

# PHILIPPIANS: A LETTER FROM LOCKDOWN WEEK 1

## DAY 1: READ PHILIPPIANS 1:1-11

Paul is writing a letter to the Christ-followers in Philippi; Paul is writing to the first church he founded in Europe. In his writing, he shows how he deeply cares for the spiritual growth and continued faithfulness of the Christ-followers there. Are we invested in the spiritual wellbeing and continued faithfulness of the believers we know? In modern church culture, we seem to imply we care about the spiritual wellbeing of our fellow believers, but stop short of physical demonstration or verbal communication of our desire to see others press on deeper into Christ and further into obedience to His mission. Find someone today and encourage them in person or with words to continue pursuing Christ and His call.

## DAY 2: READ PHILIPPIANS 1:12-14

Paul has been imprisoned for serving Christ, yet he's clear about its greater purpose and his desire to use it for God's glory and the growth of His kingdom. Paul is clear about his intention to use every fleeting moment for God's glory, even while locked up in prison. Prison or not, how can we practically focus entirely on glorifying God? What are you doing today? How can you yield it and intentionally sacrifice yourself for His glory and the growth of His kingdom? Commit to it no matter what.

## DAY 3: READ PHILIPPIANS 1:15-18

As imperfect sinners trusting in Christ, we still fail to keep our eyes solely on Him. As Christians often caught up in "church culture," we find ourselves preoccupied more with a pastor, worship team, author, speaker, denomination or style than the character and mission of Christ Jesus. We place our hopes, our theology, our worship in imperfect, sinful things and get jaded when we realize these things are failing, done for wrong reasons, narcissistic and, ultimately, not God. Let's keep our eyes on Jesus, church. His greater glory must be our preoccupation. Only then will we leave those namesakes, personalities, brands and otherwise imperfect lenses because we have ultimate clarity of God's big picture through Jesus.

# Philippians

a letter from lockdown

#### **DAY 4: READ 2 TIMOTHY 4:9-18**

Paul, knowing he is going to die soon, is concerned with continuing on with the time he has left for the sake of the Gospel. Do we hold the same regard for our heavenly mission on earth? Or, when life gets tough, do we set it aside so we can concentrate and “fix” our situation before resuming God’s mission for our lives? Pray about it and ask God to reveal the selfish priorities taking precedence over His call. Ask the Holy Spirit for help correcting it. He is always faithful to answer.

#### **DAY 5: READ 2 TIMOTHY 4:1-5**

We’ve been charged by Paul in the presence of God and Christ Jesus to preach the word, being ready in season and out of season, to reprove, rebuke and exhort with complete patience and teaching. Do we do any of that? Or, do we do any of that in the love of Christ? Why or why not? Ask the Lord to reveal areas of your life where you can obey this charge. Listen for His voice and seek to saturate your actions in the love of Christ and fullness of the Holy Spirit.

#### **DAY 6: READ 2 TIMOTHY 4:6-8**

Paul is entirely focused on obedience to God’s call. Paul is sure he is going to die soon and is proud of how he has obeyed God’s call. His description of being poured out as a drink offering is beautiful. We, too are offerings for God’s glory. If we also used the imagery Paul describes here and called our lives drink offerings, how much would be left in the cup? Would we keep a little left in the cup for later? Is there such a thing as a partial offering? Would we empty ourselves out entirely for His pleasure and the growth of His kingdom?

#### **DAY 7: READ EPHESIANS 5**

Christ gave himself up (entirely) as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. Let’s give up the hidden, flagrant and imperfect things we’ve held on to for so long so we can better cling to Him, be transformed by His Spirit and offer the entirety of our beings, our lives for His great pleasure and the great rescue of others in Christ Jesus. Let’s submit our pride, our flesh and our sin at the feet of Jesus so we can be humble, abounding in Christ’s love and, covered in Christ’s blood, an ambassador and model of Christ’s love to our families, friends, neighbors, enemies and strangers.