

## WORKBOOK

# Letter of Paul to the **PHILIPPIANS**

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# HOW TO USE THIS WORKBOOK ?

**Bonus explanation**

**Bible verses quoted in the text**

Feel free to use the margins to take notes. That's what they're there for!

**Videotext**

## INTRODUCTION

THE JESUIT CASE. On 14th March 1988, the Pope's spokesman announced that the Pope had decided to appoint a new superior general of the Society of Jesus.

There was a consensus that the new superior general should be a Jesuit, and that he should be a Jesuit of the Society of Jesus. The Pope's spokesman announced that the Pope had decided to appoint a new superior general of the Society of Jesus.

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## Habitat

The Jesuits are a religious order of the Catholic Church, founded by Ignace of Loyola in 1540.

The Jesuits are a religious order of the Catholic Church, founded by Ignace of Loyola in 1540. They are known for their work in education, missionary work, and social justice.

## Questions

1. What is the main purpose of the Jesuits?

**Thematic questions**

# WHAT IS THE GOAL OF THIS WORKBOOK?

Were you ever in a church that had tension among certain people?

And you thought: "How is it possible for believers to not understand each other?"

And did you also think: "If only Paul could write a letter to my church and explain the solution to the problem!"



We have good news for you.

...

He ALREADY wrote one.

...

And actually, we want to talk about it.  
Coincidence? I don't think so...

So, what exactly is the goal of this workbook? Simply for you to understand the letter to the Philippians.

Watch our videos about the letter to the Philippians on our website [www.crosspaint.tv](http://www.crosspaint.tv) - and on to the next page!



# INTRODUCTION

In this letter you won't find any **doctrinal explanations** in detail but rather, primarily practical concepts. When you read this letter, you will notice that the life in Christ is not just a mere theory.

<sup>1</sup> I have **recieved** all things... 4:18

<sup>2</sup> It is actually reported that there is **sexual immorality** among you... 1 Cor. 5:1

<sup>3</sup> See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy...  
**Col. 2:8**

<sup>4</sup> I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting [...] and are turning to **a different gospel**. Gal. 1:6

<sup>5</sup> I exhort Euodia, and exhort Syntyche, to be of the same mind in the Lord. 4:2

The word "sin" doesn't actually appear in this letter because the church in Philippi was in a good spiritual state. There were no fundamental doctrinal issues. But their devotion and attention were not aimed at the right thing. That's why you find about **50 names of the Lord Jesus Christ**. The spirit drives us to set our eyes on Christ, instead of on ourselves.

Finally, we've come to the letter to the Philippians. It was written by Paul and therefore, there will be the usual doctrinal part and then the practical part...

**NO**. In the letter to the Philippians it's different. It had a different reason for being written than the other letters. Basically, it's a thank you letter for a donation<sup>1</sup> Paul had received from the Philippians.



We would say: "Administrative stuff." But the Apostle uses this donation to address 2 essential topics that will be very important to you as well. We will get to that soon.

## Comparison with the other letters

So, the letter to the Philippians is a really relaxed letter.

You will notice this when you compare it to the letter to the Corinthians<sup>2</sup>, for example, where the Apostle had to confront moral evil. In other words, there were sexual problems, etc.

Or to the Colossians<sup>3</sup>, where it was about intellectual evil, Philosophy, etc.

Or more blatantly the letter to the Galatians<sup>4</sup>, where the Apostle had to put his foot down because there were false doctrines circulating.

With the Philippians, everything was actually **IN ORDER**.

Well, almost everything<sup>5</sup>.

# Historical Context

But well, first a historical recap.

Acts 16. On his second mission trip, Paul and his brother in faith, Silas, went to Philippi, an important Roman colony<sup>1</sup>. Paul had preached and some people had been converted. But Paul and Silas had also been thrown in prison. And then there was an earthquake, etc.... If you don't know the story yet, you can just read through it<sup>2</sup>.

The prison guard had come to faith and so a congregation was formed, that had experienced something special with the Apostle.

And that's why they had a particularly good relationship with him. They were also the ones that **FINANCIALLY** supported the Apostle right at the beginning<sup>3</sup> when the others were still skeptical.

**1...***we went to Philippi [...] city of the[a] district of Macedonia and a Roman **colony**. Acts 16:12*



In order to understand why the fact that it was a **colony** is so important, you'll have to take a look on the next page.

