

Philippians

CELL BIBLE STUDY GUIDE

PHILIPPIANS 1

OVERVIEW

Chapter	Key Verse	Subject
Philippians 1	"For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain." (Phil 1:21)	Life in Christ
Philippians 2	"complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind." (Phil 2:2)	Unity and Humility in Christ
Philippians 3	"..I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord." (Phil 3:8)	Discipleship in Christ
Philippians 4	"...I have learned, in whatever situation I am, to be content." (Phil 4:11)	Contentment in Christ

INTRODUCTION

The book of Philippians is best understood as a combination of two closely related types of first-century letters: a “letter of friendship” and a “letter of moral exhortation,” shaped within the Greco-Roman context and transformed by Paul the Apostle’s Christian message.

First, Philippians reflects the characteristics of a “friendship letter”, the most common and informal type in the Greco-Roman world. Such letters were written between people who shared deep mutual affection and partnership. This is evident in Paul’s warm tone, his expressions of longing, gratitude, and joy, and his concern for both his situation and that of the Philippians. The relationship is marked by reciprocity - seen in their financial support for him and his prayers and encouragement for them. Unlike many of his other letters, Paul avoids asserting authority and instead emphasizes mutuality in Christ.

Second, the letter also functions as a “moral exhortation letter”, a common philosophical form used to encourage right living. In this role, Paul urges the Philippians toward unity, humility, perseverance, and faithfulness. He appeals not to authority but to example - pointing to Christ’s humility and his own life as models to imitate.

Taken together, Philippians is a pastoral, relational letter: deeply personal in tone, yet purposeful in guiding believers toward Christlike character within a community bound by friendship and shared mission.

READ

Philippians 1

STUDY

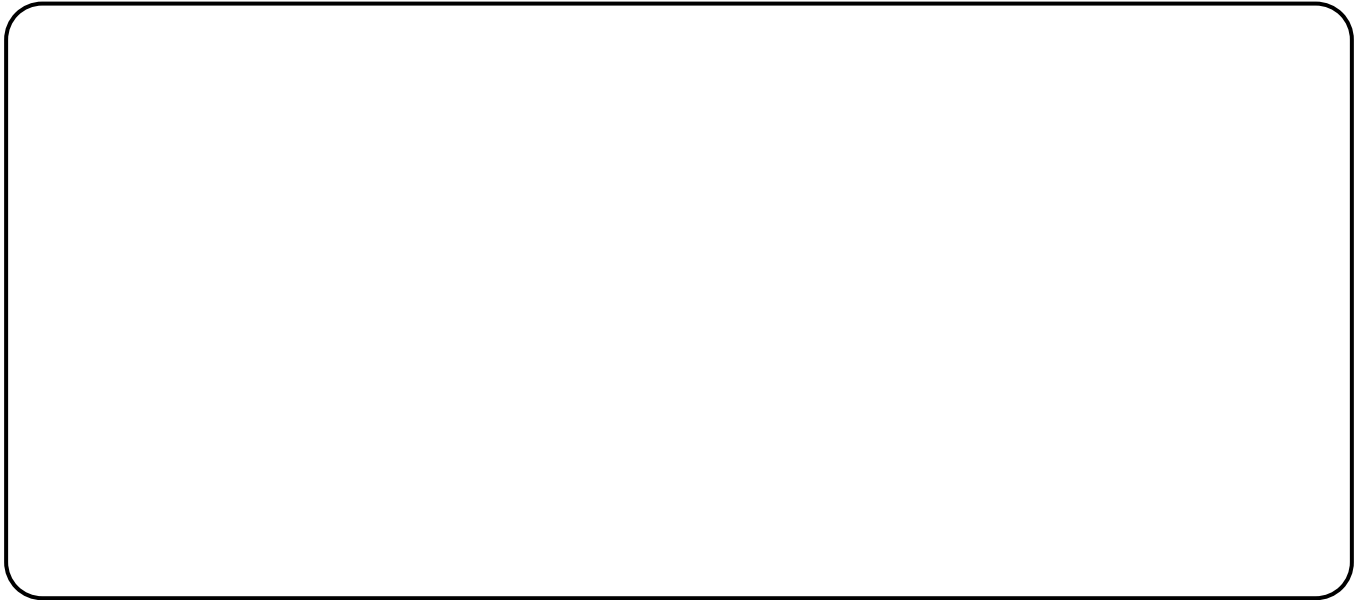
Philippians 1:1-2

Read Paul's greetings to the church in Philippi, paying particular attention to verse 1b.

1. What do Paul's greetings reveal about the intended recipients of this letter? How does this understanding shape the way we should read the book of Philippians?

