



Philippians

Side by side for the Gospel

Hebron Men's Group
January-June 2018

Hebron Men's Group 2018

Welcome to Hebron's Men's Group 2018!

We have been running for a number of years now, taking on several different formats, and we try to have an away morning annually to focus on some specific issues that relate to us as Christian men. Our aim is to equip and support Christian men to follow Jesus Christ.

We are convinced that Jesus Christ is the head of the church, the head of our homes and the head of each one of us – therefore we want to be sure that we are following his lead in everything. Through the pages of Scripture God's will is revealed to us; on every page of the Bible Jesus speaks. If we are going to follow him well, we need to be good at hearing what he says. Therefore the focus of our Men's Group is studying God's word; in particular helping each other to handle the Scriptures reliably and confidently.

We aim to meet monthly from 8-9.30am on a Saturday morning. The provisional dates set so far are 27th January, 24th February & 24th March. We will have breakfast first and then move to the Bible study. Each week there will be an opportunity for someone to deliver a ten-minute talk on the previous week's passage. Don't worry, this is only for those who are genuinely interested in developing/testing their ability in preaching – it will serve as an introduction each week to the passage under consideration. After the Bible study we will apply what we've learned by praying for each other

We plan to work through the book of Philippians, which I have divided up into smaller chunks in this hand-out to make it easier to keep track of where we are – this also allows you to annotate the passage, marking divisions and highlighting the things that stand out to you as you read it. There are some guide questions for each study, but they are very general to encourage you to actually look at the verses with fresh eyes.

The Men's Group has the potential to be very fruitful and so whatever your age or stage of faith, you will really benefit from coming and sharing together with other men around the word of God and in prayer.

Before you start:

When starting to study a book of the Bible, there is great benefit in first of all reading the whole book. Sometimes that can be very daunting(!), but in our studies in Philippians it won't take very long and will help you to see how each part fits into the main themes and goals of the letter as a whole. This preliminary work opens the door into getting the message of God's word correct, and minimises the risk of taking verses out of context and making them mean what they were never meant to mean. After all, if we don't grasp what the original author intended to write, then what hope do we have of making sense of it?

As you read over Philippians be looking for answers to these questions:

1. Who wrote this letter? What do I learn about him in this letter?
2. Who received this letter? What do I learn about them in this letter?
3. What circumstances prompted this letter to be written?
4. What do you think the main aims of this letter are?

STUDY #1: Philippians 1:1-11

Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus,

*To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are at Philippi, with
the overseers and deacons:*

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

*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 defence and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸ For God
is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ
Jesus. 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.*

Here are some suggested steps to work through:

1. Read the passage and mark any repeated words/phrases and anything that stands out to you.
2. Are there any major sub-sections or breaks in the text? Are there connecting words (e.g. for, therefore, but, because) that reveal the logical flow of the passage?
3. What is the main point or points?
4. How does this passage relate to Jesus? What does it teach me about God?
5. How does this passage challenge your understanding?
6. In what ways does this passage call on you to change the way you think or live?

STUDY #2: Philippians 1:12-18a

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 defence 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 pretence or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice.*

Here are some suggested steps to work through:

1. Read the passage and mark any repeated words/phrases and anything that stands out to you. What was said in the preceding verses?
2. Are there any major sub-sections or breaks in the text? Are there connecting words (e.g. for, therefore, but, because) that reveal the logical flow of the passage?
3. What is the main point or points?
4. How does this passage relate to Jesus? What does it teach me about God?
5. How does this passage challenge your understanding?

6. In what ways does this passage call on you to change the way you think or live?

STUDY #3: Philippians 1:18b-30

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 honoured in my body, whether by life or by death.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 labour 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.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.

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. 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.

Here are some suggested steps to work through:

1. Read the passage and mark any repeated words/phrases and anything that stands out to you. What was said in the preceding verses?
2. Are there any major sub-sections or breaks in the text? Are there connecting words (e.g. for, therefore, but, because) that reveal the logical flow of the passage?
3. What is the main point or points?
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STUDY #4: Philippians 2:1-11

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, 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. ⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Here are some suggested steps to work through:

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2. Are there any major sub-sections or breaks in the text? Are there connecting words (e.g. for, therefore, but, because) that reveal the logical flow of the passage?
3. What is the main point or points?
4. How does this passage relate to Jesus? What does it teach me about God?

5. How does this passage challenge your understanding?
6. In what ways does this passage call on you to change the way you think or live?

STUDY #5: Philippians 2:12-18

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 labour in vain. ¹⁷ 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. ¹⁸ Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.

Here are some suggested steps to work through:

1. Read the passage and mark any repeated words/phrases and anything that stands out to you. What was said in the preceding verses?
2. Are there any major sub-sections or breaks in the text? Are there connecting words (e.g. for, therefore, but, because) that reveal the logical flow of the passage?
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6. In what ways does this passage call on you to change the way you think or live?

STUDY #6: Philippians 2:19-30

¹⁹ *I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, so that I too may be cheered by news of you.* ²⁰ *For I have no one like him, who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare.* ²¹ *For they all seek their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ.* ²² *But you know Timothy's proven worth, how as a son with a father he has served with me in the gospel.* ²³ *I hope therefore to send him just as soon as I see how it will go with me,* ²⁴ *and I trust in the Lord that shortly I myself will come also.*

²⁵ *I have thought it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus my brother and fellow worker and fellow soldier, and your messenger and minister to my need,* ²⁶ *for he has been longing for you all and has been distressed because you heard that he was ill.* ²⁷ *Indeed he was ill, near to death. But God had mercy on him, and not only on him but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow.* ²⁸ *I am the more eager to send him, therefore, that you may rejoice at seeing him again, and that I may be less anxious.* ²⁹ *So receive him in the Lord with all joy, and honour such men,* ³⁰ *for he nearly died for the work of Christ, risking his life to complete what was lacking in your service to me.*

Here are some suggested steps to work through:

1. Read the passage and mark any repeated words/phrases and anything that stands out to you. What was said in the preceding verses?
2. Are there any major sub-sections or breaks in the text? Are there connecting words (e.g. for, therefore, but, because) that reveal the logical flow of the passage?
3. What is the main point or points?

4. How does this passage relate to Jesus? What does it teach me about God?
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