



## **Bible Study**

# **Ready, Steady, Grow**

### ***3. Giving***

**Philippians 4:10-20**

# Introduction

Dear Friends,

This Lent, we are looking at the ways to develop our relationship through discipleship. Reading the Bible, prayer, faith sharing, serving and fellowship.

The studies are written in the COMA bible study format (please see the next page) This will help us see how the message of the books fits together as we study it. On the following page is a reminder of the types of questions each section of the COMA acronym is asking.

The studies have been written as a starting point for your bible study, designed to be used the week after the same passage has been preached on. They can be done individually, in families or over the phone with friends.

It's our prayer that this part of God's word will encourage and enthuse us to boldly live for Jesus in our daily lives and to keep on proclaiming the message of Christ so others can hear and come to faith in Him.

## **C.O.M.A.**

The bible studies will be shaped by following the Sunday sermon series and using the acronym COMA. More information can be found in the short book by David Helm, called “How to Read the Bible One to One”.

We will be asking 4 types of questions:

### **Context:**

- What is the background to the situation?
- What clues are there about the author and his circumstances?
- What was the main point of the passage immediately before and after this one?
- Are there logical or thematic connections to the passage you are reading?

### **Observations:**

- Are there any major sub-sections in the breaks in the text?
- Are there key words (for, therefore, but, so that, because) that indicate the logical flow of the passage?
- Are there repeated words? (Helps us see key ideas)
- What is the main point or points?
- What supporting points does the author make?
- What is God trying to say in this passage?

### **Meaning:**

- What in the text stands out as challenges for us today?
- What does this teach us about God?
- How can you sum up the passage in your own words?

### **Application:**

Always ask: So what? It is possible to be an expert in understanding the Bible and for it to do us no good whatsoever. God is speaking to us now. We must ask the “So what?” questions. How can we drive home the purpose of what God is saying in different areas of our lives – in my beliefs, attitudes, prayers, actions, etc.?

- How does this passage challenge or strengthen your understanding?
- Is there some attitude you need to change?
- How does this passage call you to live?
- How does this passage make you thankful for who God is, for who you are in Christ, for his people – the church?

# Introduction to Philippians

Philippians is the first of four letters written by Paul from prison although it's unclear whether they come from the same imprisonment. We know from Philippians chapter one (see verses 13, 17, 20-26) that Paul faces the possibility of imminent death when writing this letter from his imprisonment in Rome.

The letter was written to the church in Philippi, which was an ancient town lying in the north of modern-day Greece. In 42BC it became a Roman colony – demobbed soldiers settled here and had various benefits such as self-rule and no tax. Whilst the town developed a Roman feel to it, the population was mainly Greek. At the time when Paul visited it, it seemed that there was only a small Jewish population and Acts 16:3 suggests that there was no synagogue but only a few Jewish women who had gathered to pray.

The letter follows the structure common to his other letters. He begins with an opening greeting and continues with the main body of the letter. This opens with a prayer report: an explanation of his own situation and potential outcomes; Paul appeals for humility and unity within the church; he writes about future visits by himself and his ministry colleagues; He gives a warning about listening to Christians who are teaching that it's necessary to adopt Jewish customs and practices plus practical instructions for church life and thanks for a gift he has received. Essentially, the prayer report has two main themes – the work of the gospel and second, the spiritual development of his audience in love. The letter then ends with his closing greetings.

# Philippians 4:10-20

## Context:

Paul has encouraged the Philippians to stand fast in the Lord to overcome temptation and to remain bold; to love one another; and to rejoice in the Lord always bringing prayer requests to him in a Spirit of thankfulness. He now turns to thank them for entering into a partnership with him for the sake of the gospel. He also expresses deep gratitude for their financial support but doesn't for a moment suggest that they were earning their salvation by it. They are justified by faith not works.

## Observation:

1. Why was Paul rejoicing?
2. What resource does Paul have that makes him content? (13)
3. What happened when Paul was in Thessalonica (16)
4. What response does God give when we make offerings to him by giving to others? (18-19)

## Meaning:

1. Paul rejoices in the Philippian's concern but not because he is in need. Why doesn't Paul worry about his physical day to day needs? (11-13)
2. Paul has learned to be content. How has he done this?
3. What does Paul mean by "all this" and "strength" (13)
4. How does Paul try to correct any misunderstanding about his attitude to the Philippian's financial help? (17)
5. Read 2 Corinthians 9:5-15 and compare with Phil 4: 17-19. What themes and use of language do they have in common?

## Application:

1. Read verses 11-13. What do they say about the way you use your thoughts and energy?
2. Make a list of some of the things you are content with then make a list of things you're not content with? How does this passage help you to be content with the things you have rather than worrying about the things you don't?
3. What is the world's solution when they are discontent? What are common areas of discontent and how can we as Christians help?
4. Have a think about what you already give to help spread the good news of Jesus. What else can you sensibly give from your gifts and resources?

## Pray:

- Thank God for all he has given you, especially for Jesus
- Thank God for always providing what you need
- For those in need

- For wisdom about giving

### **A Little Bit Extra:**

- Can you think of any examples in the Bible of believers who lacked what they needed and God provided for them? Continue the list below – see how many you can think of.

Israel in the wilderness

Elijah

Daniel in the lions' den