Philippians 1:3-11

2. What can we learn from Paul's thanksgiving about joy and prayer (v3-8)?

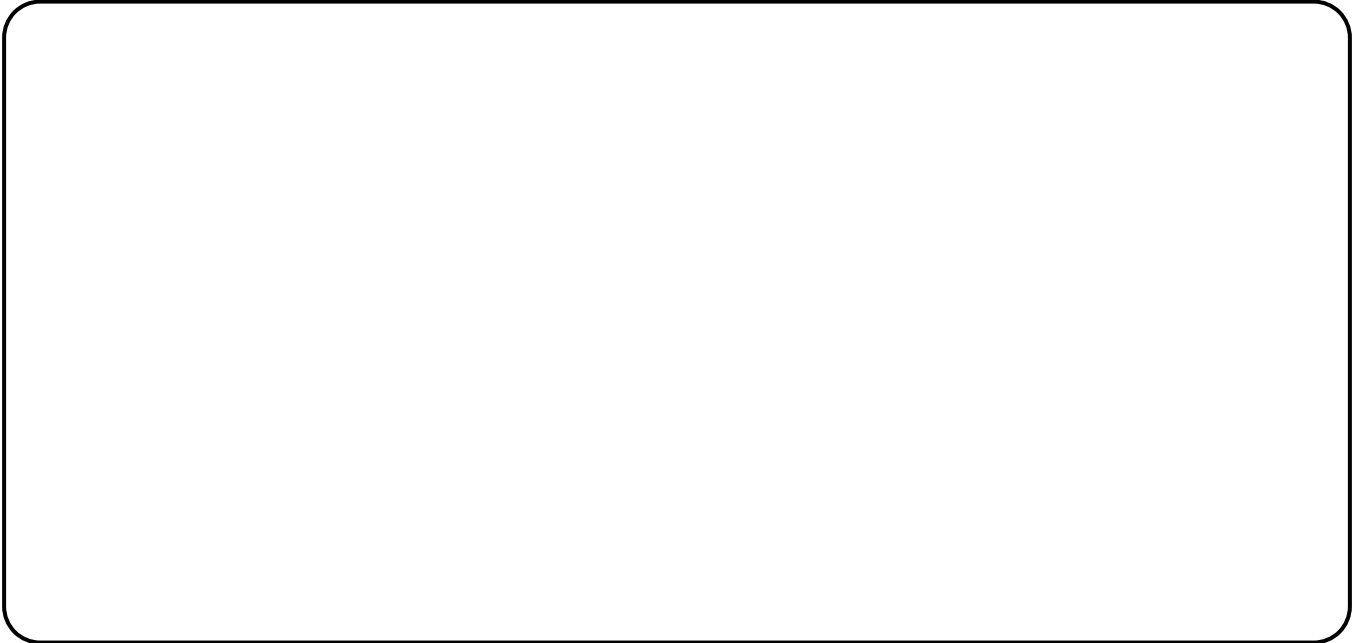


3. What is Paul's primary focus in his prayer for the church (v9-11)? How can this guide and deepen the way we pray for LSBC and one another?



Philippians 1:12-26

4. With reference to verses 12–18a, what does Paul identify as the greatest impact of his imprisonment?



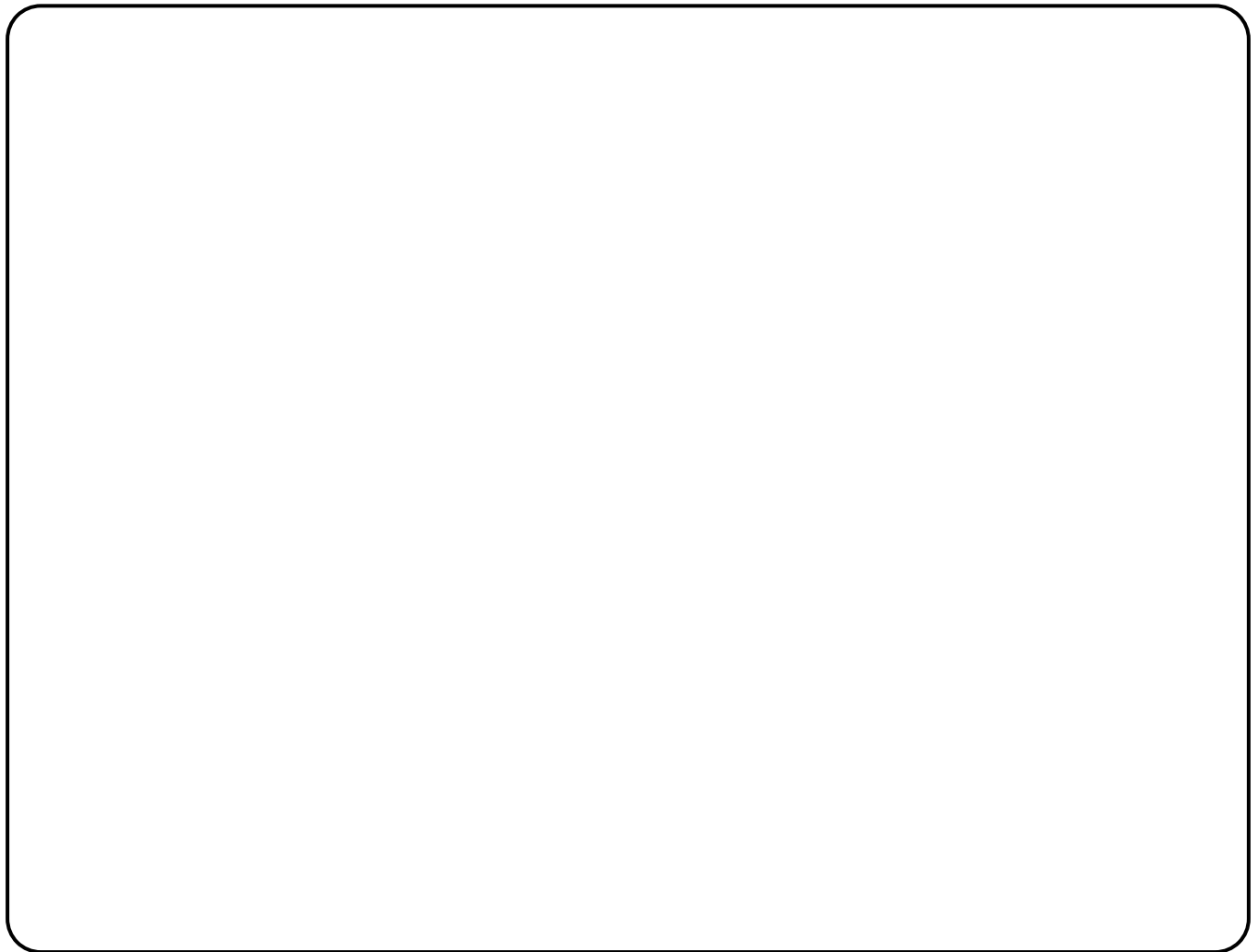
5. What can we learn about Paul's attitude toward suffering in verses 18b - 26?



