

Partnering to Remember :: Philippians

SCRIPTURAL CHARGE & EXHORTATION

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.

- Jesus

More Practical Helps from Andy Davis

SAY IT OUT LOUD:

Another help in memorizing is to say the verse out loud to yourself. This helps the memorization process. It doesn't have to be very loud, just loud enough so you can hear it. Also, try putting some feeling and interpretation into reciting the verses... this is actually a form of meditation on the verses as you are learning them.

RECITE THE ENTIRE BOOK FROM MEMORY FOR 100 CONSECUTIVE DAYS.

If you have done your work well, after about the second week you probably won't even need the Bible anywhere near you while reciting. This can be done anywhere... IT WILL ADD NO EXTRA TIME TO YOUR BUSY SCHEDULE!!

WEED THE GARDEN:

Simply take one of your Monday morning times after the 100 days (perhaps every other month) and just read the book by sight all the way through. This will correct errors... thus "weed the garden."

Practical Helps from Andy Davis

REVIEW OLD VERSES:

Always give priority in your mind to the retaining of old verses even over the learning of new ones. You should begin every day's work with review of old verses.

REPETITION OVER TIME:

The absolute key to successful Scripture memorization is repetition over a long time period. This is how you retain old verses while learning new ones.

MEMORIZE THE VERSE NUMBERS:

Memorize the verse numbers as if they were part of each verse. This will help prevent you from dropping out verses or even whole paragraphs when you're reciting the book all the way through. DON'T SHORT-CUT THIS DISCIPLINE!! It actually makes memorization easier in the long run!

PHOTOGRAPH THE VERSES WITH YOUR EYES:

Read each new verse ten times, covering each word as though photographing it with your eyes. Burn each verse into your brain with your eyes.

Why Memorize Scripture? By John Piper

CONFORMITY TO CHRIST - Bible memorization has the effect of making our gaze on Jesus steadier and clearer.

DAILY TRIUMPH OVER SIN - As sin lures the body into sinful action, we call to mind a Christ-revealing word of Scripture and slay the temptation with the superior worth and beauty of Christ over what sin offers.

DAILY TRIUMPH OVER SATAN - When Jesus was tempted by Satan in the wilderness he recited Scripture from memory and put Satan to flight.

COMFORT AND COUNSEL FOR PEOPLE YOU LOVE - When the heart full of God's love can draw on the mind full of God's word, timely blessings flow from the mouth.

COMMUNICATING THE GOSPEL TO UNBELIEVERS - Actual verses of the Bible have their own penetrating power. And when they come from our heart, as well as from the Book, the witness is given that they are precious enough to learn.

COMMUNION WITH GOD IN THE ENJOYMENT OF HIS PERSON AND WAYS - The way we commune with (that is, fellowship with) God is by meditating on his attributes and expressing to him our thanks and admiration and love, and seeking his help to live a life that reflects the value of these attributes.

Partnering to Remember :: Philippians

Week 1 :: Philippians 1:1-6
Week 2 :: Philippians 1:7-11
Week 3 :: Philippians 1:12-18
Week 4 :: Philippians 1:19-26
Week 5 :: Philippians 1:27-30

REVIEW Philippians 1

Week 6 :: Philippians 2:1-4
Week 7 :: Philippians 2:5-11
Week 8 :: Philippians 2:12-18
Week 9 :: Philippians 2:19-24
Week 10 :: Philippians 2:25-30

REVIEW Philippians 1 & 2

Week 11 :: Philippians 3:1-6
Week 12 :: Philippians 3:7-14
Week 13 :: Philippians 3:15-21

REVIEW Philippians 1, 2,
& 3

Week 14 :: Philippians 4:1-7
Week 15 :: Philippians 4:8-13
Week 16 :: Philippians 4:14-23

REVIEW Philippians ALL

Week 2 :: Philippians 1:7-11

- 7 It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel.
- 8 For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus.
- 9 And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment,
- 10 so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ,
- 11 filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

Week 1 :: Philippians 1:1-6

- 1 Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, to all the saints in Christ Jesus who are at Philippi, with the overseers and deacons:
- 2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
- 3 I thank my God in all my remembrance of you,
- 4 always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy,
- 5 because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.
- 6 And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

Week 3 :: Philippians 1:12-18

- 12 I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel,
- 13 so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ.
- 14 And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.
- 15 Some indeed preach Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from good will.
- 16 The latter do it out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel.
- 17 The former proclaim Christ out of rivalry, not sincerely but thinking to afflict me in my imprisonment.
- 18 What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice. Yes, and I will rejoice,

Week 4 :: Philippians 1:19-26

- 19 for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance,
- 20 as it is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be at all ashamed, but that with full courage now as always Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death.
- 21 For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.
- 22 If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell.
- 23 I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better.
- 24 But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account.
- 25 Convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with you all, for your progress and joy in the faith,
- 26 so that in me you may have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus, because of my coming to you again.

Week 6 :: Philippians 2:1-4

- 2:1 So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy,
- 2 complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.
- 3 Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.
- 4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Week 5 :: Philippians 1:27-30

- 27 Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of you that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel,
- 28 and not frightened in anything by your opponents. This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God.
- 29 For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake,
- 30 engaged in the same conflict that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Week 7 :: Philippians 2:5-11

- 5 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,
- 6 who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,
- 7 but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.
- 8 And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.
- 9 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name,
- 10 so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
- 11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Week 8 :: Philipians 2:12-18

- 12 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling,
- 13 for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure.
- 14 Do all things without grumbling or questioning,
- 15 that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,
- 16 holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain.
- 17 Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all.
- 18 Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.

