



Bible Reading Guide December 2016

Philippians

When we go overseas or away somewhere, we love to send postcards or post pictures on social media to people of what we've done or places we've visited. But sometimes sending a postcard is like saying to that person, 'How good is life for me at the moment. Wish you were here but because you're not, let me show you what a great time I'm having' As we read Paul's letter to the Philippian church we see it's anything but a postcard. It's a letter showing them how he's going and what he's doing in faith as he's chained up for the gospel on the other side of the Mediterranean. Paul's writing to his fellow believers in Philippi because they share something in common - CHRIST. And he's writing to encourage, build confidence and grow their faith through the grace and love of the gospel. Isn't this an amazing way to live life? Paul manages to find joy during the darkest moments of his ministry because of the grace of the gospel and he's writing to the Philippian church because he fully wants to keep seeing the gospel promoted and salvation received.

我們遠行，總喜歡寄些明信片或將去過的地方、做過的事拍照下來，在社交平台上與人分享，寄明信片的舉動，彷彿對人說"我活得多精彩，希望你也在現場，只可惜你不在這裡，看看我的照片吧！"保羅致腓立比教會的信，絕不像分享的一張明信片，而是一封保羅自述他因福音被囚於地中海另一端時的信仰歷程，因腓立比教會與保羅同樣信靠基督，所以他寫此信鼓勵他們，堅固他們的信心，保羅深信使他們信心茁壯成長的是福音、愛與恩典。豈不是活出精彩人生嗎？因此，保羅在獄中仍能喜樂。他希望腓立比教會能將所領受的福音能被傳揚出去，使人得拯救。

Day 1	Philippians 1:1-6 How does Paul describe himself and Timothy? What does this signify? What is the source of Paul's joy as he prays and remembers his fellow believers? What does it mean to be in partnership for the gospel and what does this give Paul in vs6? Reflection: <i>How are we finding joy in connecting with the gospel in our own lives and also as a church?</i> 腓 1:1-6 保羅與提摩太如何稱自己？如此稱謂表達了什麼？ 保羅祈禱或想念信徒時喜樂的源頭是什麼？ 何謂福音同工？第六節中同工又給了保羅什麼？反省： 我們如何經歷在日常生活、與教會整體連結於因福音而有的喜樂？
Day 2	Philippians 1:7-11 What is Paul seeking to do in every situation? What gives him this confidence? What does it mean for us to be around genuinely thankful and authentic Christians - allowing the prayer in vs9-11 to be true of our faith? Reflection: <i>In the give and take of everyday living, how is Christ expressed through what we do and how is his love overflowing in our lives?</i> 腓 1:7-11 保羅在不同情況如何自處？什麼使到他有這般信心？ 按 9-11 節 與常存感恩的真正基督徒一起有什麼意義？ 反省 如何在日常生活中活出基督，祂的愛又如何貫穿我們的生活。

