

Stand Firm in the Faith

Proclamation Life Groups; Week of Sunday, April 19th; Steve Thiel

Paul wrote Philippians to express his joy and concern. It rings with gratitude for all the different ways in which the gospel was going forward. And yet, the Philippians faced opposition from false teachers. This resulted in conflicts that jeopardized the church. So Paul wrote to encourage the believers to stand firm in their faith as a unified body despite the difficulties by centering their affections on who God is and what Christ accomplished for their salvation.

I. Observation Questions

- A. Read completely through the book of Philippians twice. During the second reading, write down the major themes that stand out to you from this letter.

Major Theme from the Letter

Verse References

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

- B. What words, concepts, or phrases are repeated throughout the book?

Repeated Word / Concept / Phrase

Verse References

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

- C. Based on the information within Philippians, what do we know about Paul's current situation?

- D. Who are Timothy and Epaphroditus? What is their relationship to Paul and to the Philippians?

II. Interpretation Questions

- A. Paul clearly loves the church in Philippi, but why do you think he loves them so much?

- B. Why do you think Paul's brings up Jesus' incarnation and humiliation in Philippians 2:5-11?

- C. In Philippians 2:19-30, why would Paul send Timothy and Epaphroditus to Philippi?

- D. The idea of joy and rejoicing comes up throughout the letter. In Philippians 3:1 and 4:4, Paul says, "Rejoice in the Lord". What do you think he means by that?

III. Application Questions

- A. What are some of the ways in which you can tell where your affections (joy) are focused?

- B. When you evaluate your own life, what do you think brings you the most joy?

- C. What people, events, or difficulties tend to threaten your joy?

- D. What are some of the things that you can do to focus your joy in the Lord?