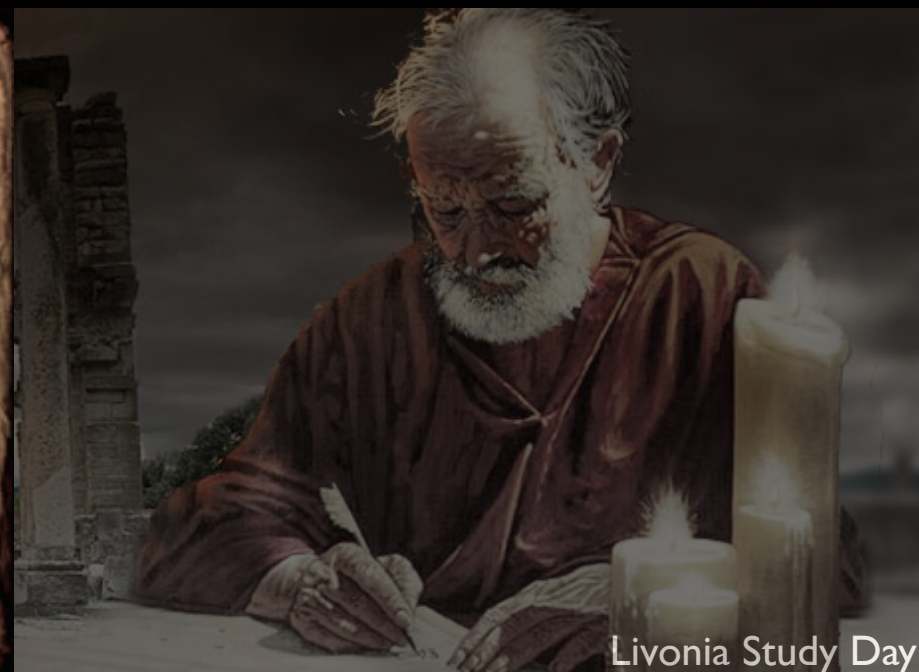


Philippians

‘Set for the defence of the gospel’ ~ Phil 1:17



Philippians

‘Set for the Defence of the Gospel’

1. Our Calling in Life - ‘Filled with the fruits of righteousness’ - Phil 1:11
2. Our Priorities in Life - ‘To live is Christ’ - Phil 1:21
3. Our Attitude in Life - ‘Let this mind be in you’ - Phil 2:5
4. Our Walk Unto Life - ‘Press toward the mark’ - Phil 3:14
5. Our Hope in Eternal Life - ‘Rejoice in the Lord alway’ - Phil 4:4

Class I - Our Calling in Life

‘Filled with the fruits of righteousness’ - Phil 1:11



Class Breakdown

1. Introduction - Phil 1:1-5
2. Formation - Acts 16:8-40
3. Progression - Phil 1:6-11
4. Exhortation - Acts 16 & Phil 1

The Journey to Philippi



Troas - Philippi = 140 miles (225 km)

Lydia - Her Character

13 And on the sabbath we went out of the city by a river side, where prayer was wont to be made; and we sat down, and spake unto the women which resorted thither.