**<sup>2</sup> Acts 16:13-34**

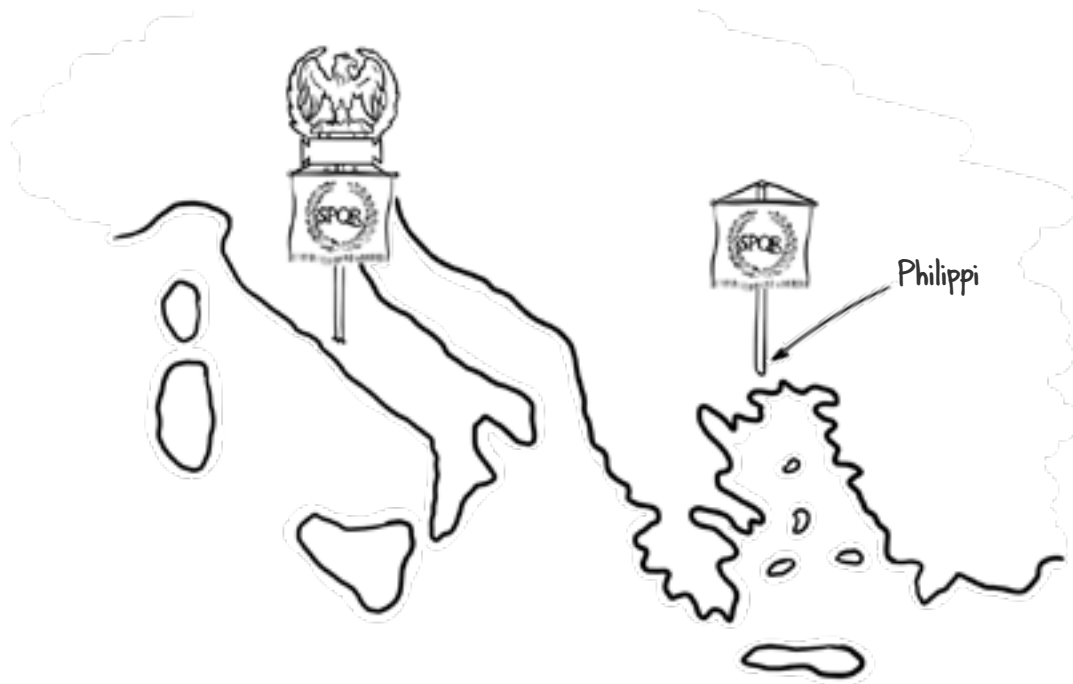
There are **2 types of donations**:

1. **The donation in exchange** for receiving a spiritual good (**1. Tim. 5:17-18; Gal. 6:6**). This donation is a commandment of God.
2. **The spontaneous donation** for a work from which we don't profit directly, but that we donate because the Holy Spirit asks us to. This is the case here (**4:10**).

**<sup>3</sup> ...your partnership in the gospel from the first day. 1:5**

## Philippi

This was a city that consisted of Roman Veterans – so a Roman colony abroad. In contrast to Jerusalem, which was also dominated by the Romans at that time, Philippi actually had a Roman culture and **its residents claimed Roman citizenship.**



*"These colonies were little fragments of Rome, and **their pride in their Roman citizenship was their dominating characteristic.** The Roman language was spoken, Roman dress was worn, Roman customs were observed, their magistrates had Roman titles and carried out the same ceremonies as were carried out in Rome itself. Wherever they were these colonies were stubbornly and unalterably Roman. They would never have dreamt of becoming assimilated to the people amidst whom they were set."*

*William Barclay*

# The Heart of the Problem

But why is this story so important? Why did the Apostle Paul use a letter about a donation to discuss something with the Philippians? Because the Apostle sees **2** small dangers:

1

## The Departure of Heavenly Citizenship

The issue of heavenly citizenship had been simmering under the surface because there were Jewish teachings in circulation that told Christians: "You can't have your head in the sky. You have to think about the earth as well<sup>2</sup>."

2

## Lack of Unity

Lack of unity, because two sisters were at each other's throats a bit.<sup>1</sup>

In both of these discussions, **MONEY** is the linchpin. First, because the financial support of a fellow Christian makes heavenly unity visible here on earth.

And secondly, because every Christian who invests in the kingdom of God, shows that his heart beats first of all for heaven and not for the earth.

### Question

*In spite of the tension, Paul refuses to differentiate between the believers in Philippi and to recognize any kind of division between them.*

*What does he wish and do for "all" of them? (1,4.7-8.25; 2,25; 3,15.17)*

*Answer on page 24*

<sup>1</sup> *I entreat Euodia and I entreat Syntyche to **agree** in the Lord. 4:2*

<sup>2</sup> *For many walk [...] with minds set on earthly things. 3:19*

A few points on the topic of **money**:

1. It's not a secondary but a **fundamental** topic in your life as a Christian (**Luke 16:11-13; Matthew 6:24**)
2. It clarifies **the practical unity** towards our brothers and sisters (**1. John 3:17-18**).
3. The management of our earthly goods will determine **the allotment of our spiritual gifts**. If you use your money on yourself, you will also utilize your spiritual gifts for yourself. (**Luke 16:11**).



## The Lord and Money

The Lord Jesus talked more about money and the management of **material goods** than he did about **heaven** and **hell** combined.

In the Gospels, every tenth verse (a total of 288) refers to the subject of money or material goods.



"The collection of treasures on earth is as clearly forbidden by our Lord as adultery and murder."

John Wesley

## Question

*The way you use your money shows you where your devotion lies.*

*How do you use it?*



# Biblical Context

Ok so this is the historical background. Now let's have a brief look at **the biblical overview** about how the letter to the Philippians stands in relation to the other New Testament letters.

