

Part 33 | **The Gospel to Philippi** (Part 2)

Acts 16:16-40

The **INFLUENCE** of darkness (v. 16-18)

deceiving 2 Timothy 2:26; 2 Corinthians 4:4; 11:14-15;**enslaving** Galatians 5:1; Ephesians 6:12; 2 Peter 2:19; Proverbs 5:22; Titus 3:3

and the pressure of **CULTURE** (v. 19-24)

Christianity is a threat to BOTH religion and politics**following Jesus is costly** Matthew 16:24-26

are no match for the **POWER OF GOD!** (v. 25-40)

 **“Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved”** v. 31; Romans 10:9 **God's purpose > our rights** 1 Corinthians 9:19-23; Philippians 2:3-8; 3:20**Text us at 833-271-8805.**Text this number anytime for prayer. Just say, **“Pray for...”** followed by your request.

Or if you just need someone to talk to, start texting us with whatever's going on and someone will be in touch via text.

God's Purposes are greater than *Our Rights*

By being a slave to all, Paul was communicating the heart of his mission strategy. He had a willingness to accommodate and adjust to different settings.

- When with Jews, he ate kosher food;
- When with Gentiles, he ate regular food.
- In Philippi, he accepted support; in other places, he did not.
- Sometimes he claimed his Roman citizenship, sometimes he didn't.

Was Paul a chameleon, merely adapting to each environment? In some ways, he was; **but his principles were higher than self-protection.**

He wanted people of all cultures and backgrounds to listen to the gospel.

Whenever we seek to share the gospel, we should consciously embrace and adapt to every element in that culture, subculture, locale, or even home which doesn't hinder the gospel or violate biblical ethics.

Paul regularly demonstrates several basic principles for effective ministry: find common ground with others; avoid a know-it-all attitude; make others feel accepted; be sensitive to others' needs and concerns; and look for opportunities to tell about Christ. These principles are just as valid today as they were then.

Which of these were used by those who brought you to Christ? Which ones need more conscious attention in your own efforts to introduce your friends, neighbors, and coworkers to Christ?

Adapted primarily from Bruce B. Barton and Grant R. Osborne, 1 & 2 Corinthians, Life Application Bible Commentary (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House, 1999), 130ff

Study Guide

Questions & Scripture for Further Study

What is this? – Each week people from Wawasee Bible meet in small groups in various homes to learn about Jesus, pray, eat, laugh, & live life together. **We call them Life Groups.** The questions here are based on the sermon each week (often a related part of Scripture), and guide each group's study. If you're interested in connecting with a Life Group, let us know on a Connect Card or at the Connect Desk!

Welcome to Life Group!

Getting to Know You

Part of our goal at Life Group is just learning more about each other. Toward that end, here's two totally *random* questions to discuss and break the ice as you get going. Have everyone answer at least one:

1. *What's your favorite candy?*
2. *Are you "old school" or "new school"? (And what does that mean!?)*

Priming the Pump...

- *As you think back on this week's message, what one or two statements or points are most important for you to remember and why?*

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, *was there anything you heard for the first time, that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?*

Digging Deeper

Use this guide for further personal and group study this week. .

1. **This week our study will focus on serving others, and moving toward those who are far from God.** In Philippi we saw Paul and Silas set aside their rights in order to put others first. When is it easy for you to serve someone? When do you find it more challenging?
2. Putting others first and loving others sacrificially can be no small challenge with all life throws at us. What motivation and guidance do the following verses give when it comes to putting this kind of love into action?

¹⁴ For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died.

¹⁵ And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again. **2 CORINTHIANS 5:14-15 (NIV)**

¹³ You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. ¹⁴ For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁵ If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other. **GALATIANS 5:13-15 (NIV)**

⁹As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commands and remain in his love. ¹¹ I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. ¹² My *(Study Guide continues on back panel...)*

We are sent to love people and invite them to follow Jesus with us.