Philippians 1:27-30

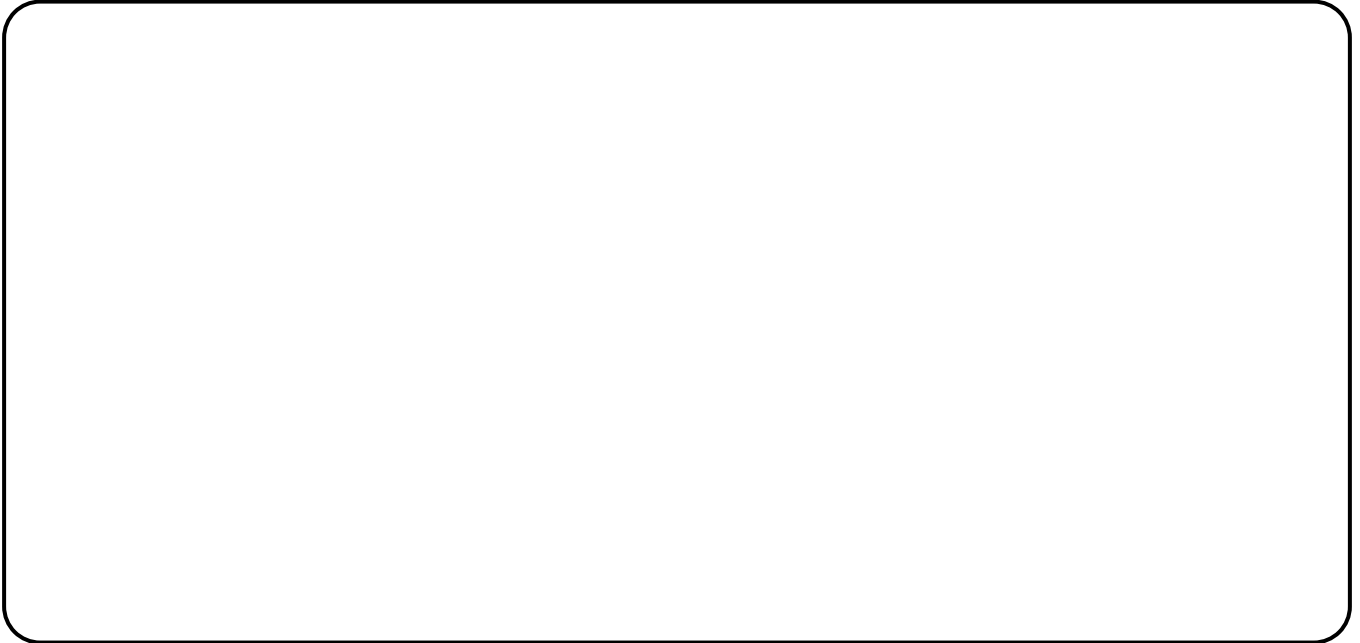
Finally, in verse 27, Paul exhorts the Philippian believers to conduct themselves “in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ.”