When we apply Philippians to the desert journey of the People of Israel, it does not represent **deliverance from Egypt**, or **fellowship with God**, or **problems encountered** on the way. Nor does it describe **the separation from evil** after the Jordan, **ordes the blessing in Canaan**, like Ephesians does.

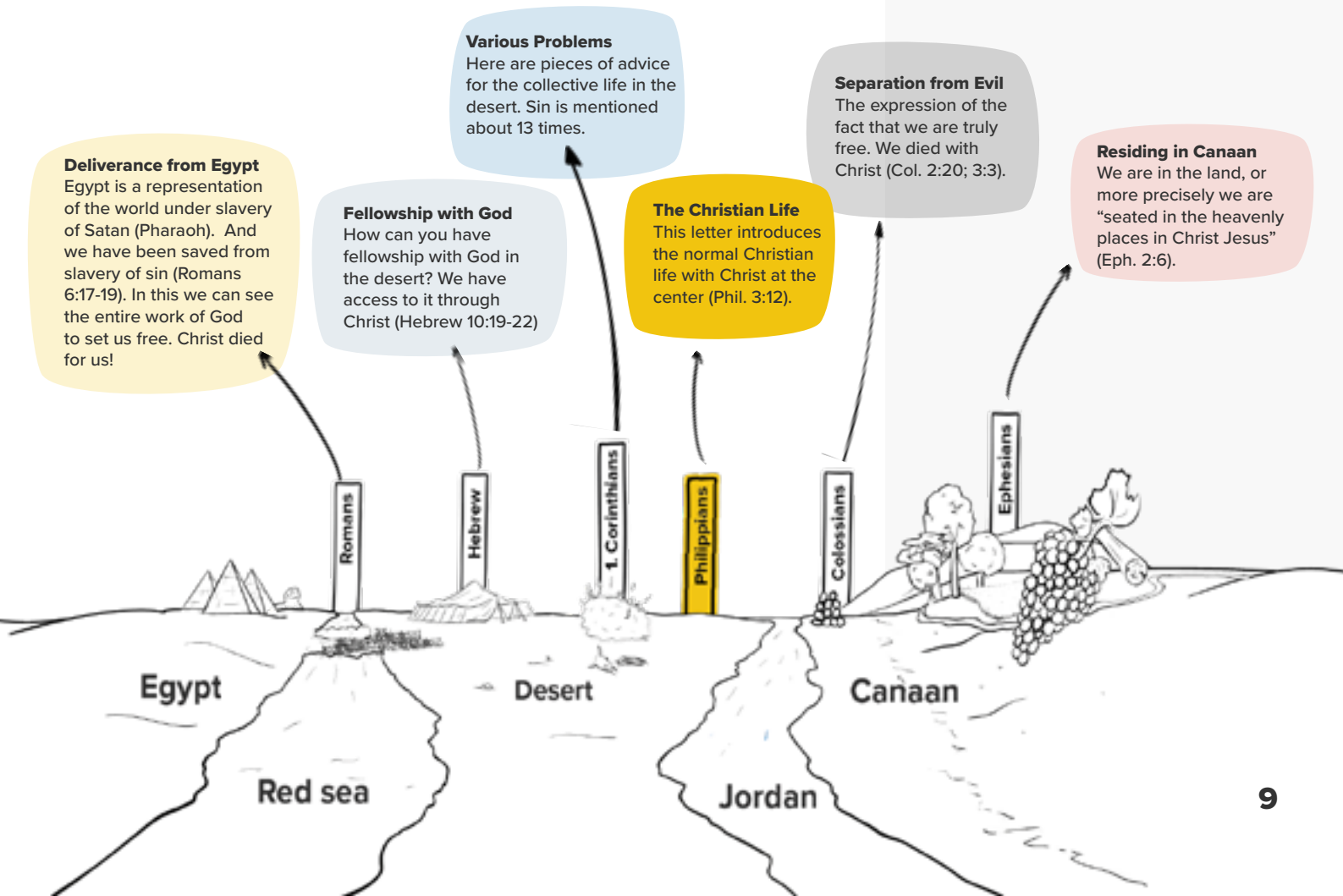
The letter to the Philippians rather shows the normal Christian life of a heavenly citizen, who is not yet at his destination<sup>1</sup>.

The Apostle Paul shows that he's on the brink of death and can already see the destination spiritually. A little like Moses on the mountain when God showed him the land, but he wasn't there yet.

The Christian is still in the desert, almost in the land. But not with problems like in 1. Corinthians. Sin does not even appear in the letter to the Philippians. Everything is good, but just not at the destination yet.

You can draw a parallel to Deuteronomy where Moses looks back on the past (the desert), but directs the eyes of the People to the land of Canaan.