Welcome to Wawasee!

OUR OUTCOMES

If I'm truly growing as a follower of Jesus, I should be growing in the ways that I am...



1 | **Receiving From God.** Am I reading the Word regularly? Am I gathering to hear the Word taught? Is there fruit of the Spirit in my life?



2 | **Responding To God.** Am I worshiping Jesus or something else? Am I talking and listening to God regularly? Am I repenting of my sin?



3 | **Receiving From Others.** Am I in community with other Christians in our church who have a window to speak into my life?



4 | **Moving Toward Others.** Am I contributing to and initiating community with other Christians in our church or just consuming?



5 | **Going Out on Mission.** Am I regularly moving out toward those far from God, loving them and sharing God's Story and my own story?

Word Find in the Word

Find the words from a passage related to this week's message.

Word Find for Acts 16:30-34 (ESV)

Find the words **bolded** below.

³⁰ **Then** he **brought** them out and **said**, "**Sirs**, what must I do to be **saved**?" ³¹ And they **said**, "**Believe** in the **Lord Jesus**, and you will be **saved**, you and your **household**." ³² And they **spoke** the **word** of the **Lord** to him and to all who were in his **house**. ³³ And he **took** them the **same hour** of the **night** and **washed** their **wounds**; and he was **baptized** at **once**, he and all his **family**. ³⁴ **Then** he **brought** them up into his **house** and set **food** before them. And he **rejoiced** along with his **entire household** that he had **believed** in God.

H O U S E H O L D N G
B B A P T I Z E D I A
T O O K I Z S K E G E
W O R D P S A M E H S
T L O R D A V I C T I
H F B E L I E V E N R
E C R J Y D D S N W S
N B R O U G H T T O P
F A M I L Y O J I U O
O C Y C H O U R R N K
O N C E W A S H E D E
D F N D C J E S U S T

life groups Study Guide (continued)

command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command. **JOHN 15:9-14** (NIV)

- When it comes to the "freedom" talked about in the Galatians passage, do you need to be more careful using your freedom or less tied to the rules?
 - When it comes to living in a way that demonstrates "It isn't all about me," which one of the verses above is most motivating to you and why?
3. **Based on Paul's skills and abilities from his past, there were many reasons for him to be confident. What do you learn in **Philippians 3:4-11** about Paul's attitude regarding the strengths in his life?**
- There's nothing wrong with being confident in our abilities. However, when our abilities get in the way of putting Jesus first, it becomes a problem. In fact, confidence in ourselves and who we are in Christ is a key to being able to serve others. When it comes to your own self-confidence, which of the following can trap you and affect your ability to serve and put others first?
 - Overconfidence
 - Lack of confidence
 - Unaware of how God can work
 - Other...
4. **Humility is a character quality that is vital to putting others first. It allows us to have the vision to see God at work. How do the following verses help us evaluate if we really are humble, as well as understand who we are and who God is?**
- James 3:13 Romans 3:23 Deuteronomy 8:17-18 Proverbs 15:32-33**
- Rank these passages in order from 1 to 4 according to which is most helpful for you when putting humility into action.

Close

Is there somewhere or someone you need to adjust your posture toward and serve in new way? Family, friends, those you disagree with, other?

*As you close, take time to pray for each other. Consider **dividing into separate groups of men and women** as you pray for one another.*

This week's Study Guide is adapted in part from a study by North Coast Church in Vista, CA. North Coast is a sister church of Wawasee Bible and part of the EFCA.



Wawasee Bible is part of the Evangelical Free Church of America. View our Statement of Faith online at wawaseebible.com/beliefs. Learn more about the EFCA at efca.org.

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ACTS

EMPOWERED FOR JESUS'S MISSION

Sunday, September 24, 2023



PART **33**

The Gospel to Philippi (Part 2)

ACTS 16:16-40



We're Glad You're Here Today!

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