

PHILIPPIANS

Rejoice In
The Lord!

Enough Courage

Lesson Eight

Philippians

Rejoice In The Lord!

Lesson Goal: To assist students in understanding the need for Christian courage.

Scriptures: Philippians 1:18b-20; Acts 26:1-23

For Memory: “I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage...” Philippians 1:18

Enough Courage

Remember, Paul was in prison in Rome. He was waiting to be tried for disloyalty to the emperor. He would stand before the emperor and defend himself. He believed that God was with him and would not let him down at the time when he needed great courage.*

Think about it. What if you had to stand before the Supreme Court of the United States and defend yourself against charges of treason? You have been accused of being disloyal to the United States and encouraging others to do the same thing. Now, you must try to convince the court that what you have done is the right thing, even though it is against the law. It will take a lot of courage, because you know that if you are judged according to the law, you will be punished. And, your punishment will be death.

That is the situation in which Paul found himself. He was pretty certain that he was going to be punished...be put to death. He needed courage. And, once again, he was depending on the church in Philippi to support him with prayer. They had sent Epaphroditus (E-paf-ro-DI-tus) to him with gifts and assurances of their prayers.

He said, in the last part of verse 18 that he was going to continue to rejoice. This doesn't mean that Paul was not realistic about his situation, it means that in spite of the probability of his death, he was glad and grateful to God for the concern and prayers of the Philippians.

He was also very grateful for, and happy with, the fact that the Holy Spirit was with him. Because God loved him and because of the prayers of the church at Philippi, God was coming to Paul personally to be with him at this difficult time.

Paul believed that all that was going on in his life at that time would turn out for his deliverance. He looked forward to being released from the chains that held him captive. The word “deliverance” means salvation. He was ready to be saved from his captivity, but also saved to go to Heaven when he died.

With the help, the concern of the Philippians, and the personal ministry of God's Holy Spirit, Paul was ready to face the Roman court. He was not afraid. He was

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ready to go to court and give his testimony. And what a testimony he had! He would surely say to the court what he said when he was standing before King Agrippa. (Acts 26) He would tell the Roman Emperor about the call of Jesus on the road to Damascus. He would tell them that he had God's help every day of his missionary journey.

Next, Paul told the Philippians that he expected that he would have enough courage to take whatever the Romans could give him. He was even eager. Now, some might await with patience such a trial...even with the death sentence possible, but Paul was ready, he could hardly wait for the opportunity to give his testimony to the Roman court.

Then, in verse 20, he tells his friends in Philippi that his hope is that Jesus will be lifted up, honored, in his body. Jesus had been honored when Paul was whipped, thrown in jail, shipwrecked, stoned and many other awful things that had happened to him in his missionary career. Now, Paul hoped, we can say prayed, that Jesus would be honored again when the final sentence was announced and carried out.

Paul wants this whether he lives or dies. He believes that God can be praised either way and he is, with the prayer of the Philippians and the presence of God's Holy Spirit, ready for it! The Apostle Paul is a great example for us. We should always ask God for enough courage to tell His story to everyone we know.

*Underlined statements in this Teacher's Guide appear in the Student Worksheet with blanks to be filled in by the student during the lesson. Words in the Student Worksheet may not appear exactly as printed in the Teacher's Guide.



Teaching Tips:

1. Acts 28:30, 31 tells about this time in Paul's life.
2. Songs that emphasize telling the Good News, courage in Christian service, prayer and one's personal salvation will be appropriate.
3. Pray with your students about having courage like Paul's and about supporting and praying for others who want to tell the Good News.
4. Paul's defense of his ministry and the reaction/response of King Agrippa and the governor, Festus, are very interesting. Just don't get hung up on these in your lesson.
5. In II Corinthians 11: 21ff, Paul talks about his boldness and what that has gotten him in his missionary work. He lists the many trials he has endured.
6. Place emphasis on your students' courageous witness and on thanking God for the privilege of serving Him, even when it means difficulty in living.

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Student Worksheet

For Memory: “I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage...” Philippians 1:14

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=Paul would stand before the emperor and _____ himself. He believed that _____ was with him and would not let him down at the time when he needed great _____.

=He was going to continue to _____. This doesn't mean that Paul was not realistic about his situation, it means that in spite of the probability of his _____, he was glad and grateful to God for the _____ and _____ of the Philippians.

=Because God _____ him and because of the _____ of the church at Philippi, God was coming to Paul personally to be with him at this difficult _____.

=The word “deliverance” means _____. Paul was ready to be saved from his captivity, but also _____ to go to Heaven when he dies.

=Paul told the Philippians that he expected that he would have _____ to take whatever the _____ could give him.

=The Apostle Paul is a great _____ for us. We should always _____ God for _____ to tell His story to _____ we know.

How to begin a Personal Relationship with God:

First, believe that there is a God.

Second, believe that Jesus, God's Son, was sent to earth to die so that you can have a relationship with God.

Third, ask God to forgive your sins in Jesus' name. Jesus' death on the cross paid the price of every sin you commit.

Fourth, ask Jesus to be your Savior and the Lord of your life.

Fifth, believe that He has answered your prayer and be determined to live for him all the rest of your life.