*"I press on toward **the goal** for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." 3:13-14*



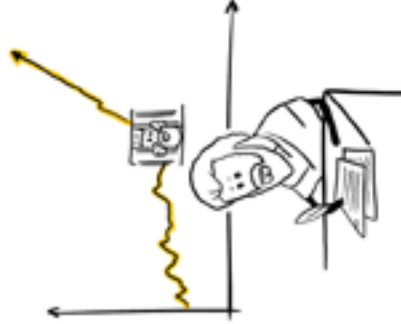
# Overview of the epistle

(you'll also find this poster at the end of the workbook)

## Chapter 1

Christ – our life (1:21)

Paul's present  
circumstances



We have the same fight!  
Look to Christ!

## Chapter 2

Christ – our example (2:5)

Examples of  
heavenly living



Follow the example:  
Be like Christ!

## Chapter 3

Christ – our goal (3:8)

Presentation of  
a heavenly mindset



Reject earthly thinking!

## Chapter 4

Christ – our strength (4:13)

Result of a heavenly mindset:  
Contentment



Stop fighting one another!  
Fight with us!

# CHAPTER 1 & 2

In the **INTRO** we saw that the Philippian church was doing fine, but that Paul saw 2 immanent problems:

Lack of unity and earth centeredness<sup>1</sup>.

So, did he write in his letter: Be united? Well, kind of. But he goes even deeper.

Every detail in Paul's letter is intentional. The Holy Spirit uses every occasion to use the **FORM** of the letter and its **CONTENT** to communicate what is necessary for the recipients.

## Question

*Look up how often the word "Gospel" appears in the first chapter. What conclusion do you draw from this?*

*Answer on page 24*

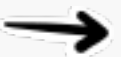
Remember that Philippi was a Roman colony that was permeated by its culture. All principals that the Philippians followed derived from Rome and the Philippians were known as Romans.

We see the same nowadays! Our culture, our inheritance, our possessions, everything we are and have, is located in a different place than the one we live in: In heaven!

**Is that evident?**

<sup>1</sup> *enemies of the cross of Christ [...] with minds set on earthly things. 3:18-19*

It means that he uses **a thank you letter** for a donation in order to demonstrate the unity in the work of the Apostles. They all have the same goal, namely to advance the Gospel. We illustrate this on the next page.



## Form and Content

In this example, you can see from **the very beginning** of the letter, how Paul **deliberately introduces** details that brings the Philippians to look at **heavenly things**.

Where are these excellent things that we should approve?  
In Heaven.

Here it refers to the stars, and where are they located? This time we'll let you answer...

By the way, the Greek word that is being used here, is the same one that's being used in the Greek Septuagint in Genesis 1:14.

This one is pretty clear...

And it is my prayer, [...] that you may approve **what is excellent.**  
1:10

You shine as **lights** in the world. 2:15

...be with Christ, for that is far better.. 1:23

For they all seek their own interests, not **those of Jesus Christ**. 2:21

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

But our citizenship is in **heaven**, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. 3:20

Where is Christ currently? In Heaven...

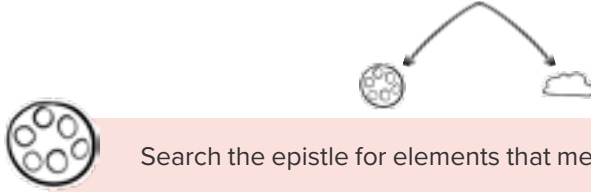
The interests of Christ are spiritual, heavenly.

Only now does he clearly mention the solution, but he already showed from the beginning that heaven is far better than the earth.

## A few Questions

From this page forward, we will apply a color code, so you can easily detect the points that talk about *unity* and *heavenly citizenship*.

Furthermore, you'll find these two logos in the margins that meet the same purpose.



Search the epistle for elements that mention *unity* among Christians.

COMMENT: Uhm...actually you're only supposed to read this once you've searched and contemplated for a while... But okay, I'll help you! Between the verses 1:27 and 2:2, Paul refers to unity seven times. Find out what we have in common with the believers, and see if there are other passages in this letter where this unity is being mentioned.



Now you can do the same thing with *heavenly citizenship*.

COMMENT: Which verses encourage the Philippians to act differently than their neighbors, who are earthly citizens?

*"But **one thing** I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the **upward call** of God in Christ Jesus."*

3:14

# To recognize the heavenly things

## 1:1-11

<sup>1</sup> Paul and Timothy, slaves of Jesus Christ. 1:1

For example, he does not start the letter with the usual “Apostle Paul”, but instead with “Paul and Timothy<sup>1</sup>” – why is that?



There are three reasons:

1. Because he didn’t need to use authority, but wanted to warm their hearts.
2. Since he would be writing about humility, he also wanted to show this in his writing.
3. Because he wanted to show **unity** with another servant, even though he was the main writer.



Then after this, he writes down his prayer. A bit strange, isn’t it? But it’s deliberate, because he wants to teach them something from this prayer.

He prays, that the Philippians can recognize the EXCELLENT, or the DECISIVE, that they can recognize the heavenly things. And they would be able to do that by having that intelligent affection among each other, by having a love that is based on the understanding of the love of Christ..