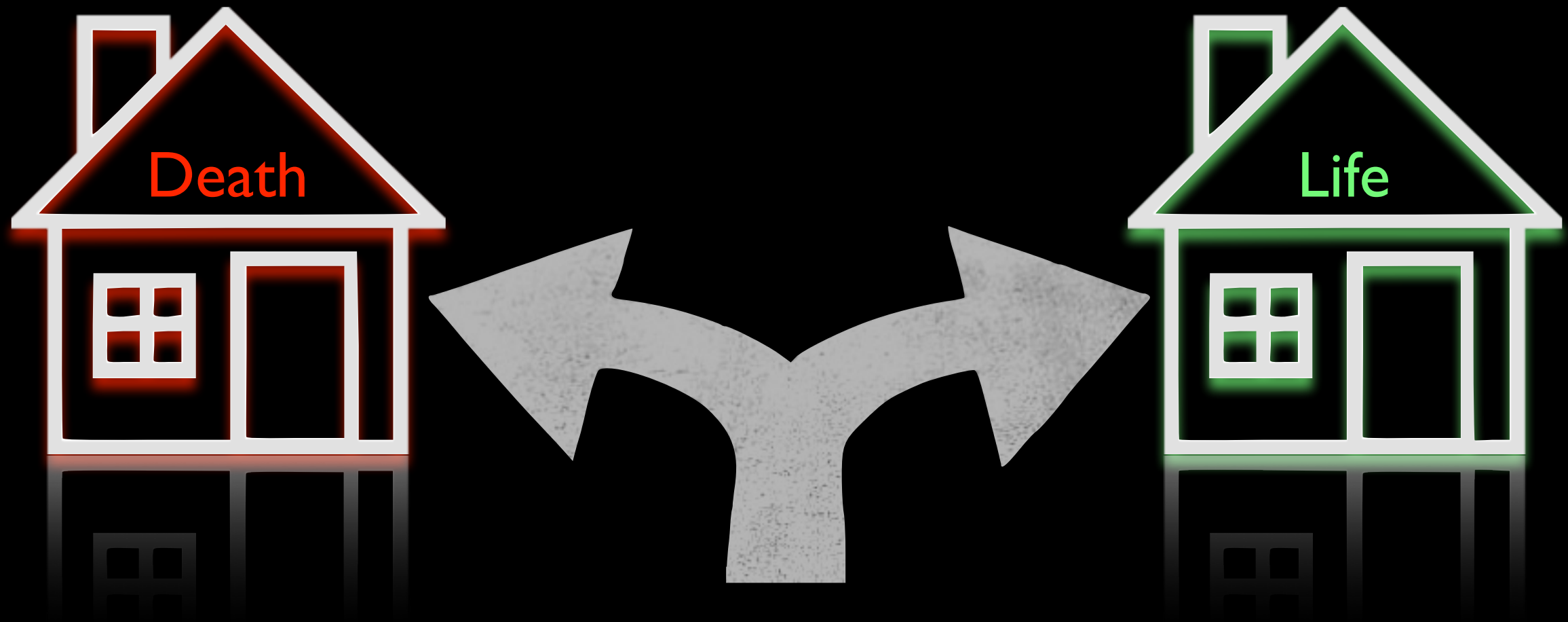
14 And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened, that she **attended** unto the things which were spoken of Paul.

15 And when she was baptized, **and** her household, she besought us, saying, If ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house, and abide there. And she **constrained** us.

Acts 16:13-15

- **v13** - Had an active prayer life
- **v14** - Had the right priorities in life
- Worshipped & feared God
- '**attended**' - *devotion of thought, apply oneself*
- Influenced others in a positive way
- She was hospitable - cp. **v40**
- '**constrained**' - *compel* - only other reference
 - **Lk 24:29**

Progress - In Which Direction?



Deut 30:19 "...I have set before you **life** and **death**...therefore choose **life**, that both thou and thy seed may live."

Progressing in the Truth

- Phil 1:6 - '...begun a good work in you **will perform it** until the day of Jesus Christ'
- Phil 1:9 - 'that your love may **abound yet more and more...**'
- Phil 1:14 - '....**waxing confident...much more bold** to speak the word...'
- Phil 1:25 - '...for your **furtherance** and joy of faith'
- Phil 2:2 - '**Fulfil** ye my joy...'
- Phil 3:14 - 'I **press toward** the mark...'
- Phil 3:17 - '...be **followers** together of me...'
- Phil 4:11 - '...for I **have learned...**'



Put to the Test - Phil 1:10

- Rom 12:2 - 'And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, **that ye may prove** what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.'
- 2 Cor 13:5 - 'Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; **prove** your own selves...'
- Gal 6:4 - 'But let every man **prove** his own work...'
- Eph 5:10 - '**Proving** what is acceptable unto the Lord.'
- 1 Thess 5:21 - '**Prove** all things; hold fast that which is good.'



