

For Teachers
of Adults Ages 18 and Up

Adult Bible Teacher



Winter Quarter

December | January | February 2023-24

Large-Print Edition

Adult Bible Teacher

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WINTER QUARTER

December 2023, January, February 2024

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Daily Bible Readings for Home Study and Worship

(Readings are for the week previous to the lesson topics.)

1. December 3. To Live Is Christ

M — Macedonian Call. Acts 16:9-13.
T — Powerful Ministry in Philippi. Acts 16:14-18.
W — Opposition Defeated in Philippi. Acts 16:19-40.
T — Prayer for the Philippians. Phil. 1:1-11.
F — God Works All Things for Good. Rom. 8:26-28.
S — Eternity with the Lord. II Cor. 5:1-9.
S — A Godly Perspective on Life and Death. Phil. 1:12-26.

2. December 10. Counting All Things Loss

M — Take Up Your Cross. Matt. 16:24-28.
T — A Living Hope. I Pet. 1:3-9.
W — Imitators of the Lord. I Thess. 1:2-10.
T — Fix Your Eyes on Jesus. Heb. 12:1-2.
F — Righteousness by Faith. Rom. 9:30—10:4.
S — The Crown of Righteousness. II Tim. 4:1-8.
S — Pressing On. Phil. 3:7-21.

3. December 17. Learning Contentment

M — Abiding in Christ. John 15:1-8.
T — Content with What We Have. Heb. 13:5-8.
W — Supplying a Need. II Cor. 8:1-15.
T — The Blessing of Giving. II Cor. 9:1-15.
F — Contentment in Suffering. II Cor. 12:7-10.
S — Seek God's Kingdom. Luke 12:22-31.
S — The Secret to Contentment. Phil. 4:4-18.

4. December 24. The Light of Christmas (Christmas)

M — God's Peace Ruling Our Hearts. Col. 3:12-17.
T — Love—the Sign of a Disciple. John 13:34-35.
W — The Darkness of the Wicked. II Tim. 3:1-9.
T — Walk in the Light. I John 1:5-7.
F — Grace-filled Speech. Col. 4:2-6.
S — Living a Holy Life. I Thess. 4:1-12.
S — Christ Brings Light and Life. John 1:1-5; Eph. 5:1-2, 6-14.

5. December 31. Chosen in Christ

M — Paul Arrives in Ephesus. Acts 18:18-23.
T — Later Ministry in Ephesus. Acts 19:1-20.
W — Opposition in Ephesus. Acts 19:21—20:1.
T — Farewell to the Ephesian Elders. Acts 20:17-38.
F — Chosen by God. II Thess. 2:13-17.
S — Sealed by the Spirit. II Cor. 1:18-22.
S — An Eternal Plan. Eph. 1:3-14.

6. January 7. God's Workmanship

M — Justified by Faith. Rom. 3:20-31.
T — Cleansing Needed. Ps. 51:1-12.
W — Back from the Dead. Luke 15:11-24.
T — The Riches of Grace. Eph. 3:1-12.
F — Not by Works. Titus 3:1-7.
S — Equipped for Good Works. II Tim. 3:14-17.
S — Created for Good Works. Eph. 2:1-10.

7. January 14. The Household of God

M — Many Members—One Body. Rom. 12:3-8.
T — Sons by Faith. Gal. 3:26-29.
W — Strangers Will Join the People of God. Matt. 8:5-11.

T — Teach Your Children About God. Ps. 78:5-8.
F — Sheep from Another Fold. John 10:14-18.
S — Jews and Gentiles Called by God. Rom. 9:22-26.
S — Christ Makes Us One. Eph. 2:11-22.

8. January 21. A High Calling

M — Baptized into One Body. I Cor. 12:12-20.
T — The United Body of Christ. I Cor. 12:21-31.
W — Unity of Mind. I Pet. 3:8-12.
T — God Reigns from Mount Zion. Ps. 68:15-18.
F — Christ's Eternal Glory. John 17:4-5.
S — Ultimate Humility—Ultimate Exaltation. Phil. 2:5-11.
S — Unity of Faith. Eph. 4:1-16.