First of all, to show them how much fellowship and service with them means to him. This is in relation to **unity**.



Secondly, he didn’t want them to have mere blind devotion, but an intelligent affection, that is based on an enlarged understanding of **heavenly realities**. And this relates to the truth of **HEAVENLY CITIZENSHIP<sup>2</sup>**.



### Question

*Paul is showing his love for them and is setting an example.*

*Are you praying for every member in your local church?*

<sup>2</sup> And **it is my prayer** that your love may abound more and more, with **knowledge** [...] so that you may approve what is **excellent**. 1:9

# Our heavenly home

## 1:12-30



When a leader is thrown into prison, the flock is at risk to fear for their lives (thus, be **earth-centered** and focus on the here and now) or to question the doctrine (and **become divided**).

Paul encourages them and tells them that instead of stopping the work of the Gospel, his suffering in fact advances the spread of the Good News<sup>1</sup>.

He directs their minds to Christ and the joy that can be found in being with him. And this is remarkable given the fact that he's in a Roman prison. He invites them to follow him and **SUFFER** as if it was something desirable<sup>2</sup>.

Sounds strange for us in the 21st century, but maybe there's something strange about us and not about the greatest Apostle to have ever lived.



Because suffering and rejection of earthly happiness show more than anything that the earth is not our home and that we long for **heaven**.

### Question

*Take note every time the term "Joy" or a similar word is mentioned in this letter.*

*Answer on page 24*

<sup>1</sup> *And most of the brothers, having **become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment**, are much more bold to speak the word without fear. 1:14*

### Joyful in Sufferings?

If we want to live for God, it's guaranteed that we will suffer for the Lord Jesus (**John 15:20; 2. Timothy 3:12**). But even in suffering there's joy. Here are a few examples:

#### 1. **Jeremiah 15:16**

A man, who has suffered his entire life, found joy in listening to God.

#### 2. **2. Corinthians 8:1-2**

In spite of persecution and poverty, they were joyful! And their gift of money showed that their hope was in heaven and not on earth.

#### 3. **1. Thessalonians 1:6**

The same observation here: the joy of the Holy Spirit despite suffering.

<sup>2</sup> *it has been granted to you that [...] you should [...] **suffer for his sake**. 1:29*

## Humility

Humility does not consist of talking bad about yourself or not talking about yourself at all, but talking about yourself in accordance to what we are in Christ.

Paul often talks about himself in his letters and even goes as far as saying: "Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ." (1. Corinthians 11:1). He takes the place where God put him, so that he can be aware of the fact that only by the grace of God he is what he is (1. Corinthians 15:10). False humility in truth is no more than terrible pride.

The humility of the Lord is not characterized by the fact that he didn't talk about himself, but that **he gave his life for others!**

<sup>1</sup> *Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the **interests of others**. Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus. 2:4*

<sup>2</sup> *Even if I am to be poured out as **a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering** of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. 2:17*

## 2 Facts about Unity:

1. The unity that Paul mentions is not just a unity of words. The term he uses is a soul (sympsychos) (2:2). Literally: with soul; of one mind.
2. The kind of unity that is being talked about here, is a unity between individuals and not between organizations. This unity begins individually!

# Christ as our example 2:1-30

Chapter 2 brings this thought of suffering to its climax, but discretely transitions to the topic of **HUMILITY**. Because humility is the basic building block for a life of **unity**<sup>1</sup>.



Christ emptied himself, which means he took the form of a human, although remaining God at all times. He became human to be able to endure death. The cruelest death a human being could ever die. Being nailed and hung upon a wooden cross.

Have you ever had a situation in your life, where you were not able to show your true potential and were mocked for your incompetence?

Have you ever thought about how humbling it was for a strong and mighty God to hide his glory and become a weak human being? How great is our God!

And as Christ **humbled himself** and gave himself for many, others followed him. Paul speaks about pouring his life out like the drink offering<sup>2</sup> that accomplished each sacrifice.

Timothy gave his time and effort for the Apostle Paul and the Gospel. Epaphroditus risked his life for the Philippians.

In a nutshell, Paul wants to say: **UNITY** in humility is "One for all and all for one"!



