

Study Guide

For the Week of February 1, 2009

This study guide is designed to help you to become more familiar with the Bible. Study these passages on your own, with a friend, or with a group. If you or someone you know needs a Bible, please take one from under a chair in the Worship Center. They are there for you to take home and use! Message manuscripts are available at www.spwired.com.

Monday—Read Philippians chapter 1 in the New Testament. What was Paul's setting when he wrote this? Why did he write? What had the Philippians done for him? This chapter offers us clues as to how we can find joy in the face of hardship. Which verses in this chapter speak to you about finding joy in the face of hardship? Can you apply these to your life today?

Tuesday— Read Philippians chapter 2. Part of the reason that Paul wrote this letter was to address conflict in the Philippian church. Notice that Paul mentions, by name, two believers who were in conflict. Notice Paul's advice in finding joy in the face of conflict in verses 2-11. What is the key in this passage? How can you live out the part that says we should consider others better than ourselves? Notice that Paul gives Jesus as the ultimate example of this.

Wednesday—Read Philippians chapter 3. In this passage Paul touches on the extremes or distortions of the faith that rob us of joy—legalism and libertinism. Legalists have a faith of rules and laws which ends up negating the work of Jesus on the cross and the freedom that Jesus brought. Reread verses 1-11 to see how Paul addresses this. The other extreme was the exact opposite—because of what Jesus did on our behalf, we can do anything without concern for our actions. How are these extremes dangerous to our faith? What do these verses mean for you?

Thursday— Read Philippians 4:4-9. In these verses Paul addresses one of the struggles we have that can rob us of joy: worry. If anyone had reason to worry it was Paul as he awaited his execution. What does this passage teach us about worry? How can we defeat it?

Friday—Read Philippians 4:10-23. Look over your notes from the sermon outline on the other side of this study guide. In verses 10-13, Paul talks about how he is content no matter what because of the strength he has in Christ. Do these verses give you hope for lasting contentment? Who is the source of this contentment? In verses 14-18 we see what the Philippian believers did for Paul. What does this passage teach us about what our church, and we as individuals, should be like? What is stopping you from living out the 3 keys from Mark's message?

Prayer Concerns

Serving in Iraq:

Cyle Haywood (non-military)
Ryan Grindstaff

Military:

Jesse Smith
Nathan Lawellin
Matthew Peak
Stephen Leadbetter
Richard Hurst
James Lesimeister
Jon Arnold

Jason Lewis

Joshua Walker

Health & Healing:

Don McCoy

Carrol Skelton

Jr. Skelton

Marion Wheatly

Mary Farni

Barbara Myers

Cancer Treatment:

Sonja Davidson

Tracy Bowman

Joyce Pace

Tony Allen

Other Concerns:

Mildred Fagen

Jerry & Roberta Webster

Chris Geer

Judy Rawlings

Victor Rawlings

Tammy Comer

Terry Hoagland

Luke & Andrea Fields

Ashley Williams

Shirley Wheatley

Matthew Otey

James Schrivner

Rick Coulson

Harold Penn