

Daily Devotional - Philippians Study

Week 3 - Day 1

Start by watching the short video: Philippians Week 3 - click here

1 John 4:7-8 Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

Start with prayer: "Father, the reason this world would know anything of love is because love begins with you, and you have chosen to birth a new kind of love in our hearts through faith. Lord, I want to live a gospel-transformed life of love towards others and that starts with knowing and understanding the love you have for me. Help me to see it more clearly today through your Spirit as I spend time with you right now. Amen."

Setting up Today's Passage

We ended last week by looking at Philippians 2:1-4 where Paul calls upon the believers at Philippi to complete his joy by pursuing unity with one another through radical love, expressing itself in humility and in putting the needs and concerns of others above their very own. Paul challenges them to be of one mind, and for their inner lives to be bonded together. At its core, the aim of this command is to love one another with a divine love, a God- generated, and characterized love. This morning, before we go further and pick back up with Philippians 2, we are pausing to look at the love of God and to meditate on his love for us in 1 Corinthians 13. Only as God's children gaze deeply upon and know his love, can they love one another the way Paul is challenging us to in his letter to Philippi.

Bible Reading & Meditation: 1 Cor. 13:4-12 (NIV)

Circle, underline, or highlight key words & phrases that stand out to you as you read. Try to carefully & slowly read the passage at least 3x's before answering any questions.

- **4** Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. **5** It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. **6** Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. **7** It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. **8** Love never fails.
- **9** For we know in part and we prophesy in part, **10** but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears. **11** When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the childish ways behind me. **12** Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. **13** And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

Daily Study & Reflection Questions

•	This passage its a rather well-known passage on love. Usually we look at this passage
	through the lens of how we ought to love others, which is true and good. But there is
	another lens we can look through as well. Jesus Christ is our Lord and Savior, the perfect
	embodiment of love. He is love incarnate. Take some time meditate and journal on how
	Christ has loved you in the ways described in this passage

What does this passage show me about God for which I can thank and praise him?

How would the truth of this passage change my life if I took it seriously?

Close in Prayer:

Read this prayer from the Valley of Vision entitled "Love Lustres at Calvary"

My Father,

Enlarge my heart, warm my affections, open my lips, supply words that proclaim 'Love Lustres at Calvary.'

There grace removes my burdens and heaps them on thy Son, made a transgressor, a curse, and sin for me; There the sword of thy justice smote the man, thy fellow;

There thy infinite attributes were magnified, and infinite atonement was made; There infinite punishment was due, and infinite punishment was endured.

Christ was all anguish that I might be all joy, cast off that I might be brought in, trodden down as an enemy that I might be welcomed as a friend, surrendered to hell's worst,

that I might attain heaven's best, stripped that I might be clothed, wounded that I might be healed, athirst that I might drink, tormented that I might be comforted, made a shame that I might inherit glory, entered darkness that I might have eternal light.

My Savior wept that all tears might be wiped from my eyes, groaned that I might have endless song, endured all pain that I might have unfading health, bore a thorny crown that I might have a glory-diadem, bowed his head that I might uplift mine, experienced reproach that I might receive welcome, closed his eyes in death that I might gaze on unclothed brightness, expired that I might forever live.

O Father, who spared not thine own Son that thou mightest spare me, All this transfer thy love designed and accomplished; Help me to adore thee by lips and life.

O that my every breath might be ecstatic praise, my every step buoyant with delight, as I see my enemies crushed, Satan baffled, defeated, destroyed, sin buried in the ocean of reconciling blood, hell's gates closed, heaven's portal open.

Go forth, O conquering God, and show me the cross, mighty to subdue, comfort and save.