Bringing Forth Fruits - Phil 1:11

1 Jn 3:7 - '...he that doeth righteousness is righteous'

Works of the Flesh

19 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; **Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,**

20 **Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,**

21 **Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings,** and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

Gal 5: 19-21

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is **love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,**

23 **Meekness, temperance:** against such there is no law.

Gal 5: 22-23

Fruit of the Spirit



Class I - Exhortations

- Brothers and Sisters come from many different walks in life - Acts 16

But all have been called by God - Rom 8:28

- 'Men who through joy, sing in prison, cannot really be imprisoned'

God can work through our difficulties to have an effect on others - Acts 16:23-34

- Must be progressing in our discipleship before God - Phil 1:6, 9

'The path of the just...shineth more and more unto the perfect day' - Prov 4:18

- Are we bearing fruit of the Spirit or works of the flesh? - Phil 1:11

'If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit' - Gal 5:25

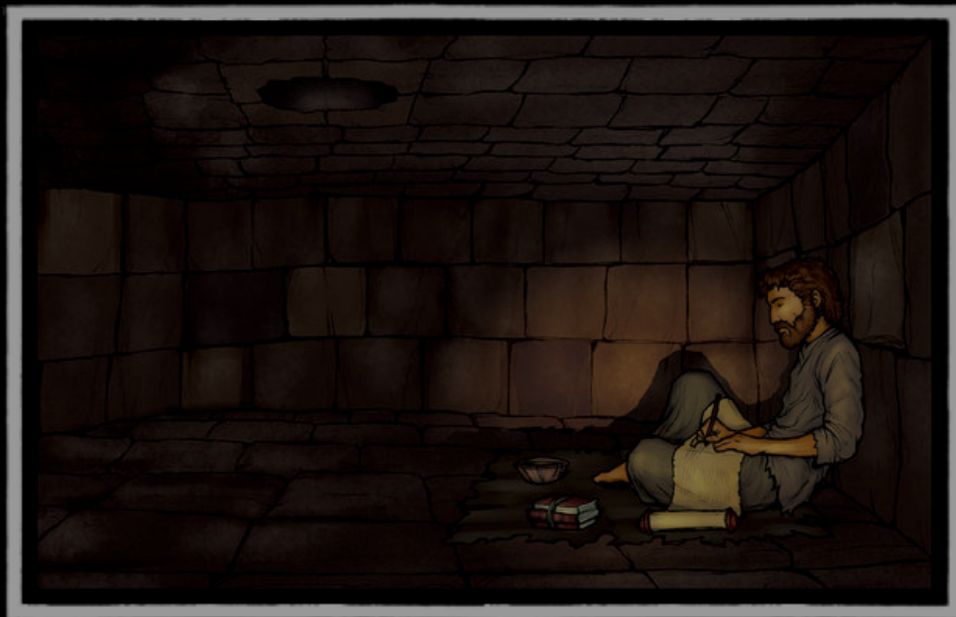
Class 2 ~ Our Priorities in Life

‘To live is Christ’ ~ Phil 1:21



Class 2- Our Priorities in Life

'To live is Christ - Phil 1:21



1. Paul's Position - Phil 1:12-18

2. Paul's Priorities - Phil 1:19-26

3. Paul's Push - Phil 1:27-30



Paul's Position - v12-18

12 But I would ye should understand, brethren, that the things which happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the **furtherance** of the gospel;

13 So that my bonds in Christ are manifest in all the palace, and in all other places;

14 And many of the brethren in the Lord, waxing confident by my bonds, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

Phil 1:12-14

- '**furtherance**' - *advancement* - used 3x in NT (Phil 1:12; 1:25; 1 Tim 4:15)

Acts 28:30-31 - 'And Paul dwelt two whole years in his own hired house, and received all that came in unto him. Preaching the kingdom of God, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ, with all confidence, no man forbidding him.'