6. What does Paul anticipate will characterize a life that is worthy of the gospel?



DISCUSSION & SHARING

1. In what ways do Paul's thanksgiving and prayer in this chapter shape your understanding and practice of prayer?

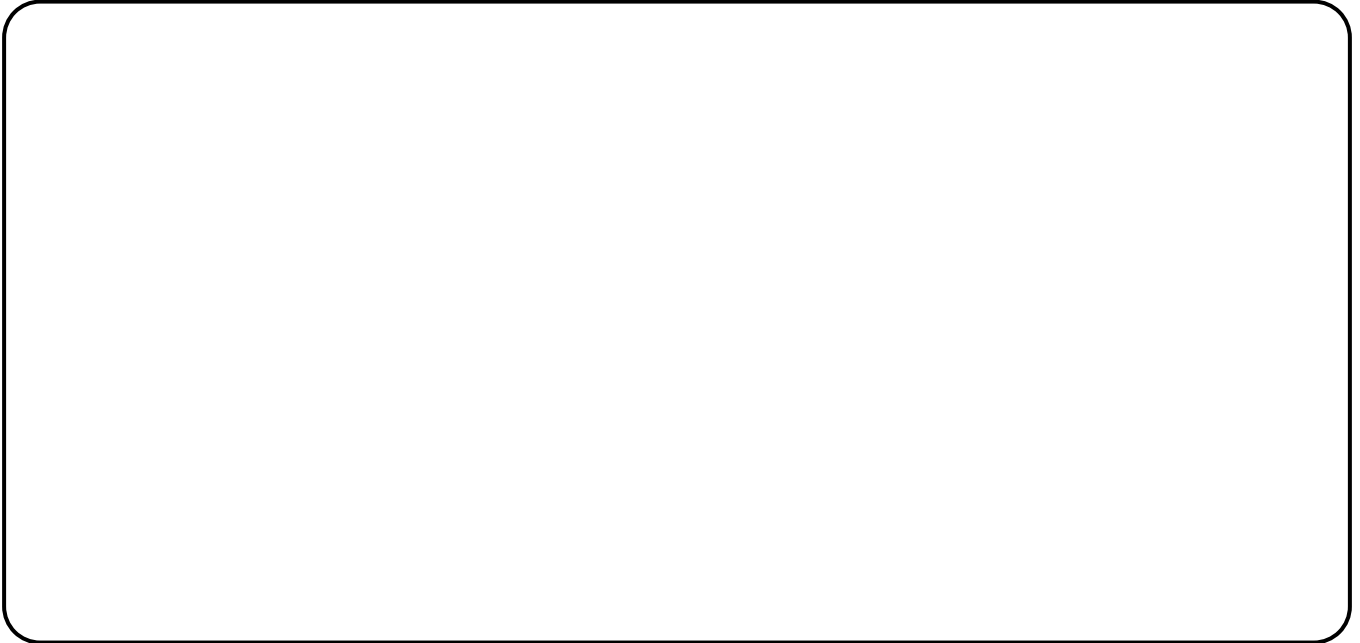


2. How do our lives parallel Paul's with regard to the advancement of the gospel of Jesus Christ? Are there personal experiences you can share?



DISCUSSION & SHARING

3. Are we living in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ?
How has suffering shaped your journey of faith?



4. In light of Question 3, how have you responded during seasons of challenge or difficulty, especially when they arise for the sake of the gospel?

