

Philippians

The 'Lock Down' Letter

We will be working our way through Paul's letter to the Philippians, and then on into the first few chapters from Acts.

Paul writes his letter to the Philippians whilst in prison or under house arrest (he is experiencing his own 'lock down').

He is writing to a relatively new church that he really loved and knew well, the church in Philippi. The church was doing well, he was not having to write to address some major issue or challenge, he simply wanted to teach and encourage them to take hold of the God-given opportunities before them at that time.

Jesus is at the heart of this letter Paul writes to the church; who He is, what He has done, and what that then means for the followers of Jesus in Philippi, particularly as the culture of that day was so pagan.

We are taking our time over this letter with just a few verses to look at each day, and

There are a few things you may wish to do as you start, and then as you make your way through:

- Read the whole letter through in one sitting (or maybe listen to it on a Bible app on your phone or tablet).
- Get hold of a commentary – *Paul for Everyone: The Prison Letters* by Tom Wright is a good one, but there are others you could look at.
- Try to look at other parts of the Bible as you read and reflect on

Philippians 1:1–11 Paul's Reasons for Thanks

Monday	1:1–2
Tuesday	1:3–11
Wednesday	Key Verses – 1:3–5 For Paul, prayer was a central way to experience a partnership in the gospel. How can your prayer life begin to more fully reflect that conviction? Are there any obstacles to do this? Bring your thankfulness to Father God for those in your life that you are thankful for.

Philippians 1:12–26 Full of Hope

Thursday	1:12–14
Friday	1:15–26
Saturday	Key Verses – 1:12–14 How did you first come to know Jesus? Who were the key people in your life who informed you of Jesus? How would reframing your circumstances the way Paul did help you see who God might be trying to reach through you?
Sunday	Psalm 33 – <i>The Greatness and the Goodness of God</i>

Philippians 1:27–2:4 Unity in Christ

Monday	1:27–30
Tuesday	2:1–4
Wednesday	Key Verse – 1:27 Paul stresses that our unity is an outworking of our 'public behaviour matching the gospel of the King' What are some of the essential elements, marks, or practices of Christian unity?

Philippians 2:5–18 The Mind of the Messiah

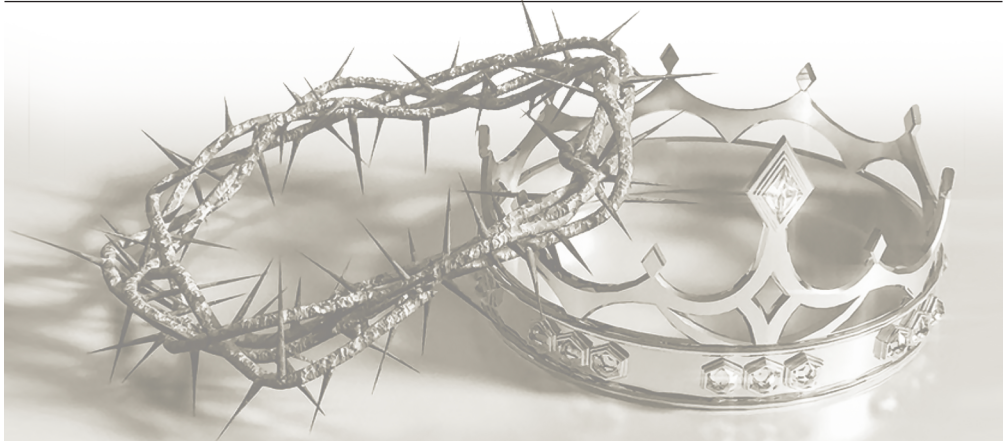
Thursday	2:5–11
Friday	2:12–18
Saturday	Key Verse 2:5 We read that we should 'Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus'; the encouragement and invitation surely means this is attainable? What in your life do you need to 're-think' in the light of the description of Christ in this section, and what you know of Him?
Sunday	Psalm 139:1–18 <i>The Inescapable God</i>

Philippians 2:19–30 Timothy and Epaphroditus

Monday	2:19–24
Tuesday	2:25–30
Wednesday	<p>Key Verse 2:20</p> <p>Both Timothy and Epaphroditus are examples of people living out an expression of Jesus’ story. Timothy is constantly concerned with the welfare of others rather than his own and Epaphroditus is risking his own life to serve.</p> <p><i>Paul sends Epaphroditus back to the Philippians asking them to welcome him with Christian love and with great joy, and give him the honour that people like him deserve.</i></p> <p>Take a moment to reflect and pray for those who are an expression of Jesus in our world and in your own life.</p>

Philippians 3:1–16The Worth of the King

Thursday	3:1–9
Friday	3:10–16
Saturday	<p>Key Verses 3:7–11</p> <p>Paul puts all value and worth in Christ Jesus... take a moment to consider what is valuable to you. Why is it so valuable? Paul says he discarded/gave up ‘everything’ to know Christ Jesus as his Lord. Holy Spirit reveal to us what we need to give up so that we may know you more as our Lord, become one with you and increase our faith. We pray often to know and experience the mighty power that raised Christ from the dead, but Paul equally prays that he will suffer with Jesus as well. How does Paul’s idea of sharing in Christ’s sufferings challenge us today?</p>
Sunday	Psalm 150 ‘Let everything that has breath praise the Lord’



Philippians 3:17–4:9 Citizens of Heaven

Monday	3:17–21
Tuesday	4:1–9
Wednesday	Key Verse 3:20 Central to the whole letter is the fact that ‘we are citizens of heaven’ here on earth. How might your citizenship in heaven change, recondition, or create tension with your earthly citizenship

Philippians 4:10–23 Contentment in All Circumstances

Thursday	4:10–20
Friday	4:21–23
Saturday	Key Verse 4:18 In the section Paul emphasises his contentment in all situations as well as his gratitude for the costly support he received from the church at Philippi, which he described as ‘a sacrifice with a beautiful smell, a worthy offering, giving pleasure to God.’ For a moment examine your heart when it comes to giving and generosity.
Sunday	Psalm 23 <i>Safe in the Shepherd's Arms</i>

Acts 1 – 4 ‘Prequel, Power, Prayer and Persecution’

Monday	Acts 1:1–5 Here comes the Prequel
Tuesday	1:6–14 Ascension
Wednesday	1:15–26 Restoring the Twelve
Thursday	2:1–4 Here Comes the Power
Friday	2:5–13 New Words for New News.
Saturday	2:14–21 It's All Coming True at Last.
Sunday	2:22–36 David Speaks of Jesus' Resurrection
Monday	2:37–41 God's Rescue Plan
Tuesday	2:42–47 The New Family
Wednesday	3:1 –10 More than He Bargained for
Thursday	3:11–26 The Clash of Loyalties
Friday	4:1–22 Resurrection + the Name of Jesus = Trouble.
Saturday	4:23–31 Look upon Their Threats
Sunday	4:32–37 Signs of New Covenant