- v14 - Enthusiasm is contagious!

Paul's Shared Experience - v15-16

Enduring jealousy and affliction from others:

1. Joseph - Gen 37:11

‘And his brethren **envied** him; but his father observed the saying.’

2. David - 1 Sam 18:8-9

‘And Saul was very wroth, and the saying displeased him; and he said, They have ascribed unto David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed but thousands: and what can he have more but the kingdom? And Saul **eyed** David from that day and forward.’

3. Christ - Mt 27:18

‘For [Pilate] knew that for **envy** they had delivered him.’

Strength from God amidst trial:

1. Joseph - Gen 39:2

‘And the **Lord was with Joseph...**’

2. David - 2 Sam 7:3

‘And Nathan said to the king, Go, do all that is in thine heart; for **the Lord is with thee.**’

3. Christ - Lk 22:43

‘And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, **strengthening him.**’

The Importance of Praying for Others

Eph 6:18 'Praying always with all prayer...for all saints'

Col 4:2-3 'Continue in prayer...withal praying also for us'

1 Thess 5:25 'Brethren, pray for us'

2 Thess 3:1 'Finally, brethren, pray for us, that the word of the Lord may have free course, and be glorified'

Heb 13:18 'Pray for us'

The Philippian Ecclesia's Concern for Paul

'For I know that this shall turn to my salvation through your prayer, and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ' Phil 1:19

Paul's Push - 1:27-30

27 Only conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ so that—whether I come and see you or whether I remain absent—I should hear that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind, by contending side by side for the faith of the gospel,

28 and by not being intimidated in any way by your opponents. This is a sign of their destruction, but of your salvation—a sign which is from God.

29 For it has been granted to you not only to believe in Christ but also to suffer for him,

30 since you are encountering the same conflict that you saw me face and now hear that I am facing.

Phil 1:27-30 (NET)

Paul's Push to the Philippians

27 Only let your **conversation** be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind **striving together** for the faith of the gospel;

28 And in nothing **terrified** by your adversaries: which is to them an evident token of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that of God.

29 For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake;

Phil 1:27-29

- '**conversation**' - *behave or conduct oneself* cp. **Titus 2:7**
- '**striving together**' - *wrestle in company with, seek jointly*
- '**terrified**' - word used for when a horse is startled
- **v29** - Time to put the faith into action!
cp. **Heb 12:6** - 'For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth...'

Class 2 - Exhortations

- Our enthusiasm for the truth can be contagious! - Phil 1:14

Even amidst trials or difficulties, our reaction to it can be a source of strength to others

- What is our first priority in life? - Phil 1:21

It must be living for Christ, developing his character to be found worthy of God - 2 Cor 5:8-10

