

Philippians Series

Lesson #032

February 2, 2023

Dean Bible Ministries

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Philippians

How to Focus on Christ

Philippians 1:20–24



Php. 1:19, “For I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayer and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,

Php. 1:20, “according to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death.” [NKJV]

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**1 sing perf act indic
to know; a confident knowledge**

σωτηρία sōtēria

**fem sing acc
salvation, preservation,
deliverance from a
difficult situation.**

Ten Spiritual Skills

Confession of Sin

**Personal sense of our
eternal destiny**

**Walking by the Holy Spirit/
Being filled by the HS**

Personal love for God (F)

Faith-Rest Drill

**Unconditional/Impersonal
love for all mankind**

Doctrinal orientation

Occupation with Christ

Grace orientation

**Sharing the happiness
of Christ**

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Personal sense of our eternal destiny

Php. 1:10, “that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, [the judgment seat of Christ]” [NKJV]

Php. 1:20, “according to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death.” [NKJV]

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1 John 2:28, “And now, little children, abide in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming.”

Php. 1:20, “according to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death.” [NKJV]

Psa. 34:3, “Oh, magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt His name together.”

Psa. 69:30, “I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify Him with thanksgiving.”

Php. 1:21, “For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.”
[NKJV]

Matt. 28:19, “ ‘Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, by baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

Matt. 28:20, “ ‘by teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.’ Amen.”

Php. 1:22, “But if I live on in the flesh, this will mean fruit from my labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell.”
[NKJV]

Rev. 21:4, “And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.” [NKJV]

Php. 1:23, “For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better.

Php. 1:24, “Nevertheless to remain in the flesh is more needful for you.” [NKJV]

**What the Bible Teaches
About**

Occupation with Christ



What does “occupation” mean in this context?

What does “occupation” mean in this context?

to be totally focused and engrossed in a task or with a person. Webster’s says it means 1: to engage the attention or energies of [*Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary*]

1. Occupied with Christ means to focus our attention on Him, so that we are fully engaged in fulfilling Christ's mission for our lives.

2. What is Christ's mission for our lives?

We are to understand we now belong to Christ:

1 Cor. 6:20, “For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.”

Phil. 3:12, “Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.”

3. The promise of abundant life.

John 10:10, “The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come 1) that they may have life, and 2) that they may have it more abundantly.”

Eph. 2:5, “even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

Eph. 2:6, “and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,”

1 John 2:4, “He who says, ‘I know Him,’ and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

1 John 2:5, “But whoever keeps His word, truly the love for God is matured in him. By this we know that we are in Him [walking in fellowship].”

4. But how do we get there?

- a. We must realize and accept that this is to be our objective also, to glorify Christ, to magnify Him!**
- b. To do so we must come to know Him. That only happens as we grow.**

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1 John 2:5, “But whoever keeps His word, truly the love for God is matured in him. By this we know that we are in Him [walking in fellowship].”

5. We must adjust our mental attitude focus.

Matt. 6:31, “Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’

Matt. 6:32, “For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things.

Matt. 6:33, “But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”

6. Occupation with Christ is developed along with our personal love for the Father and the Son. As we do this, we make that relationship the number one priority in our life.

Heb. 12:1, “Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

Heb. 12:2, “by looking [focusing, concentrating on] unto Jesus, the author [leader, originator] and one who has brought to completion our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

[NKJV]

1 Cor. 11:1, “Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.”

Heb. 6:12, “that you do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.”

Eph. 5:1, “Therefore be imitators of God as dear children.”

7. What is necessary to develop our love for God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Mark 12:33, “And to love Him with all the heart, with all the understanding, with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love one’s neighbor as oneself, is more than all the whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.”

John 14:15, “If you love Me, keep My commandments.”

John 14:24, “He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father’s who sent Me.”

1 John 4:20, “If someone says, ‘I love God,’ and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?”

1 John 5:2, “By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments.”

John 15:10, “If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father’s commandments and abide in His love.”

1 John 2:3, “Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments.

1 John 2:4, “He who says, ‘I know Him,’ and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.”

Conclusion

- 1. We are to renew and replace our agenda from perhaps the things we hope to do in this life, to orient to a goal of glorifying God and magnifying Christ.**
- 2. To do this we need to adjust our focus to Christ and His mission for us.**
- 3. We must learn how to think about Christ. To stop and reflect. As much as I hate to say this, because it has become a slogan to wear on T-shirts or other things. We need to ask this question: What would Jesus think about this? What would Jesus say about this?**