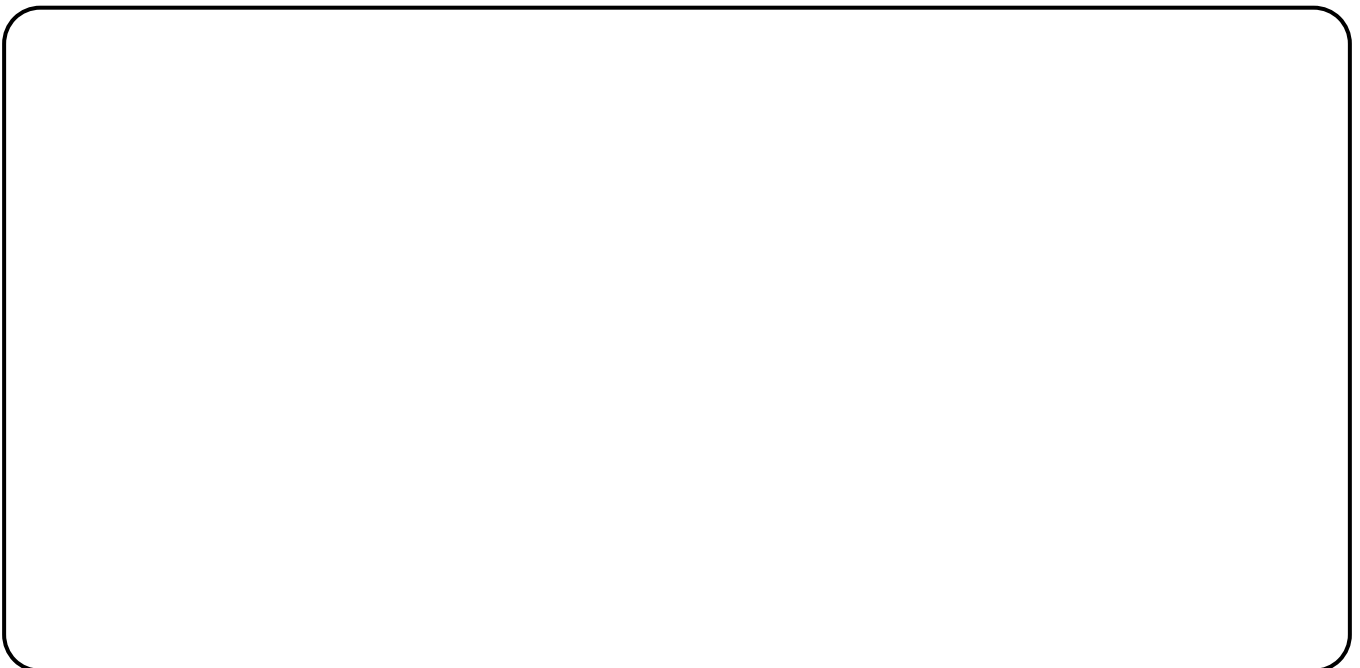


RESPONSE

1. What is most impactful and relevant to you in this Chapter?



2. My response to God's Word



PHILIPPIANS 2

OVERVIEW

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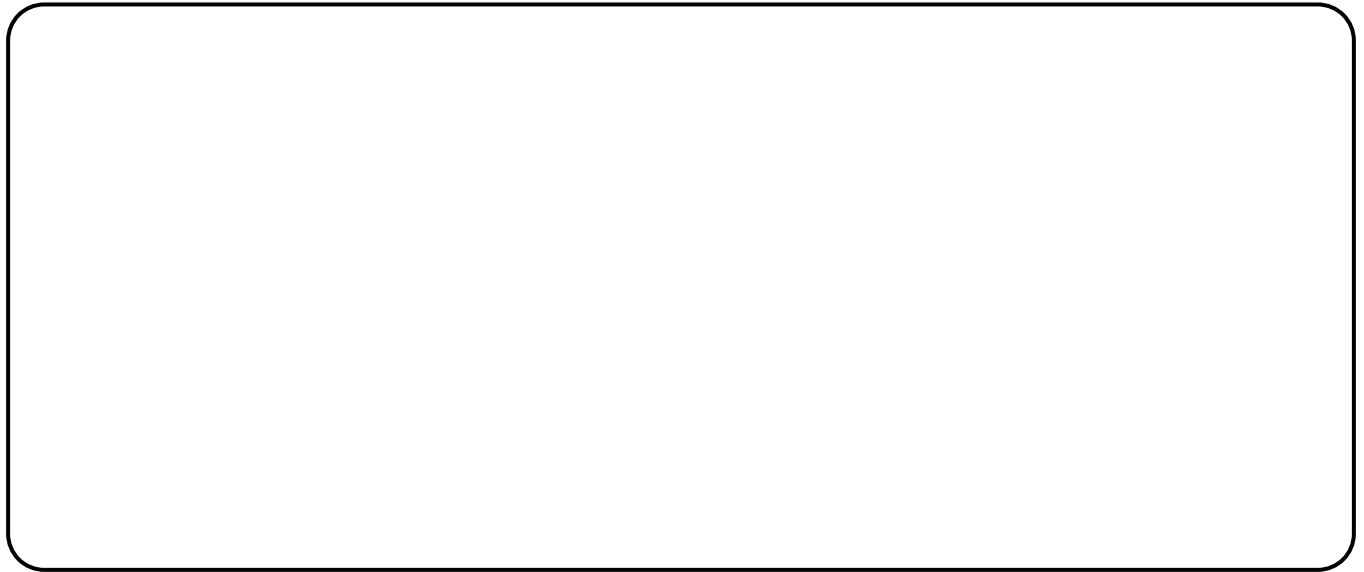
READ