- 'The Lord knoweth them that are his' - 2 Tim 2:19

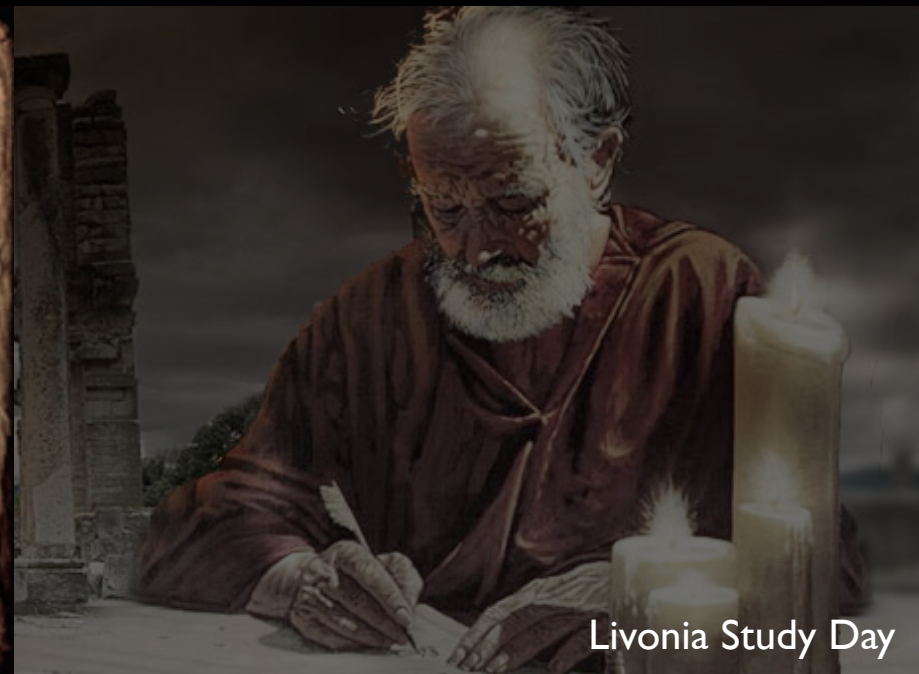
Will Christ know us when he returns to set up his kingdom? Are we living for him?

- We are not alone in working towards overcoming difficulties in our discipleship - Phil 1:27

Are we 'striving together'? Are we helping or hindering?

Class 3 ~ Our Attitude in Life

‘Let this mind be in you’ ~ Phil 2:5



Philippians

‘Set for the Defence of the Gospel’

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Class 3 - Our Attitude in Life

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Paul's 3 Examples:

1. Jesus Christ - Phil 2:5-11
2. Timothy - Phil 2:19-23
3. Epaphroditus - Phil 2:25-30

Establishing the Principle - v1-4

2 Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be likeminded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind.

3 Let nothing be done through **strife** or vainglory; but in **lowliness of mind** let each esteem other better than themselves.

4 Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.

Phil 2:2-4

- v2 - Repetition of Phil 1:27
- '**strife**' - *factions, provoke, intrigue*
- '**lowliness of mind**' - *humbleness of mind* - 7x in the NT - Acts 20:19; Eph 4:2; Phil 2:3; Col 2:18, 23; 3:12; 1 Pet 5:5 (6x by Paul)

Paul was least of the apostles - 1 Cor 15:9

Paul was least of all saints - Eph 3:8

Paul was chief of sinners - 1 Tim 1:15



'Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.' Gal 6:2

Paul's 1st Example - Christ

- Phil 2:6 'did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped'
- Phil 2:7 'no reputation...form of a servant'
- Phil 2:8 'humbled himself...obedient'



'Let this mind be in you...' Phil 1:5

Paul's 2nd Example - Timothy

19 But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timotheus shortly unto you, that I also may be of good comfort, when I know your state.

20 For I have no man **likeminded**, who will **naturally care for** your state.

21 For all seek their own, not the things which are Jesus Christ's.

22 But ye know the **proof of him**, that, as a son with the father, he hath served with me in the gospel.

Phil 2:19-22

- **v19** - Timothy was reliable
- '**likeminded**' - *equal in soul*
- '**naturally care for**' - *genuinely be anxious*
- **v21** - 'Others are busy with their own concerns' (NET)
- '**proof of him**' - Roth. adds 'be taking note'

Paul's 3rd Example - Epaphroditus

25 Yet I supposed it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my **brother**, and **companion** in labour, and **fellowsoldier**, but your **messenger**, and he that **ministered** to my wants.

Phil 2:25

What he Did

- '**brother**' - most important aspect 1st!
- '**companion**' - *fellow worker*
- '**fellowsoldier**' - *co-campaigner*
cp. 2 Tim 2:3-4

Was Sent to do

- '**messenger**' - *delegate*
(Journey - 653 miles or 1,050 km)
- '**ministered**' - carries the idea of one busied with holy things, i.e. work in the Temple or Gospel

‘Let this mind be in you...’