Week 10 :: Philipians 2:25-30

- 25 I have thought it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus my brother and fellow worker and fellow soldier, and your messenger and minister to my need,
- 26 for he has been longing for you all and has been distressed because you heard that he was ill.
- 27 Indeed he was ill, near to death. But God had mercy on him, and not only on him but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow.
- 28 I am the more eager to send him, therefore, that you may rejoice at seeing him again, and that I may be less anxious.
- 29 So receive him in the Lord with all joy, and honor such men,
- 30 for he nearly died for the work of Christ, risking his life to complete what was lacking in your service to me.

Week 9 :: Philipians 2:19-24

- 19 I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon, so that I too may be cheered by news of you.
- 20 For I have no one like him, who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare.
- 21 For they all seek their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ.
- 22 But you know Timothy's proven worth, how as a son with a father he has served with me in the gospel.
- 23 I hope therefore to send him just as soon as I see how it will go with me,
- 24 and I trust in the Lord that shortly I myself will come also.

Week 11 :: Philipians 3:1-6

- 3:1 Finally, my brothers, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things to you is no trouble to me and is safe for you.
- 2 Look out for the dogs, look out for the evildoers, look out for those who mutilate the flesh.
- 3 For we are the circumcision, who worship by the Spirit of God and glory in Christ Jesus and put no confidence in the flesh—
- 4 though I myself have reason for confidence in the flesh also. If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more:
- 5 circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee;
- 6 as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

Week 12 :: Philippians 3:7-14

- 7 But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ.
- 8 Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ
- 9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith—
- 10 that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death,
- 11 that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.
- 12 Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own.
- 13 Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead,
- 14 I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Week 14 :: Philippians 4:1-7

- 4:1 Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved.
- 2 I entreat Euodia and I entreat Syntyche to agree in the Lord.
- 3 Yes, I ask you also, true companion, help these women, who have labored side by side with me in the gospel together with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.
- 4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.
- 5 Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand;
- 6 do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.
- 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Week 13 :: Philippians 3:15-21

- 15 Let those of us who are mature think this way, and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal that also to you.
- 16 Only let us hold true to what we have attained.
- 17 Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us.
- 18 For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ.
- 19 Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things.
- 20 But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,
- 21 who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

Week 15 :: Philippians 4:8-13

- 8 Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.
- 9 What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.
- 10 I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me. You were indeed concerned for me, but you had no opportunity.
- 11 Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content.
- 12 I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need.
- 13 I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

Week 16 :: Philippians 4:14-23

- 14 Yet it was kind of you to share my trouble.
- 15 And you Philippians yourselves know that in the beginning of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church entered into partnership with me in giving and receiving, except you only.
- 16 Even in Thessalonica you sent me help for my needs once and again.
- 17 Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that increases to your credit.
- 18 I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God.
- 19 And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus.
- 20 To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.
- 21 Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The brothers who are with me greet you.
- 22 All the saints greet you, especially those of Caesar's household.
- 23 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

R

Partnering to Remember
by Tim Brister

ENCOURAGEMENT FROM DONALD WHITNEY

Many Christians look on the Spiritual Discipline of memorizing God's Word as something tantamount to modern-day martyrdom. Ask them to memorize Bible verses and they react with about as much eagerness as a request for volunteers to face Nero's lions. How come? Perhaps because many associate all memorization with the memory efforts required of them in school. It was work, and most of it was uninteresting and of limited value. Frequently heard, also, is the excuse of having a bad memory. But what if I offered you one thousand dollars for every verse you could memorize in the next seven days? Do you think your attitude toward Scripture memory and your ability to memorize would improve? Any financial reward would be minimal when compared to the accumulating value of the treasure of God's Word deposited within your mind.

For example, memorization supplies spiritual power. When Scripture is stored in the mind, it is available for the Holy Spirit to take and bring to your attention when you need it most. That's why the author of Psalm 119 wrote, "I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you" (verse 11). It's one thing, for instance, to be watching or thinking about something when you know you shouldn't, but there's added power against the temptation when a specific verse can be brought to your mind, like Colossians 3:2: "Set your minds on the things above, not on earthly things."

When the Holy Spirit brings a definite verse to mind like that, it's an illustration of what Ephesians 6:17 can mean when it refers to "the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God." A pertinent scriptural truth, brought to your awareness by the Holy Spirit at just the right moment, can be the weapon that makes the difference in a spiritual battle.

There is no better illustration than Jesus' confrontation with Satan in the lonely Judean wilderness (Matthew 4:1-11). Each time the Enemy thrust a temptation at Jesus, He parried it with the sword of the Spirit. It was the Spirit-prompted recollection of specific texts of Scripture that helped Jesus experience victory. One of the ways we can experience more spiritual victories is to do as Jesus did—memorize Scripture so that it's available for the Holy Spirit to take and ignite within us when it's needed.

Another benefit of Scripture memorization is that it strengthens your faith. Want your faith strengthened? What Christian doesn't? One thing you can do to strengthen it is to discipline yourself to memorize Scripture. Let's walk through Proverbs 22:17-19, which says, "Incline your ear and hear the words of the wise, and apply your mind to my knowledge; for it will be pleasant if you keep them within you, that they may be ready on your lips. So that your trust may be in the Lord, I have taught you today, even you" (NASB). To "apply your mind" to the "words of the wise" spoken of here and to "keep them within you" certainly pertains to Scripture memory. Notice the reason given here for keeping the wise words of Scripture within you and "ready on your lips." It's "so that your trust may be in the Lord." Memorizing Scripture is like reinforcing steel to a sagging faith, for it strengthens your faith by repeatedly reinforcing the truth, often just when you need to hear it again.