothers in Christ at Colossae: Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

Partnership / Fellowship

Greek NASB Number: 2842 / **Greek Word:** κοινωνία

Transliterated Word: *koinônia* / **Root:** from [2844](#);

Definition: fellowship:--

List of English Words and Number of Times Used

contribution (2),
fellowship (12),
participation (2),
sharing (3).¹

Philippians 4:14-16 (ESV)

¹⁴Yet it was kind of you to share my trouble. ¹⁵And you Philippians yourselves know that in the beginning of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church entered into partnership with me in giving and receiving, except you only. ¹⁶Even in Thessalonica you sent me help for my needs once and again.

Acts 2:42 (ESV)

⁴²And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

¹ New American Standard Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible.

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Romans 15:26 (ESV)

²⁶ For Macedonia and Achaia have been pleased to make some contribution for the poor among the saints at Jerusalem.

1 Corinthians 1:9 (ESV)

⁹ God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

1 Corinthians 10:16 (ESV)

¹⁶ The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ?

Day of Jesus Christ

1 Corinthians 1:8 (ESV)

⁸ who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 5:5 (ESV)

⁵ you are to deliver this man to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, so that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord.

2 Corinthians 1:14 (ESV)

¹⁴ just as you did partially acknowledge us—that on the day of our Lord Jesus you will boast of us as we will boast of you.

Paul's Prayer for Love (vv. 9-11)

Greek NASB Number: 26

Greek Word: ἀγάπη

Transliterated Word: *agapê*

Root: from 25;

Definition: love, goodwill:--

List of English Words and Number of Times Used

beloved (1),
Love (1),
love (112),
love feasts (1),
love's (1).²

² New American Standard Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible.

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Greek NASB Number: 25

Greek Word: ἀγαπάω

Transliterated Word: *agapaô*

Root: of unc. or.;

Definition: *to love:--*

List of English Words and Number of Times Used

beloved (8),

felt a love for (1),

Love (1),

love (75),

loved (38),

loves (20).³

I. Abound – Abound More and More

What does Paul mean by “Love” – Let’s look at what the Bible has to say about “Agape” love as it relates to our relationship with God.

All of God’s Commandments Deal with either Loving God or Loving Neighbor

Matthew 22:34-40 (ESV)

³⁴ But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. ³⁵ And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. ³⁶ "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" ³⁷ **And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.** ³⁸ This is the great and first commandment. ³⁹ **And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.** ⁴⁰ On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets."

Illustration: Princess Alice of Hesse (Great Britain – Daughter of Queen Victoria)

In November of 1878, tragedy struck Alice's home. Her eldest daughter Victoria came down with diphtheria, and the girl's fever was extremely high. Four days later, Alice sent her mother a telegram stating another daughter, Alix, had also contacted the disease, and it appeared the child would die. Not soon after, May also became ill. Eventually all the children with the exception of Ella were infected with diphtheria. As it turned out, all but little May pulled through. The disease had resulted in a painful choking death for the little girl.

³ New American Standard Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible.

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Alice kept the news of May's death a secret from the others for as long as she could. Eventually the children started to question their mother about May's absence, and she finally confessed that their sister was dead. Ernie, still recovering from the illness, was extremely grieved. In an attempt to comfort him, Alice kissed the boy, and she contracted diphtheria as a result of this action.

Weak from sleepless nights of nursing her family through the ordeal, Alice had no strength left to fight her illness. On December 14th, the 17th anniversary of her father's death, she passed away. She was only 35.

In his address of condolence to the House of Lords after Alice's death, Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli said: "It became her lot to break to her son, quite a youth, the death of his sister, to whom he was devotedly attached. The boy was so overcome with misery that the agitated mother to console him clasped him in her arms and thus received the kiss of death.

Real love forgets self. Real love knows no danger. Real love doesn't count the cost. The Bible says, "Many waters cannot quench love, neither can the floods drown it."