9. January 28. God-Honoring Families

M — God Instituted Marriage. Matt. 19:4-6.
T — God-Ordained Roles in Marriage. I Pet. 3:1-7.
W — God Rules over All Relationships. I Cor. 11:3, 11-12.
T — An Exemplary Wife. Prov. 31:10-12, 23, 26-29.
F — Vital Principles for Christian Families. Col. 3:18-21.
S — Imparting Wisdom to Children. Prov. 3:1-2.
S — Submitting to One Another. Eph. 5:21—6:4.

10. February 4. Spiritual Armor

M — A Deadly Enemy. I Pet. 5:6-11.
T — A Spiritual Battle. Dan. 10:10-21.
W — Pray for All People. I Tim. 2:1-4.
T — Submit to God. Jas. 4:1-10.
F — Spiritual Weapons. II Cor. 10:1-5.
S — Power of God's Word. Luke 4:1-13.
S — Prepare for Battle. Eph. 6:10-24.

11. February 11. The Supremacy of Christ

M — Jesus and the Father Are One. John 14:9-11.
T — Through Him Are All Things. I Cor. 8:4-6.
W — Christ—the Firstfruits of Resurrection Life. I Cor. 15:20-28.
T — Jesus, the Alpha and the Omega. Rev. 1:4-8.
F — The Fullness of God. John 1:14-18.
S — Reconciled Through Christ. II Cor. 5:17-21.
S — Christ's Greatness. Col. 1:15-28.

12. February 18. Complete in Christ

M — Jesus Is God. John 10:24-33.
T — United with Christ. Rom. 6:1-12.
W — Beware of False Teaching. I Tim. 4:1-8.
T — Beware of Traditions of Men. Matt. 15:1-9.
F — Christ Does What the Law Could Not Do. Rom. 7:1-6.
S — Treasures of Wisdom in Christ. Col. 2:1-5.
S — Christ Is the Head. Col. 2:6-19.

13. February 25. A Plea for Christlike Forgiveness

M — Ministering to the Saints. Heb. 6:9-12.
T — Refreshing the Saints. I Cor. 16:13-18.
W — The Refreshment of a Faithful Testimony. III John 1:2-4.
T — Useful in Ministry. Phil. 2:19, 22-30; II Tim. 4:11.
F — Appeal for Reconciliation. Phil. 4:1-3.
S — Forgive Our Debtors. Matt. 6:9-15.
S — Forgiveness and Acceptance. Phm. 1:4-21.

SCRIPTURE LESSON TEXT

PHIL. 1:12 But I would ye should understand, brethren, that the things *which happened* unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel;

13 So that my bonds in Christ are manifest in all the palace, and in all other places;

14 And many of the brethren in the Lord, waxing confident by my bonds, are much more bold to speak the word without fear.

15 Some indeed preach Christ even of envy and strife; and some also of good will:

16 The one preach Christ of contention, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my bonds:

17 But the other of love, knowing that I am set for the defence of the gospel.

18 What then? notwithstanding, every way, whether in pretence, or in truth, Christ is preached; and I therein do rejoice, yea, and will rejoice.

19 For I know that this shall turn to my salvation through your

prayer, and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ,

20 According to my earnest expectation and *my* hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but *that* with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether *it be* by life, or by death.

21 For to me to live *is* Christ, and to die *is* gain.

22 But if I live in the flesh, this *is* the fruit of my labour: yet what I shall choose I wot not.

23 For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better:

24 Nevertheless to abide in the flesh *is* more needful for you.

25 And having this confidence, I know that I shall abide and continue with you all for your furtherance and joy of faith;

26 That your rejoicing may be more abundant in Jesus Christ for me by my coming to you again.

NOTES

To Live Is Christ

Lesson Text: Philippians 1:12-26

Related Scriptures: Acts 28:11-16, 30-31; I Corinthians 3:5-9;
II Corinthians 5:1-9; II Timothy 4:6-8

TIME: A.D. 60-61

PLACE: from Rome

GOLDEN TEXT—"In nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death" (Philippians 1:20).

Preparing to Teach the Lesson

TODAY'S AIM

Facts: to demonstrate Paul's positive attitude as He lived to please Christ.

