

Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church
Board of Christian Education

Vacation Bible School 2017



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL WEEK is August 14 - 18, 2017

Dinner	5:15 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Assembly in the Sanctuary	6:15 p.m. to 6:35 p.m.
All Students to Class in the CENTER OF FAMILIES	6:45 p.m. to 8:15 p.m.
All Students in the Sanctuary for Closing Assembly	8:20 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Dismiss for the Evening at 8:30 p.m.

Vacation Bible School 2017

Theme: Joy in Serving God

Description: The Church in Philippi was the first church Paul established in Europe early in his second missionary journey. Now Paul was in prison in Rome about 10 years after he founded the church and about three or four years after he had last visited there. It seems that Paul had begun to wonder if the people in Philippi had forgotten him. Then Epaphroditus arrived from far away Philippi with an offering of money. Paul was deeply touched. Because of this, Paul sent Epaphroditus back to Philippi with this beautiful letter.

Day 1: A Worthy Life

Philippians 1:3-14, 27-30 – **Teacher: Mr. Charles Bradford**

The first lesson outlines a worthy life that is possible even though a person may be in an unfair situation. Instead of focusing on the unfairness of it all, Paul remembered with thanksgiving people who were his friends. His heart was filled with affection for them, and he told them about that affection. Instead of saying, "I want out of here," Paul looked for the good of his readers and expressed his prayer that their lives might abound. He encouraged them to live their lives in a manner worthy of what God has done for them/us in Christ, regardless of how bad the circumstances might be.

Day 2: Christ Our Model

Philippians 2:1-16 – **Teacher: Ms. Aline Roberson**

This class encourages the student to live a life amid diversity by maintaining an attitude of humility. The lesson will show how Christ set the example in His unselfish attitudes and in His serving activities.

Day 3: Keep On Keeping On

Philippians 3:1-16 – **Teacher: T. J. Ticey**

This class encourages the student to stick with Christ and His way, in spite of competition, opposition, barriers, and failures. There are many priorities pulling us in different directions at the same time, but the principles of this lesson are as up to date now as they were in the first century.

Day 4: Rejoice in the Lord

Philippians 4:4-20 – **Teacher: Rochelle Avent-Hassan**

This class zeros in on positive thinking amidst negative surroundings. This lesson challenges the student to give up being negative. It shows what the power of a positive attitude can do in, for, and through a person.



Book of Philippians

Author: Philippians 1:1 identifies the author of the Book of Philippians as the apostle Paul.

Date of Writing: The Book of Philippians was written in approximately A.D. 61.

Purpose of Writing: The Epistle to the Philippians, one of Paul's prison epistles, was written in Rome. It was at Philippi, which the apostle visited on his second missionary journey (Acts 16:12), that Lydia and the Philippian jailer and his family were converted to Christ. Now, some few years later, the church was well established, as may be inferred from its address which includes "bishops (elders) and deacons" (Phil. 1:1).

The occasion of the epistle was to acknowledge a gift of money from the church at Philippi, brought to the apostle by Epaphroditus, one of its members (Philippians 4:10-18). This is a tender letter to a group of Christians who were especially close to the heart of Paul (II Cor. 8:1-6), and comparatively little is said about doctrinal error.

Brief Summary: Philippians can be called "Resources through Suffering." The book is about Christ in our life, Christ in our mind, Christ as our goal, Christ as our strength, and joy through suffering. It was written during Paul's imprisonment in Rome, about thirty years after Christ's ascension and about ten years after Paul first preached at Philippi.

Paul was Nero's prisoner, yet the epistle fairly shouts with triumph, the words "joy" and "rejoice" appearing frequently (Phil. 1:4, 18, 25, 26; 2:2, 28; 3:1, 4:1, 4, 10). Right Christian experience is the outworking, whatever our circumstances may be, of the life, nature, and mind of Christ living in us (Phil. 1:6, 11; 2:5, 13). Philippians reaches its pinnacle at 2:5-11 with the glorious and profound declaration regarding the humiliation and exaltation of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Philippians may be divided as follows:

- I. Introduction, 1:1-7
- II. Christ the Christian's Life: Rejoicing in Spite of Suffering, 1:8-30
- III. Christ the Christian's Pattern: Rejoicing in Lowly Service, 2:1-30
- IV. Christ the Object of the Christian's Faith, Desire, and Expectation, 3:1-21
- V. Christ the Christian's Strength: Rejoicing Through Anxiety, 4:1-9
- VI. Conclusion, 4:10-23

Practical Application: Philippians is one of Paul's most personal letters, and as such it has several personal applications to believers. Written during his imprisonment in Rome, Paul exhorts the Philippians to follow his example and be "encouraged to speak the word of God more courageously and fearlessly" (Phil. 1:14) during times of persecution. All Christians have experienced, at one time or another, the animosity of unbelievers against the gospel of Christ. This is to be expected. Jesus said, "The world hated Him and it will hate His followers as well" (John 5:18). Paul exhorts us to persevere in the face of persecution, to "stand firm in one spirit, contending as one man for the faith of the gospel" (Phil. 1:27).

Another application of Philippians is the need for Christians to be united in humility. We are united with Christ and we need to strive to be united to one another in the same way. Paul reminds us to be "like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose" and to put away conceit and selfishness, "but in humility consider others better than yourselves" looking out for the interest of others and caring for one another (Phil. 2:2-4). There would be far less conflict in churches today, if we all took Paul's advice to heart.

Another application of Philippians is that of the "joy and rejoicing" which are found throughout his letter. He rejoices that Christ is being proclaimed (Phil. 1:8); he rejoices in his persecution (2:18); he exhorts others to rejoice in the Lord (3:1); and he refers to the Philippian brothers as his "joy and crown" (4:1). He sums up with this exhortation to believers: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again, I say Rejoice" (4:4-7).

As believers, we can rejoice and experience the peace of God by casting all our cares on Him, if we "in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let [our] requests be made known to God" (4:6). Paul's joy, in spite of persecution and imprisonment, comes shining through this epistle, and we are promised the same joy he experienced when we center our thoughts on the Lord (Phil. 4:8).