Love God by Keeping Commandments

Deuteronomy – 4 speeches by Moses prior to the children of Israel entering the land of Canaan (1st speech talked about the failures of the first generation)

Chapter 4 – Reminds them of the Statutes, Rules, Commandments (three ways of saying the same thing)

Chapter 5 – Repeats the 10 Commandments for the current generation

Chapter 6 – Love God with ALL your heart, ALL your soul, All your Might

Deuteronomy 6:4-9 (ESV)

⁴"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. ⁵**You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.** ⁶And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. ⁷You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. ⁸You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. ⁹You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Chapter 10 – Loving God = doing what God commanded

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Deuteronomy 10:12-16 (ESV)

¹² "And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you, but to fear the Lord your God, **to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul,** ¹³ **and to keep the commandments and statutes of the Lord, which I am commanding you today for your good?** ¹⁴ Behold, to the Lord your God belong heaven and the heaven of heavens, the earth with all that is in it. ¹⁵ Yet the Lord set his heart in love on your fathers and chose their offspring after them, you above all peoples, as you are this day. ¹⁶ Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no longer stubborn.

Chapter 11 – Loving God = doing what God commanded

Deuteronomy 11:1 (ESV)

¹ "You shall therefore love the Lord your God and keep his charge, his statutes, his rules, and his commandments always.

Jesus also equated the keeping of commandments to loving God

John 14:15 (ESV)

¹⁵ "If you love me, you will keep my commandments.

John 14:21 (ESV)

²¹ Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him."

John 14:23-24 (ESV)

²³ Jesus answered him, "If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. ²⁴ Whoever does not love me does not keep my words. And the word that you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me.

1 John 2:3–6 (ESV)

³ And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. ⁴ Whoever says "I know him" but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, ⁵ but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him: ⁶ whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

1 John 3:10 (ESV)

¹⁰ By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother.

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1 John 3:21–24 (ESV)

²¹ Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; ²² and whatever we ask we receive from him, because we keep his commandments and do what pleases him. ²³ And this is his commandment, that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. ²⁴ Whoever keeps his commandments abides in God, and God in him. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.

1 John 5:2-3 (ESV)

²By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.

Someone says "I just want to Love God, I don't want all that Bible stuff." This is not loving God. We can divorce Loving God from doing.

Love Your Neighbor as Yourself

Leviticus 19:18 (ESV)

¹⁸ You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.

Romans 13:9-10 (ESV)

⁹ The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰ Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

James 2:8 (ESV)

⁸ If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing well.

II. Awareness – With Knowledge and Discernment

Illustration – if we are going to demonstrate love for our spouse, then we have to know them, to understand them. If we never pay attention to their needs, or spend time with them, or communicate with them how will we ever show them agape love? The same is true with our relationship with God and our fellow man. How else can we build our awareness, our knowledge, and our ability to discern good from evil than to study God's Word?

2 Timothy 3:14-17 (ESV)

¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it ¹⁵ and how from childhood you have been acquainted with

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the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.

III. Authentic – Pure and Blameless

***Illustration** – avoided the financial troubles that so many young, college kids fall into. Not because of my own intuition, but because my parents had been very diligent to begin teaching about the dangers of debt, and being careless with money. Same is true about avoiding the spiritual dangers of this world. It has to be based on knowledge and understanding of what we are facing, and being motivated by our Love to God to avoid those things.*

Philippians 2:12-16 (ESV)

¹² Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, ¹³ for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. ¹⁴ Do all things without grumbling or questioning, ¹⁵ that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, ¹⁶ holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain.

James 1:21 (ESV)

²¹ Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

James 1:27 (ESV)

²⁷ Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

Galatians 5:16-21 (ESV)

¹⁶ But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. ¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, ²¹ envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

IV. Action – Filled with the Fruit of Righteousness

***Illustration** – back to the relationship with our spouse. It is not enough to just “know” what they need, we have to “act” on that knowledge if we are truly going to show them love. The same is true with our Christian life. It is not enough to just “know” what God wants, we have to “act” on that knowledge if we are truly going to demonstrate love. It is not enough to “know” how to take care of our neighbor, we have to “act” on that knowledge if we are truly going to demonstrate love for them.*

Matthew 7:15-20 (ESV)

¹⁵ “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. ¹⁶ You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thorn bushes, or figs from thistles? ¹⁷ So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. ¹⁸ A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. ¹⁹ Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. ²⁰ Thus you will recognize them by their fruits.

