



The Letter to the Philippians – Lesson 2

Philippians 1:12-21

Life is never perfect, and all of us must deal with the reality of suffering. Your heart may be heavy today; you may be weighed down by unexpected disappointments or fear for the future. This study is for you.

The Bible has words of comfort for us, and we can benefit greatly by understanding Paul's perspective on the suffering he was experiencing at the time he was writing this letter to the church at Philippi.

Paul's letter to the Philippians is best understood when we remember that it is a personal letter written for a specific purpose. The letter has a consistent tone, theme, and message. For this reason, please begin your study this week by reading all of chapter 1 of Philippians before you focus in on verses 12-21.

1. Observe Paul's account of his general circumstances as he is writing. Read the account of Paul's arrival in Rome in Acts 28:16-31.
 - a. From your reading of Philippians chapter 1, how would you describe Paul's tone and mood as he explains his circumstances?
 - b. What do you conclude about Paul's foremost priority in life?
 - c. What sense do you have of Paul's level of friendship with the believers in Philippi? Give some examples from chapter 1 that support your conclusion.

Take a moment to pray, thanking God for His wisdom, His good purposes, and His personal care for you—every day, in every way. He loves you.