Principle: to teach that there is joy in living the abundant life in Christ.

Application: to encourage students to emulate Paul's outlook and way of life through the power of Christ.

INTRODUCING THE LESSON

Some of the most vibrant Christians live in very negative circumstances, but they turned those circumstances into a positive witness. A prime example of this was the late Dr. John F. Gates. In the late 1960s I had the privilege of studying under Dr. Gates when he was a professor at Saint Paul Bible College. Dr. Gates had been born hopelessly deformed and crippled, but he refused to be defined by his physical condition.

"Doc," as he was affectionately known, could type only one letter at a time by striking his typewriter keys with a pencil, yet he wrote two books. He sipped coffee through a straw and

had to be hand-fed, but God used Dr. Gates in a mighty way. In this week's lesson, we see how Paul was able to live victoriously even within the confines of his prison.

DEVELOPING THE LESSON

1. Positive results of persecution (Phil. 1:12-14). Most people do not view time in jail as a positive experience. Paul did not enjoy the deprivation and loss of personal freedom, either. He was, however, able to focus on the big picture and see how God was at work while he was in prison.

Verse 13 indicates that Paul had gained wide exposure through his prison experience. During this imprisonment, Paul was under house arrest. Members of the elite Praetorian Guard were chained to Paul in shifts. How else would a man like Paul have been able to witness to that segment of society? God has His ways!

There was a further positive result of Paul's imprisonment. Verse 14 tells us that other Christians were becoming more bold in witnessing since Paul had been incarcerated.

2. Positive attitude toward the gospel (Phil. 1:15-18). People have various motives for the things they do and say. This was even true of preachers in Paul's time.

Notice that Paul was mature enough to rejoice when the gospel was preached, even by those who might have animosity toward him.

3. Positive attitude toward the future (Phil. 1:19-20). Paul prayed for many people, and he appreciated prayers offered for him.

Paul wanted his freedom, but even more he wanted to be a bold and faith-

ful witness. His future hopes and aspirations had more to do with being a bold witness than with life itself.

4. Positive attitude toward life in general (Phil. 1:21-26). Discuss how verse 21 encapsulates the Christian experience.

Review why Paul would view death as "gain."

ANTICIPATING THE NEXT LESSON

Paul realized that his good deeds had been useless for gaining God's favor. Read Philippians 3:7-21.

—Bruce A. Tanner.

Studying the Text

PUTTING CHRIST'S CAUSE BEFORE COMFORT—Phil. 1:12-14

New ministry for Paul (Phil. 1:12-13). As Paul wrote to the Philippian church, he desired to motivate them to faithful Christian living and service. He pointed to the example of his own life. It is easy for Christians to get discouraged when life gets difficult. Paul knew all about those kinds of pressures and temptations.

As Paul was visiting Jerusalem, he was arrested and imprisoned. Even though the Roman authorities acknowledged that he was innocent, they did not release the apostle. Eventually Paul appealed his case to Caesar, the Roman emperor. After a long voyage to Rome, during which he nearly lost his life, Paul arrived at the capital. There he was placed under house arrest (Acts 21—28).

In looking back on the whole unjust, humiliating ordeal, Paul could easily have become disillusioned and bitter. Instead, he looked past his personal pain to the progress that the gospel had made through his suffering. {Instead of using his own comfort as the standard

for evaluating his situation, Paul measured his experiences in terms of how they furthered the cause of Christ.}Q1

As Paul examined the circumstances of his confinement, he realized that the Lord had opened up for him an exciting and strategic new ministry that he never could have anticipated. {The soldiers who guarded Paul were members of the elite Praetorian Guard, who were assigned to the imperial palace. Paul thus had a mission field in his own house, a captive audience of strategically positioned men who took turns monitoring the apostle.}Q2

Paul used the opportunity to tell the soldiers about Christ, thus reaching an audience that the Christian congregations most likely would never have encountered.

New motivation for the brethren (Phil. 1:14). No doubt the first reaction of other Christians to the news of Paul's imprisonment was discouragement. If this leader of the church, the indomitable pioneer missionary, was no longer able to lead, what future did the church have?

{As word of Paul's impact on Rome