Phil 2:5

Christ

As a servant
Mk 9:12; 10:45; Mt 20:25-28

Showed humility
Jn 13:3-5

Risked his life for the ministry
Rom 5:8 (1 Jn 3:16)

Cared more for others
Gal 6:2

Provided comfort and joy
2 Cor 1:5



Timothy

Served with Paul in the gospel
Phil 2:22

Not busy with his own concerns
Phil 2:21

To busy caring for others
Phil 2:20 (1 Tim 5:23)

Cared for their state
Phil 2:20

Comforted the Thessalonians
1 Thess 3:2

Epaphroditus

Ministered to Paul's wants
Phil 2:25

Put others ahead of himself
Phil 2:30

Worked in the truth even when sick
Phil 2:27

Longed for the Philippians
Phil 2:26

Brought joy to the Philippians
Phil 2:28-29

Class 3 - Exhortations

- Attitude is contagious...is your's worth catching? - Timothy & Epaphroditus

‘If we dropped a bible at work, would your co-workers know who to give it to?’

- Humility and sacrificing ourselves for others is vitally important - Phil 2:3

God can work through our difficulties to have an effect on others - Acts 16:23-34

- ‘Bear ye one anther's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ’ - Gal 6:2

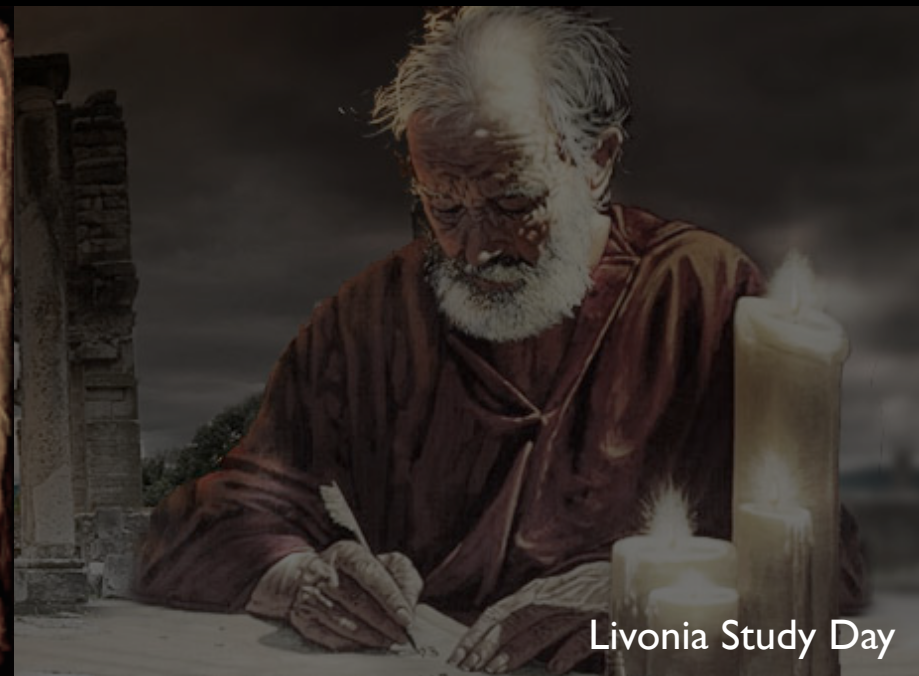
‘We need to have complete dedication to the salvation of our Brothers & Sisters, regardless of their dedication to ours.’ Bro. Roy Styles

- ‘Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.’ - Phil 2:5

Let the mind of the Master, be the master of your mind.