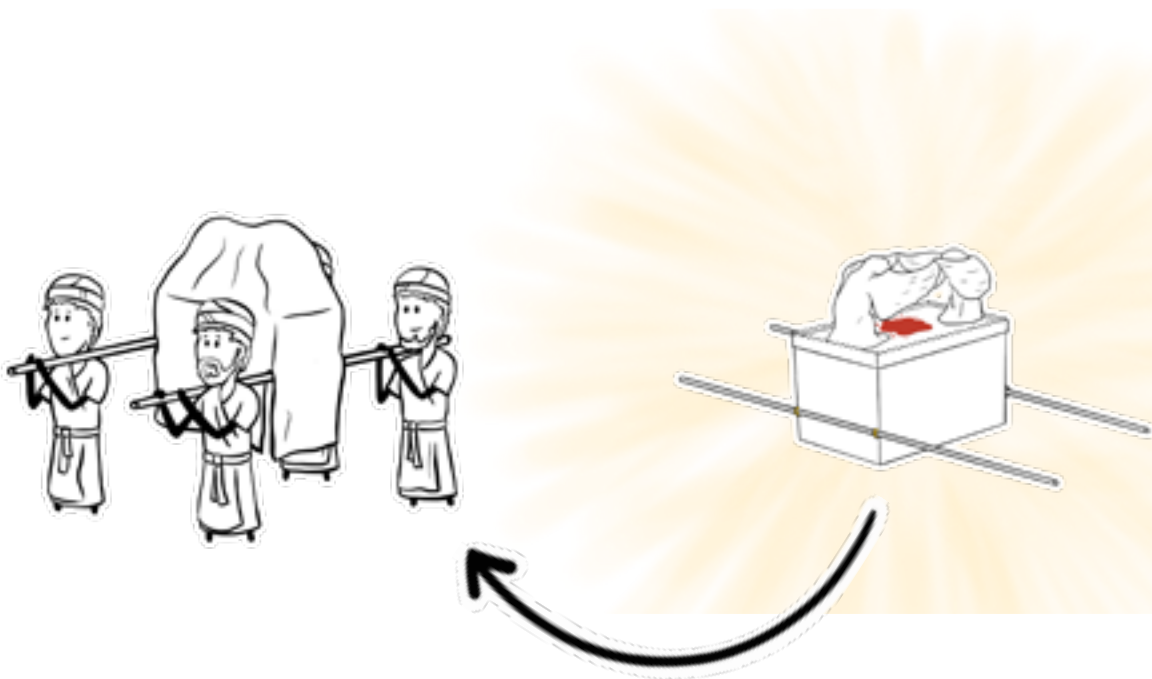


# The Humiliation of Christ

A few important points in relation to **the humiliation of the Lord Jesus**.

Christ Jesus extinguished himself, or rather robbed himself of his divinity, but that doesn't mean that he lost his divinity. His divinity **was veiled** here on earth, but sometimes **the veil fell** and his divinity was revealed – e.g., on the Mount of Transfiguration (*Luke 9:28-36*) or in the Garden of Gethsemane (*John 18:5-6*).

The example of **the Ark of the Covenant in the Old Testament** speaks for itself. When the Ark was in the Tabernacle, the gold it was made of was gleaming. But when the Ark had to be moved, it was covered by a cloth. The gold was still present, but no longer visible.



# CHAPTERS 3 & 4

## The Danger of the Earth 3:1-8

Here the two main topics come together. **Heavenly citizenship will have an influence on unity.**

Our identity in heaven, what we really are, determines our behavior on earth.

It's a principle that runs through all of scripture:

- The heavens rule the earth (Daniel 4:34-37).
- The spirit dominates the flesh (Galatians 5:16).
- The mind determines what the body does (Matthew 7:15-20).
- The doctrine determines the practice.



In Chapter 3 & 4 we face the problem head-on: Division. How can we heal division? How can we stick together when we're so different from each other?

So, how can we be connected when we're all so different?

Paul's answer in the letter to the Philippians is: **A COMMON IDENTITY**. We can only become what we already are.

This means that spiritually we have to be "**ONE**" before we can practically live together in unity. And that's what the Apostle wants to show the Philippians.

He says: "**Look out** for the dogs"<sup>1</sup>.

It's kind of ironic because usually it was the Jews who called the Gentiles dogs. He turns the table and uses their words against them.



### Question

*What are the features of the mentioned "dogs"? Isaiah 56:10-11; Revelation 22:15; Matthew 7:6; Psalm 22:20*

*Answer on page 24*


<sup>1</sup>**Look out** for the dogs, **look out** for the evildoers, **look out** for those who mutilate the flesh. 3:2

## Analysis

# Look out

<sup>1</sup> **Look out** for the dogs, **look out** for the evildoers, **look out** for those who mutilate the flesh.

3:2



4 points you can easily remember about the expression “**look out**”:

1. The expression is used 3x by Paul and highlights the idea that we should be attentive to the things happening around us. You can translate it as “observing” or “keeping watch”. **It’s something intense and active.**
2. The Lord always insisted on **paying attention to the fruits**, rather than listening to the words.
3. And Paul mentioned that the Philippians should live with knowledge and discernment (1:9-10). Pay attention not only to the form, but verify **if the power of the spirit is behind it.**
4. They were not only supposed to pay attention to the bad, but also **keep their eyes on those who walk according to the example** (3:17).

So, to be actively vigilant, to watch out for the fruits of the others, to live with discernment and to look to good examples.

# Christ as the Destination

## 3:9-21

### Who are the Judaists today?

It's those who use the Old Testament as a basic foundation and view the New Testament as a supplement, as a contrary, but complementary attribute to the Old Testament. They view the church as an addition to Israel, but in reality, it's the exact opposite. The members of the church were chosen **before the foundation of the world** (Ephesians 1:4), while the kingdom for the Jews was only prepared **from the foundation of the world** (Matthew 25:34). Every Jew is free to join the church. They apply the Old Testament to the church, while the promises made to the Jews were only fulfilled for the Jewish people. (But this does not mean that we can't also learn something from it. We can see God's immutability!)