Philippians 2

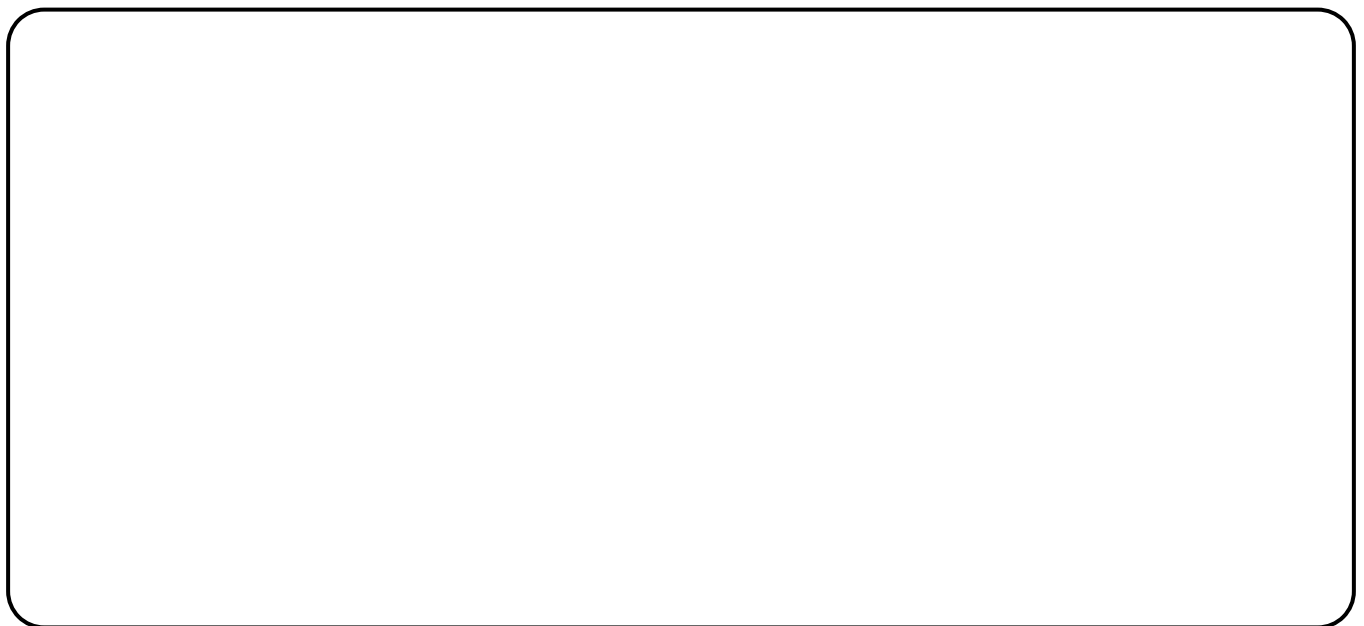
STUDY

Philippians 2:1-11

1. How does Christ's example in Philippians 2:6-11 enable believers to live out Paul's exhortations in v1-4?



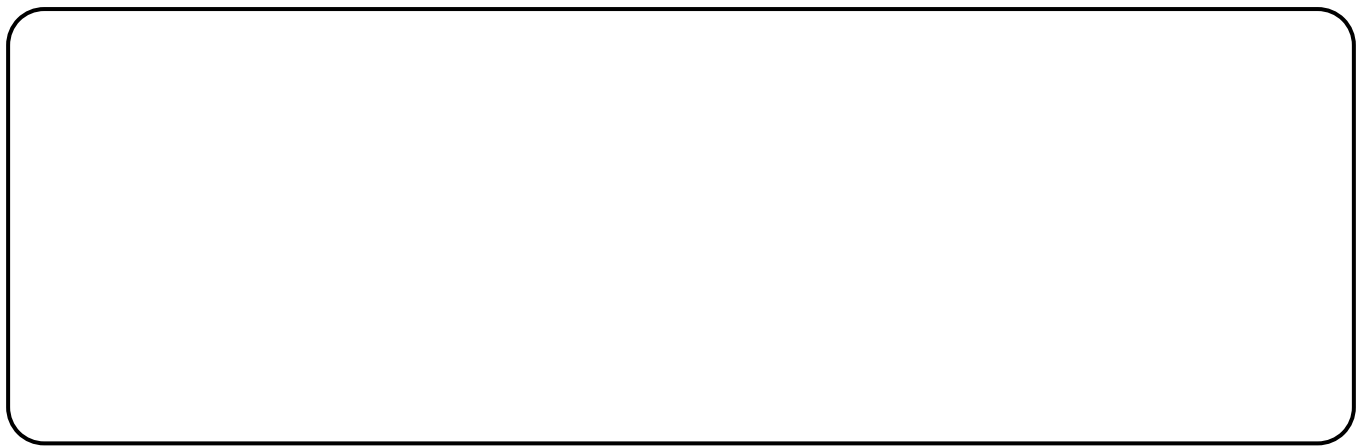
2. Why is humility essential for unity in the church? What happens when humility is lacking?