<p>Day 3</p>	<p>Philippians 1:12-14 Paul's purpose and perspective on life is very different to other peoples. What do you think was required of Paul to advance the gospel in these verses? What would happen if the gospel was only confined to the four walls of his prison cell? How are we advancing the gospel in our lives, workplaces, classrooms or even our own homes? What would it take to be like Paul in these situations? Reflection: <i>Picture in your mind a mountain climber celebrating at the top of the summit. What don't we realise about his climb up before he gets to the top? How might this reflect Paul's life and also our Christian walk?</i> 腓 1:12-14 保羅生活的目標和視野與別不同, 他認為怎樣可促使福音傳開? 若福音困於監獄四壁, 又如何呢? 我們如何在生活, 工作, 課堂, 甚至家裏傳福音? 如何能像保羅般處理? 反省 想像登山者抵達高峰上的慶祝, 為何我們往往攀爬時不受注, 直至抵達高峰? 對基督徒跟隨主或保羅生平的經歷有何啟發.</p>
<p>Day 4</p>	<p>Philippians 1:15-19 Look at the two distinct groups of people in this church. What are their qualities? In vs18, Paul's concern isn't caught up too much in who they are - what is his main concern and what causes him to rejoice? Replace the word 'deliverance' in vs19 with the word 'salvation'. How does this help us understand Paul's inspiration for what he's going through at the moment? Reflection: <i>How much do we realise that physical consequences are out of our control and the sovereignty of God is working through us in wonderful ways?</i> 腓 1:15-19 腓立比教會有兩類人, 他們的特質為何 18 節 保羅似乎不特別注意他們是誰, 他最關心的是什麼? 什麼是他喜樂? 若把 19 節的得救(<i>deliverance</i>)換成救贖(<i>salvation</i>), 對我們理解保羅面對自己現況有何啟示? 反省: 我們是否真的了解實際上很多我們不能控制, 但神的主權卻仍能透過我們彰顯</p>
<p>Day 5</p>	<p>Philippians 1:20-26 Reflect on what it means to fully live in Christ. How can our lives be filled more with Christ? Does living or dying matter to you? What is it that matters to Paul above all else? Reflection: <i>The only thing that fits perfectly in this passage is the word "Christ." We cannot replace Christ with anything else because it just doesn't work. How is Christ magnified in your life and how will he be magnified through your death?</i> 腓 1:20-26 什麼是活像基督, 我們如何能活得更像他? 這是否生死攸關? 對保羅什麼為至要? 反省 基督在這段經文最為貼切, 沒有什麼可代替他. 基督如何在你生命中顯明? 又如何在你的死內顯明?</p>

<p>Day 6</p>	<p>Philippians 1:27-30 What were we like before being reconciled by Christ? What do you think of when we're described now as 'without blemish and free from accusation'? We're reconciled by these things 'if we continue' to do what? (vs23) <i>Reflection: All this comes through Christ, therefore, how excited are we in having the gospel proclaimed to us, knowing we are now made right with God?</i> 腓 1:27-30 藉著基督與神和好之前，我們是怎樣的人？ 若說我們現在完美無瑕，無可指責，你有何感想？ 如何能繼續與神和好？(1:23)</p> <p>反省 既知道一切皆藉著基督，你對這能使人與神和好的福音感到興奮嗎？</p>
<p>Day 7</p>	<p>Philippians 2:1-4 What things motivate us to be united together in vs1? How are we directed to make our joy complete in vs2? In what ways is humility a hallmark of our Christian living today from vs3-4? <i>Reflection: Notice Paul is saying the same thing in different ways here: that he wants us to be like-minded when it comes to Christ. How are we as a church being of the same mind and attentive to advancing God's kingdom?</i> 腓 2:1-4 合一的動力為何？(2:1) 喜樂怎樣方可滿足？(2:2) 怎樣的謙虛方為基督徒的標記？(2:3-4)</p> <p>反省 保羅用不同方式來表達同一意思，就是希望我們能同心合意地向著基督。教會又應如何合一來擴展神國？</p>
<p>Day 8</p>	<p>Philippians 2:5-11 What does it mean that Jesus was "...very nature God (the form of God)"? Do you believe that to be true? How easy is it for us to let go of all we have? What did Jesus let go of and do? Think about what the name "Jesus Christ" means for you and then in relation to vs9-11? <i>Reflection: Who do you live for, bend the knee for, would give up your life for, praise and talk about? What do all these things reflect?</i> 腓 2:5-11 基督有神的樣式是什麼意思？你真的相信嗎？ 捨棄一切容易嗎？耶穌放棄了什麼？ 耶穌基督這名字對你有何意義？參照 v9-11</p> <p>反省 你為何而活？又會向誰屈膝，擺上生命？喜愛讚美誰？談論誰？這反映出什麼？</p>

<p>Day 9</p>	<p>Philippians 2:12-18 How is 'fear and trembling' a proper godly reaction to our weaknesses, temptations and the seriousness of sin? How are we going at shining like the stars (collective)? To "hold firmly to the word of life" means to do what? Or maybe what are we finding hard to let go of? <i>Reflection: How easy do we grumble and complain about the instant enjoyments we seek? What is the reward if we instead boast in Christ?</i> 腓 2:12-18 當面對軟弱誘惑犯罪,為何恐懼戰兢是當有的反應? 我們如何能如明光照耀 ? 怎樣將生命的道表明出來?我們覺得有困難去做嗎? 反省 即時的喜樂能滿足嗎? 誇口基督有何獎賞?</p>
<p>Day 10</p>	<p>Philippians 2:19-30 What kind of a character reference does Paul give Timothy? What does this show us about Timothy and how he was trained by Paul. Describe the character traits of Epaphroditus and why would Paul send someone like him to the Philippian Church? What would Timothy and Epaphroditus have to give up in order to serve God's people and the church? <i>Reflection: How can we be encouraging the Timothy's and Epaphroditus' in our midst today and be committed to gospel growth?</i> 腓 2:19-20 保羅如何推薦提摩太?從中我們又如何看到保羅如何訓練他? 以巴弗提性格如何?保羅為何想派他去腓立比教會?提摩太與以巴弗提犧牲了什麼來服事神的子民和教會? 反省:怎樣鼓勵在我們中間的提摩太和以巴弗提,使他們能竭力在福音事工上參與?</p>
<p>Day 11</p>	<p>Philippians 3:1-6 What does it mean to place our confidence in the flesh and why is Christ a better alternative? How do we try to impress God with our accomplishments? What really matters before God? <i>Reflection: A Resumé focuses on our past achievements. When Christ looks at our present hearts, what does he see?</i> 腓 3:1-6 何謂以肉體誇口? 為何誇口基督方為上策? 我們是否以自己的行為、成就嘗試取悅神? 在神面前什麼才是最重要? 反省 如同一份履歷表陳述我們過往一切的成就,看透我們內心的基督現在會看見什麼?</p>

<p>Day 12</p>	<p>Philippians 3:7-11 What have you had to give up or let go of in order to gain Christ? What's the difference between having self-righteousness and a righteousness that comes from faith in Christ? How well do you want to know Christ and how is that displayed in your life today? <i>Reflection: Paul talks about a transaction taking place here where we lose something to gain something better. What did Christ exchange in order for our soul?</i> 腓 3:7-11 跟隨基督須放棄什麼? 自義和從基督而來的義有何不同? 你有多熱切去認識基督, 在你生活上如何被呈現出來? 反省: 保羅用交易來比喻得失。基督用什麼來換取我們的靈魂?</p>
<p>Day 13</p>	<p>Philippians 3:12-14 What was your goal in life as a child and what is your goal in life today? What does Paul want to get a hold of so badly? Why? What does it take for us to effectively pursue the prize and grow spiritually? <i>Reflection: What is the prize that awaits us? Do we have to finish first to get this prize Paul talks about? Why or why not?</i> 腓 3:12-14 你兒時的生活目標為何, 現在又是怎樣? 保羅要求我們持守什麼? 為什麼? 如何才能竭力追求靈性成長? 反省: 我們的財富是什麼? 是否奪冠才能領獎? 試解釋.</p>
<p>Day 14</p>	<p>Philippians 3:15-21 Who do you imitate in life? Why do we want tend to imitate or follow the example of others? What does an enemy of the cross of Christ look like and what becomes our response to these people? What does it mean to be a citizen of heaven and what does it look like? <i>Reflection: How much are you looking forward to Christ coming back and being with him in heaven, transformed and holy?</i> 腓 3:15-21 你人生仿效誰呢? 為何我們傾向跟從別人? 基督十字架的仇敵有什麼樣式? 你應該如何面對他們? 怎樣才是天國的子民, 他們的樣式又如何? 反省: 你有多少期盼主再來, 與他一同在天國更新, 成聖.?</p>

<p>Day 15</p>	<p>Philippians 4:1-3 What does it mean to stand firm in the Lord? There was a problem that some people weren't in the like-minded in the Lord. What effect would this have on the Philippian Church? <i>Reflection: What makes us long for this crowning joy and be filled with exultation in Christ?</i> 腓 4:1-3 何謂在主內站立得穩? 若在主內不同心,對腓立比教會有何影響? 反省: 什麼能使我們滿心期盼戴冠冕的喜樂, 並能高舉基督?</p>
<p>Day 16</p>	<p>Philippians 4:4-7 How do you maintain a spirit of joy in your life as vs4 tells us? What do these verses tell us about what to do when we get anxious? How do you trust God in times of trials and apprehension? <i>Reflection: When you guard something, what does it look like? What does it look like when Christ guards our hearts and against what?</i> 腓 4:4-7 如何能常存喜樂? (4:4) 當我們在焦慮中, 經文怎麼提醒我們? 在試練或艱難中如何信靠主? 反省: 當你守護一些東西時, 會怎麼做? 基督又如何保守你的心, 防止什麼侵擾你?</p>
<p>Day 17</p>	<p>Philippians 4:8-9 Describe something that is true, noble, right, pure, lovely and admirable. What is something that is all these things put together? In vs9, how can we be living examples of Christ to others in relation to vs8? <i>Reflection: What part does godly thinking, practices and obedience play in us living spiritually stable lives?</i> 腓 4:8-9 什麼東西是真實的、可敬的、公義的、清潔的、可愛的、有美名的? 這些加了起來會是什麼。 我們如何成為其他人效法基督的榜樣? 跟第八節有何關聯? 反省: 敬虔的思想、行為和順服對於穩固我們的靈命有何貢獻?</p>
<p>Day 18</p>	<p>Philippians 4:10-13 What does it mean to have full contentment in Christ? Does this describe you? Is it possible for us to ever be fully satisfied in this world? Why or why not? What is it like to have plenty or to be well fed? Do you know any different? <i>Reflection: What things interrupt our contentment and how does vs13 give us hope?</i> 腓 4:10-13 何謂在基督內知足? 你是如此嗎? 我們在這世界中能完全得滿足嗎? 試解釋。 豐富和飽足的感覺如何? 兩者有否分別? 反省 什麼會令我們不知足? 十三節給我們的什麼的盼望?</p>

<p>Day 19</p>	<p>Philippians 4:14-18 How do we share in each other's troubles or burdens (vs14) and what does it feel like for you when we do? What does it mean for Paul to be credited to their accounts after already receiving full payment (vs17-18)? How is being a "fragrant offering, an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God" a reference to Old Testament language but now a new covenant promise? <i>Reflection: How does having spiritual dividends credited to our account show the abundance of heavenly blessings already given to you?</i> 腓 4:14-18 我們如何互相分擔重擔? (4:14) 你覺得這樣的互相支持如何? 按 17 至 18 節 保羅說是什麼意思? 馨香的祭物彷彿是舊約的用語，但為卻成神在新約的應許？ 反省 當屬靈的股息先存進戶口，如何表示我們已經得到屬天的福氣？</p>
<p>Day 20</p>	<p>Philippians 4:19-23 What are your own needs at the moment and how do we see God taking care of ALL of them? Grace is something we're dependent on all the time. Why is vs23 such a wonderful verse to absorb and comprehend? <i>Reflection: How would you summarise the book of Philippians and see as its main message?</i> 腓 4:19-23 你現在最需要什麼？我們如何看見神看顧我們所有的需用？ 我們時時刻刻都倚靠恩典，為何要從 23 節去理解與領受？ 反省 你會如何總結腓立比書？看到主要的信息為何？</p>

This is the final monthly bible reading. In 2017, we will be doing something a little different!
這是最後一期的每月讀經，明年會略有更改。