<sup>1</sup> you are all **one** in Christ Jesus.  
*Gal. 3:28*

And here you find **the key for unity**. Like Paul said: "It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me" (*Galatians 2:20*), "for to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain" (1:21). When every believer realizes that he really died with Christ, and that no longer he lives but Christ in him...guess what will happen? There will be biblical unity amongst the believers! For Christ is not divided.

In contrast to the **JUDAISTS** are the true Christians who, looking upwards, rejoice in Christ Jesus.

Christ Jesus is an important technical term, that is only used by Paul.

Jesus is the name of the human being Jesus. It's the carpenter who walked here on the earth.

Jesus Christ shows that this carpenter is now in glory – a man in glory. But Christ Jesus puts the emphasis on Christ, which means "anointed".

It means that the man Christ Jesus is in himself the "way" in which all the deep unfoldings of God are revealed. God's "eternal purpose" is "in Christ Jesus" (*Ephesians 3:11*).

And as astonishing as this might sound, a Christian is not a follower of Jesus (Jesus-ian), but someone who is in Christ Jesus (Christ).

A Christian is not following the wonderful man from Nazareth. He does not weep at his tomb, but sees him, risen in glory at the right hand of God – Christ Jesus.

His "redemption is in Christ Jesus" (*Romans 3:24*).

His sanctification is "in Christ Jesus" (*1. Corinthians 1:2*).

And the believer himself is already spiritually "in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus" (*Ephesians 2:6*).

Why is this important for **unity**? Because there, **IN CHRIST JESUS**, all differences cease<sup>1</sup>.



## What do you find in Christ Jesus?

Have you ever asked God about this?



The truth that Paul teaches in his letters is that all of these things are **in Christ Jesus**:

- ...the **grace** that is **in Christ Jesus. 2 .Tim. 2:1**
- ...you are **all one in Christ Jesus. Gal. 3:28**
- ...the **love** of God **in Christ Jesus. Rom 8:39**

If you're looking for these things, then you have to get to know Christ better. Who he is. What he did. In him you will find everything.

He's not that far away, you are in Him, and He in you. This is a real fact, these things already belong to you, if you realize, who you are.



# The Example of Paul

What Paul is trying to tell us in verses 4 to 8 is that he never saw Christ through the eyes of Judaism! It is therefore wrong to try and prove the Jewish influence in Paul's doctrine! And a lot of renowned Theologians are trying to do just that...

Yet, a simple man with one bible in the middle of the jungle can understand Christ, without having to study the entire Jewish background of Paul...

<sup>1</sup> as to righteousness under the law, **blameless**. 3:6

<sup>2</sup> But whatever gain I had, I counted as **loss** for the sake of Christ.. 3:7

<sup>3</sup>Acts 9:1-22

Paul was one of the most excellent human beings who ever lived. He himself says that he was "blameless<sup>1</sup>" as to righteousness under the law.

And yet he says: "All this Jewishness hindered<sup>2</sup> me to see Christ Jesus up there in glory".

That's why it's completely anti-Christian to focus on Paul's Jewishness in order to explain his Christian **TEACHINGS**. Paul's doctrine was not rooted in his Jewish past or his character, but was built on the revelation and vision<sup>3</sup> he received from God when he was on his way to Damascus.

A glorified Jesus in heaven. Christ Jesus. And therefore, everything a Christian has is up there in heaven. Nature, character, life, identity and destination. Everything a Christian is and has is heavenly.

Our citizenship, our collective life is in heaven, and from it we await our savior the Lord Jesus Christ.

Because we are one spiritually, all differences cease to exist, and Paul can now ask the two sisters to express this spiritual unity in our physical world. "Agree in the Lord".

He underlines this message by showing them once again how he and others are fighting for the Gospel – together, in unity. Finally, he thanks the Philippians for the recent donation, a remarkable sign of joyful and active unity!

# CONCLUSION

Despite the fact that this is a peaceful letter, we saw that Paul mentions **2 problems** that existed in the local church.



## Abandoning Heavenly Citizenship

Paul shows that everything a Christian possesses, is in heaven.

And that his longing should be aimed at heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ is.

We also saw that the life of the Christian is in Christ. He is identified with his heavenly Lord. His life is in him.

Do we then have to fight for this world if God tells me that I'm heavenly? Should I, as an American, tell my country and the rest of the world what to do, and impose my law on them?