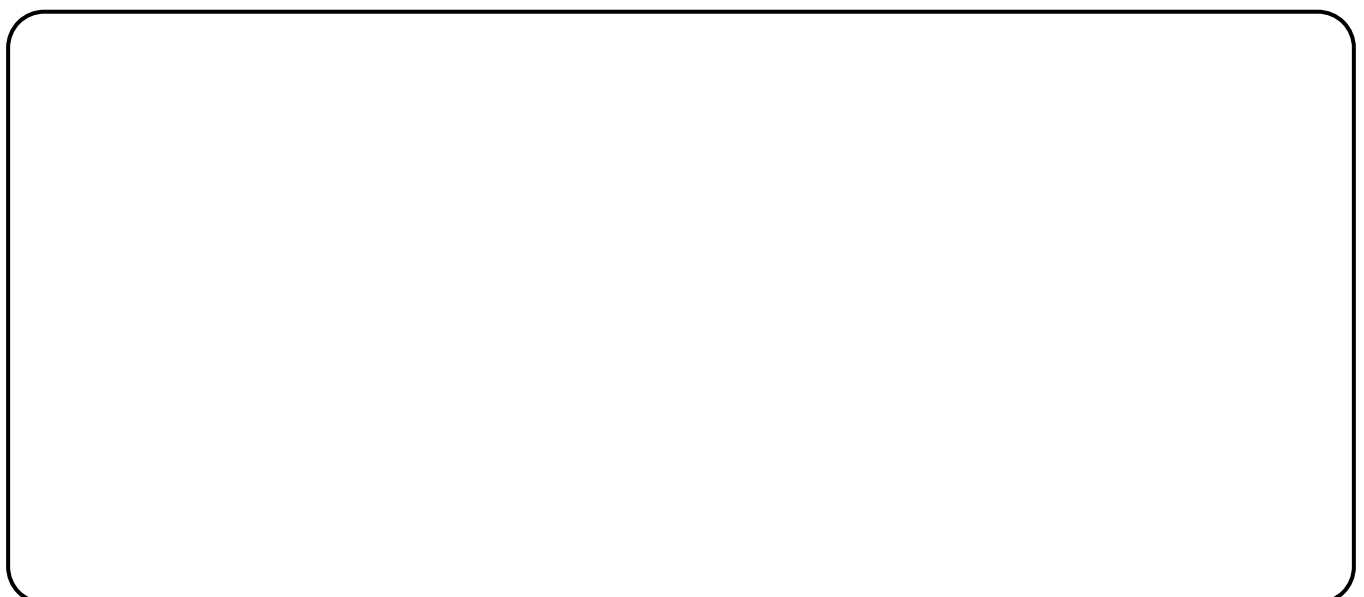
Philippians 2:12-18

“Therefore” at the beginning of verse 12 points to the previous section where Paul describes Christ’s exaltation to the highest place (2:9-11).

3. From verse 12, what does Paul mean by “work out your own salvation with fear and trembling”, and what leads him to say this?

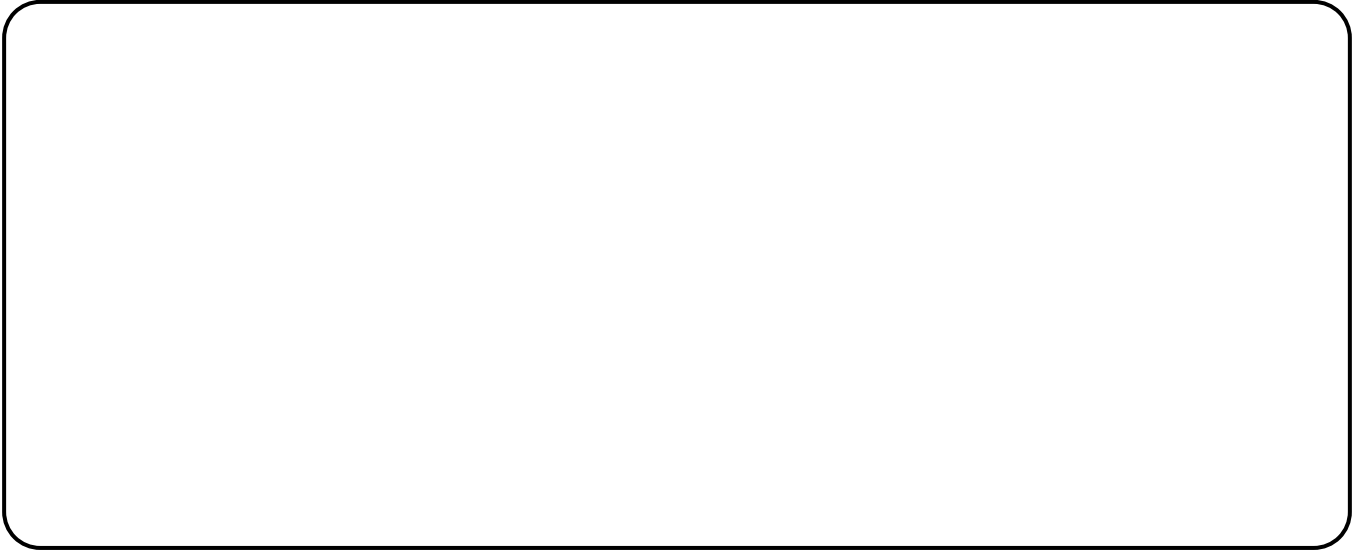


4. How are believers meant to stand out in contrast to the “crooked and twisted generation”? What kind of lifestyle and attitudes does Paul call believers to?