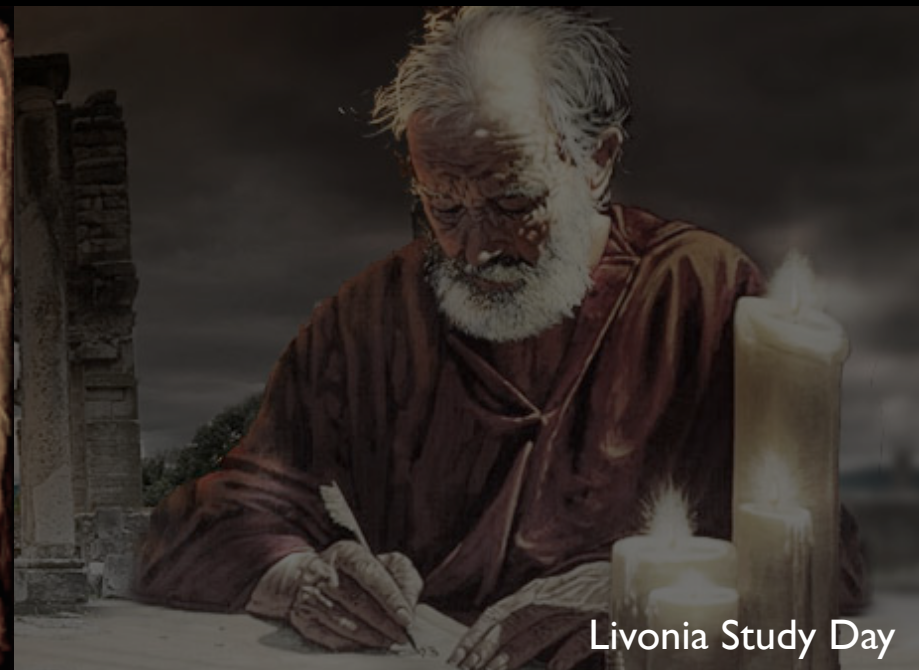
Class 4 ~ Our Walk Unto Life

‘Press toward the mark’ ~ Phil 3:14



Class 5 ~ Our Hope in Eternal Life

‘Rejoice in the Lord alway’ ~ Phil 4:4



Livonia Study Day

Philippians

‘Set for the Defence of the Gospel’

1. Our Calling in Life -

2. Our Priorities in Life -

3. Our Attitude in Life -

4. Our Walk Unto Life -

5. Our Hope in Eternal Life - ‘Rejoice in the Lord alway’ - Phil 4:4

Paul's Consistent Message

- 'Rejoice always' - 1 Thess 5:16
- 'Always rejoicing' - 2 Cor 6:10
- 'All things work together for good...if God be for us, who can be against us' - Rom 8:28, 31
- 'Our light affliction, which is but for a moment' - 2 Cor 4:17
- 'Rejoice in the Lord always' - Phil 4:4



