

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Our Mission: Reaching Out to Leaders Who Can Change the World.

PHILIPPIANS

STUDY #4: Paul's Perspective

Philippians 2:1-18

BIBLE STUDY TOOLS ~ BIBLE STUDY METHODS ~

LOOK FOR LISTS

- **Lists:** Authors have reasons for listing what they do and even for the order of a series.
 - What are some things that can be effectively put into lists?
Is there any significance to the order? Look for differences between the first and last items in a list? Examples: **List**--the attributes of God. A recipe.
- What is the value of recognizing lists and order within lists in helping you understand what the Bible is saying?

INTRODUCTION

List the PME courses you've taken. What was the significance of the order in which you took them?

OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION

Read Philippians 2:1-11

1. In vv. 2:1-4, Paul describes motives and means:
 - a. List the motives Paul offers in v. 1.
 - b. List the means Paul suggests in vv. 3-4.

Motives	Means

2. What is Paul trying to get the Philippians to achieve?
3. Whom does Paul cite in v. 5 as the role model for our attitude?
4. Jesus has both divine and human characteristics. List the characteristics of Jesus' nature you observe in vv. 6-8

Divine nature	Human nature

5. How does Jesus exemplify what Paul means in vv. 3-4?
6. Describe any significance to the order in which the aspects of Jesus' nature are listed?
7. What is the difference between humility (using your strength for the good of others) and being a doormat?
8. What relationship do you see between Jesus humbling Himself [v.8] and His being humiliated by His death on a cross? What was the result of Jesus' humiliation? vv. 9-11

Read Philippians 2:12-16

9. *List* the things that Paul exhorts the Philippians to do and to be:

Do	Be

10. How will we be able to achieve these things? v.13
11. What part is up to God? What part is up to me?
12. In light of vv. 1-4 and vv.13-16, what does it mean to work out your own salvation (v.12)?

Read Philippians 2:17-18

13. We saw Paul's perspective on life described in v. 1:21. "For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain"
14. How would you explain what Paul means in v. 2:17?

APPLICATION

- How are you working out your salvation?
- Would others characterize you as humble? How would things change at home, at church, or at work if you consistently applied vv. 3-8?

For next week read the entire book of Philippians (10-15 minutes) again. We will focus on Paul's colleagues, as shown in verses 2:19-30, and use the Bible study tool "investigative questions."