Matthew 12:33-37 (ESV)

³³ “Either make the tree good and its fruit good, or make the tree bad and its fruit bad, for the tree is known by its fruit. ³⁴ You brood of vipers! How can you speak good, when you are evil? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. ³⁵ The good person out of his good treasure brings forth good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure brings forth evil. ³⁶ I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak, ³⁷ for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.”

Galatians 5:22-23 (ESV)

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Galatians 6:1-5 (ESV)

¹ Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. ² Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. ³ For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. ⁴ But let each one test his own work, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor. ⁵ For each will have to bear his own load.

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Paul's Resolve

Greek NASB Number: 4991

Greek Word: σωτηρία

Transliterated Word: *sôtêria*

Root: from [4990](#);

Definition: deliverance, salvation:--

List of English Words and Number of Times Used

deliverance (2),
preservation (1),
salvation (42).⁴

Galatians 2:20 (ESV)

²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

2 Timothy 4:6-8 (ESV)

⁶ For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. ⁷ I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸ Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

Romans 1:13 (ESV)

¹³ I want you to know, brothers, that I have often intended to come to you (but thus far have been prevented), in order that I may reap some harvest among you as well as among the rest of the Gentiles.

2 Corinthians 11:16-33 (ESV)

¹⁶ I repeat, let no one think me foolish. But even if you do, accept me as a fool, so that I too may boast a little. ¹⁷ What I am saying with this boastful confidence, I say not with the Lord's authority but as a fool. ¹⁸ Since many boast according to the flesh, I too will boast. ¹⁹ For you gladly bear with fools, being wise yourselves! ²⁰ For you bear it if someone makes slaves of you, or devours you, or takes advantage of you, or puts on airs, or strikes you in the face. ²¹ To my shame, I must say, we were too weak for that! But whatever anyone else dares to boast of—I am speaking as a fool—I also dare to boast of that. ²² Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they

⁴ New American Standard Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible.

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offspring of Abraham? So am I. ²³ Are they servants of Christ? I am a better one—I am talking like a madman—with far greater labors, far more imprisonments, with countless beatings, and often near death. ²⁴ Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one. ²⁵ Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea; ²⁶ on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers; ²⁷ in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. ²⁸ And, apart from other things, there is the daily pressure on me of my anxiety for all the churches. ²⁹ Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to fall, and I am not indignant? ³⁰ If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness. ³¹ The God and Father of the Lord Jesus, he who is blessed forever, knows that I am not lying. ³² At Damascus, the governor under King Aretas was guarding the city of Damascus in order to seize me, ³³ but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall and escaped his hands.

Romans 8:17-18 (ESV)

¹⁷ and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him. ¹⁸ For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

(Felix)

Acts 23:29 (ESV)

²⁹ I found that he was being accused about questions of their law, but charged with nothing deserving death or imprisonment.

(Festus)

Acts 25:25 (ESV)

²⁵ But I found that he had done nothing deserving death. And as he himself appealed to the emperor, I decided to go ahead and send him.

(Agrippa)

Acts 26:31-32 (ESV)

³¹ And when they had withdrawn, they said to one another, “This man is doing nothing to deserve death or imprisonment.” ³² And Agrippa said to Festus, “This man could have been set free if he had not appealed to Caesar.”

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Paul's Request

Philippians 2:2-4 (ESV)

² complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Paul's Reminder

Romans 8:17-18 (ESV)

¹⁷ and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him. ¹⁸ For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

James 1:2-4, 12 (ESV)

² Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, ³ for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. ⁴ And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing

¹² Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.

1 Peter 1:5-7 (ESV)

⁵ who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. ⁶ In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, ⁷ so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.