

The Book of Philippians
Weekly Devotional

If you ask many Christians what their favorite book of the bible is, many will say “ the Book of Philippians.” This book does not have a hard tone with Paul rebuking the church (i.e. Galatians). Rather it carries with it a strongly encouraging tone. As we will see in our study of the book on Sunday mornings, the Church of Philippi was one of Paul’ s most faithful partners in ministry. While it’ s assured that they had their share of problems, we can plainly see how this church was a great example to all churches in the world, for all time. They were partners in the furthering of the gospel, they supported Paul with financial gifts (even though they were not extremely wealthy) and they were deeply grieved when they heard that Epaphroditus was sick. As you read through this book, you will notice that Paul thanks the Lord for their faithfulness. He also encourages them as they continue to grow in grace. We pray that as we study the book of Philippians we can learn from Paul and also the church to which he was writing.

This week, take some time to read through the entire book of Philippians (by yourself or maybe even with your family). Try to get a picture of the whole book and how it relates together. Often we pick up the Bible and read a few verses and put it down to read the next night (if we are being honest it’ s usually more like a FEW nights!) What happens is we end up not understanding the passage in light of the whole book. This can be very detrimental to our understanding of the text. With books like Philippians this can be even worse. This book (and the rest of the Epistles — Romans, Galatians, Ephesians, Colossians, etc) is written as a letter. I can remember the summer I worked at camp. I was away from Melanie for two months and we wrote quite a lot of letters. When I got letters from her I would

usually read about five lines and then let it sit on my dresser for a few days. Maybe a few days later I would read a few more lines. Then when I had a couple extra minutes I would finally finish it about week later...Yeah, right! In reality, when I got a letter from her I would tear that thing open and go off into a corner and read the whole thing (often more than once!). Then I would go back and read sections over again.

While I wouldn’ t say that we have to read the books of the bible in one sitting (it wouldn’ t be such a horrible thing however), I encourage you to read as much as possible and also with the question of what the author was trying to say to his readers. So, this week, read through the book of Philippians (maybe even a few times) to get yourself familiar its contents. I promise it will help you understand the book better and help you engage better as we study it together on Sunday mornings. To help, take some notes on the on what you think the main idea of each chapter is and write down some things that you find helpful.

Chapter 1:

Chapter 2:

Chapter 3:

Chapter 4:

