

Paul's Prison Epistles

Journal Questions

LESSON
ONE

PAUL'S IMPRISONMENT



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Journal Questions

1. Paul received many warnings regarding imminent danger in Jerusalem, yet he continued toward the city. What gave Paul the confidence and fortitude to move forward in faith? How may we learn from the example of Paul as he faced difficult circumstances and adversity?
2. Why was Paul able to minister freely both to Jews and to Gentiles? What does it look like for believers today to live out Paul's words in 1 Corinthians 9:20-21?
3. God used Paul's imprisonments to advance the gospel and the kingdom of God. How has God worked through adverse circumstances in your life to advance his gospel and kingdom?
4. Explain how suffering can be a form of Christian ministry. Compare and contrast Paul's outlook on suffering with your present understanding of suffering.
5. While Paul's situation as a prisoner was not ideal, he still continued to seek opportunities to proclaim the gospel. What opportunities do you have to proclaim the gospel?
6. Paul spoke often of our union with Christ. In what ways does understanding the doctrine of our union with Christ bring you hope and comfort?
7. What is the most significant insight you have learned from this study?

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LESSON
TWO

PAUL AND THE
COLOSSIANS



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Journal Questions

1. The negative influence of the false teachers made it difficult for the Colossian believers to discern truth from error. What influences in your own culture make it hard to discern truth from error? How can Paul's focus on the supremacy of Christianity guide our own strategy in dealing with error?
2. How should understanding that Christ is the supreme agent of creation shape your approach to the world's challenges and opportunities?
3. How has Christ reconciled you to God? What areas of your world or relationships would be different if Christ's reconciling work were brought to completion?
4. Paul prayed for the Colossians. What benefits might there be to following his example?
5. How does union with Christ help Christians live ethically? Why should this strategy be more effective than the ethical strategies of the ascetics? How does asceticism contrast with appropriate uses of the Christian disciplines?
6. In what areas of life are you challenged in your loyalty to Christ?
7. How should the truth of regeneration shape our view of ourselves and of others? How does regeneration makes us new people?
8. What is the most significant insight you have learned from this study?

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LESSON
THREE

PAUL AND THE EPHESIANS



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Journal Questions

1. What blessings and benefits result from being citizens of the kingdom of God?
2. How does your understanding of the gospel fit with Paul's teaching on the kingdom of God?
3. How should Paul's teachings on the kingdom of God shape our approach to Christians from different cultural or racial backgrounds?
4. Dr. Kidd mentioned that "in Christ each believer is counted as if he or she were Jesus himself." What practical implications should this have for you in your Christian life?
5. How should our interaction with others inside the kingdom of God differ from our interaction with those who belong to the kingdom of darkness?
6. In light of Paul's teachings in Ephesians, what are some practical things you can do to be more effective in your pursuit of moral purity?
7. How is the relationship between a king and his subjects similar to God's relationship to believers?
8. What is the most significant insight you have learned from this study?

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LESSON
FOUR

PAUL AND PHILEMON



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1. What types of problems often require the mediation of an outside party? Have you ever faced a problem that required mediation?
2. With which person in this letter do you most identify: Paul, Philemon or Onesimus? Why?
3. Paul was an advocate for Onesimus and incurred a potential cost by defending him before Philemon. Who has been an advocate for you? For whom should you advocate?
4. What inspired Paul's advocacy for Onesimus?
5. Paul recognized that God is at work even in the midst of conflict and strife. How has this been true in your own experience?
6. Paul appealed to his friend Philemon on the basis of mercy. Why did he adopt this strategy? Which do you find easier to do: appeal for mercy or make demands?
7. How has forgiveness brought reconciliation to your life?
8. Onesimus and Philemon had to assume responsibility in order to restore their relationship. Is there any responsibility you need to assume in order to bring reconciliation to a fractured relationship?
9. What is the most significant insight you have learned from this study?

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LESSON
FIVE

PAUL AND THE
PHILIPPIANS



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Journal Questions

1. Paul wrestled between his desire to depart and be with Christ, and his continued usefulness in ministry on this earth. How can knowing that God has a purpose for each of us on this earth help you to persevere?
2. Paul had many friends in Philippi who ministered to him, which brought him great encouragement. Has anyone ministered to you in a time of need? What impact did that have, and how did it help you persevere?
3. How can our salvation be both secure in Christ (John 3:36; John 17:3; Eph. 1:13-14; Rom. 3:22-24), yet still depend upon our perseverance in faith?
4. Paul's optimism in the midst of discouragement and suffering helped him to persevere. How does the cultivation of a thankful heart to God help in perseverance?
5. How can rejoicing in the Lord and praying about our anxieties bring us peace and help us persevere?
6. How can pride hinder our perseverance?
7. What is the most significant insight you have learned from this study?