God's Care for Us - Phil 4:7

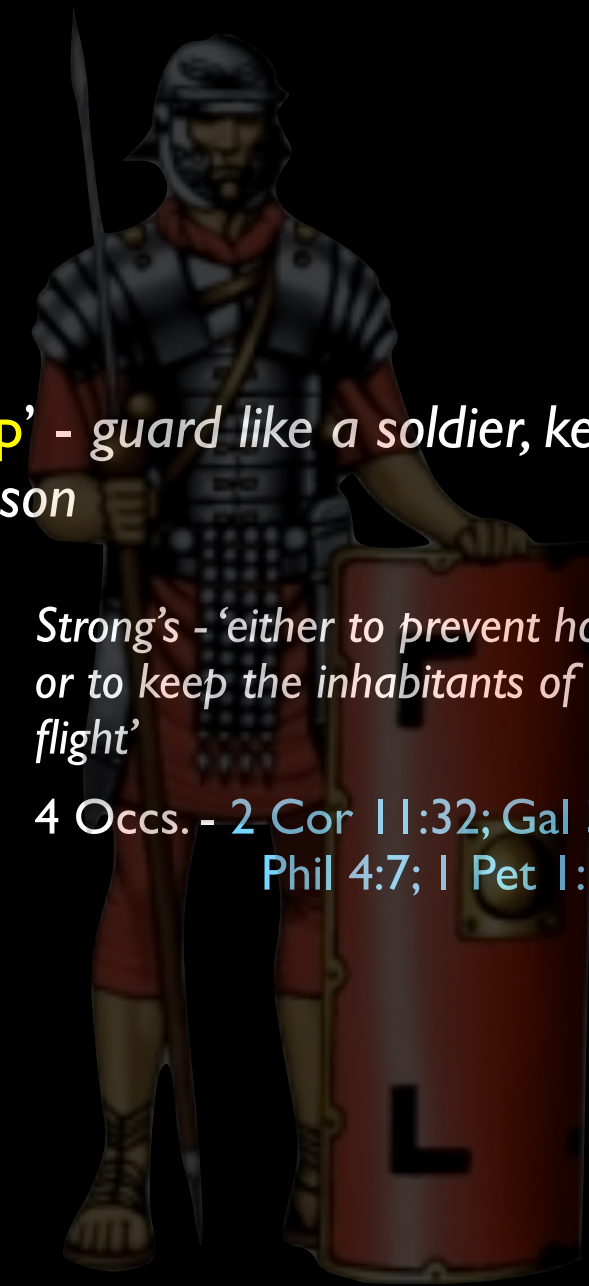
7 And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall **keep** your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Phil 4:7

- '**keep**' - guard like a soldier, keep with a garrison

Strong's - 'either to prevent hostile invasion, or to keep the inhabitants of a city from flight'

4 Occs. - 2 Cor 11:32; Gal 3:23;
Phil 4:7; 1 Pet 1:5



'And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom...And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.' Col 3:15-17

What Occupies our Minds?

8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are **true**,
whosoever things are **honest**, whatsoever things are
just, whatsoever things are **pure**, whatsoever things are
lovely, whatsoever things are of **good report**; if there
be any **virtue**, and if there be any **praise**, **think** on these
things.

Thoughts

9 Those things, which ye have both learned, and
received, and heard, and seen in me, **do**: and the God
of peace shall be with you.

Actions



Phil 4:8-9

Paul - Drawing from the Old Testament

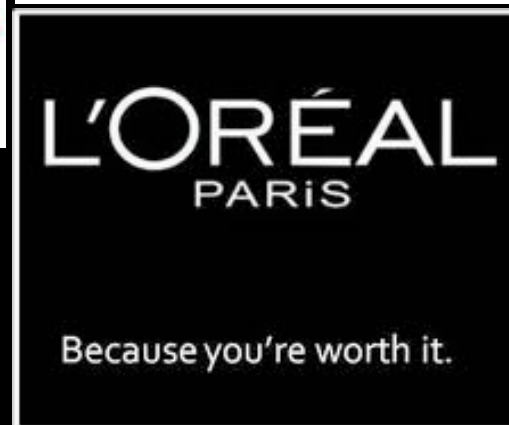
Deut 5:1 ...**learn** them, and keep, and **do** them

Deut 6:1,6 ...that ye might **do** them...shall be in thine **heart**

Deut 17:19-20 ...keep all the words...**do** them, that his **heart** be not lifted up

Learning to be Content

Phil 4:11 - '...for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content.'



'But godliness with **contentment** is great **gain**. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith **content**. But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil...'

1 Tim 6:6-10

Class 5 - Exhortations

- 'Stand fast in the Lord' - Phil 4:1

Receiving the crown of life - 'It may not be easy...but it will be worth it'

- Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice' - Phil 4:4

Our hope in eternal life should make us rejoice!

- What occupies our minds? - Phil 4:8-9

'The mind is insensibly affected by the train of thought passing through it.'

Bro. John Carter

- Be content in your lives with what God has provided you - Phil 4:11

'Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift' - 2 Cor 9:15



Christ will return. Will we be ready?