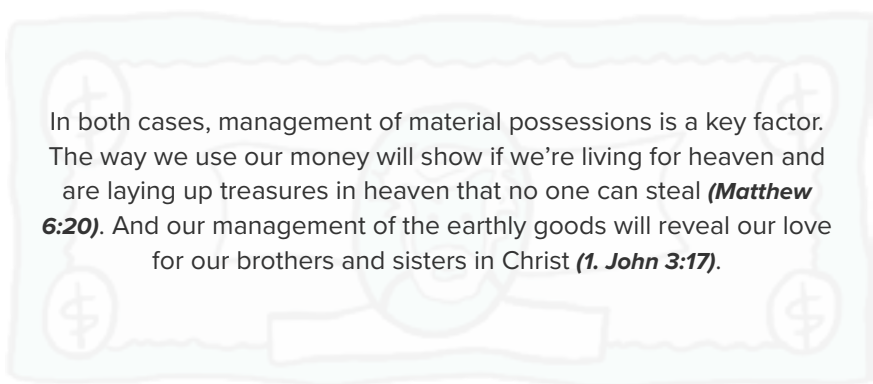
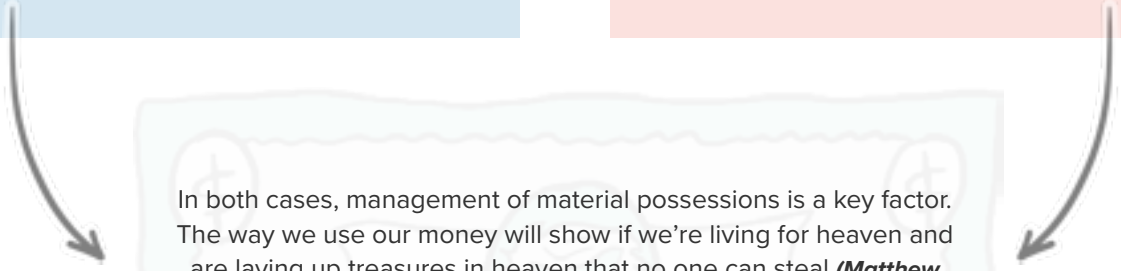


## Disunity

There was tension between two sisters and Paul shows the Lord Jesus as an example of unity. He was always seeking the good of others, instead of his own.

This disunity comes directly from a lack of knowledge of our heavenly position. Like Paul said, Euodia and Syntyche should've been like-minded IN the Lord.

**Two Christians, who realize their position in Christ and live focused on the heavenly things, will for sure be of one mind in Christ.**



In both cases, management of material possessions is a key factor. The way we use our money will show if we're living for heaven and are laying up treasures in heaven that no one can steal (**Matthew 6:20**). And our management of the earthly goods will reveal our love for our brothers and sisters in Christ (**1. John 3:17**).

# APPENDIX

## Answers to the Questions

### Question P.7

[1:4] He prays for all of them and expresses his joy for them before God.

[1:7] He thinks about them because he holds them in his heart.

[1:8] He thinks about them with affection.

[1:25] He wants to remain with them all for their progress and joy in the faith.

### Question P.11

The word “Gospel” is mentioned 6 times (V5, 7, 12, 16, 27 (2x))

A church of believers who walk together in the Fear of the Lord and want to preach the Word of God to non-believers, will surely experience a wonderful communion. But a church that is engaged only with its own affairs and blessings, won't be able to experience that kind of communion.

### Question P.15

The word “joy” and its derivations appear approximately 17 times (1:4.18.25; 2:2.17-18.28-29; 3:1; 4:1.4.10-11)

### Question P.18

[Isaiah 56:10-11] They are blind, without knowledge to be overseers, and they love to slumber. They turn to their own way, each to his own goal.

[Revelation 22:15] They are compared to unbelievers who are characterized by sin and have no place in the presence of the Lord Jesus.

[Matthew 7:6] They are not allowed to eat what is holy.

[Psalm 22:20] The psalmist asks to be delivered from the dogs.

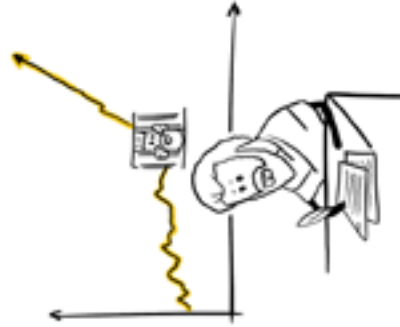


# POSTER

## Chapter 1

Christ – our life (1:21)

Paul's present  
circumstances

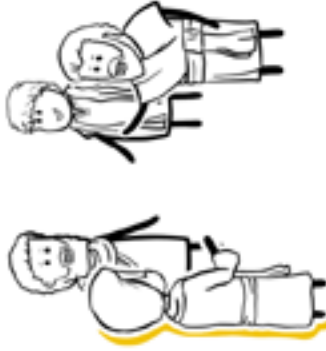


We have the same fight!  
Look to Christ!

## Chapter 2

Christ – our example (2:5)

Examples of  
heavenly living



Follow the example:  
Be like Christ!

## Chapter 3

Christ – our goal (3:8)

Presentation of  
a heavenly mindset



Reject earthly thinking!

## Chapter 4

Christ – our strength (4:13)

Result of a heavenly mindset:  
Contentment



Stop fighting one another!  
Fight with us!