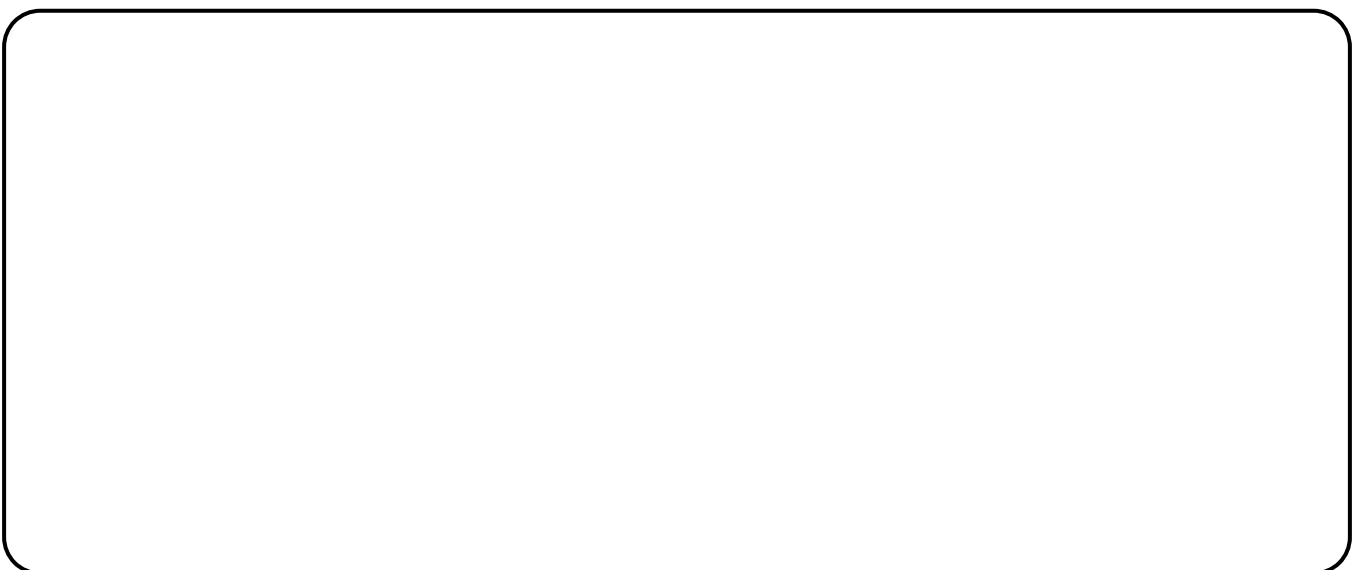
Philippians 2:19-30

5. What qualities do you observe in Timothy and Epaphroditus? How do their lives illustrate Paul's teaching in Philippians 2?



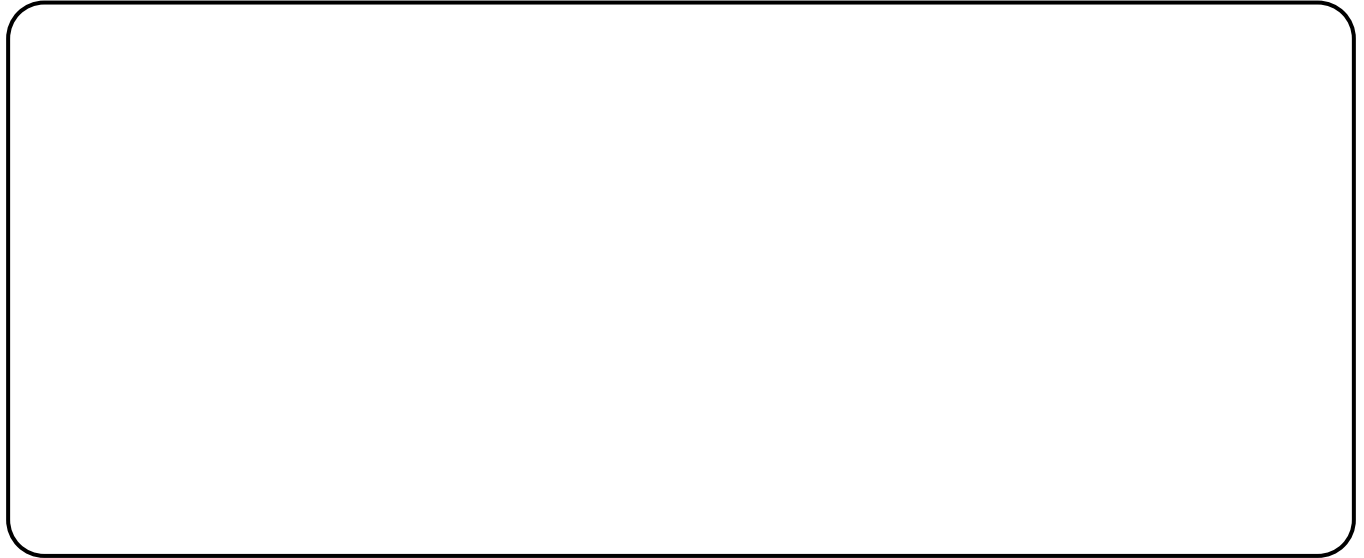
DISCUSSION & SHARING

1. How does Jesus' example of humility in Philippians 2:5-8 shape the way we live in humility and unity with one another?



DISCUSSION & SHARING

2. Are there brothers and sisters in Christ who have encouraged you in your faith, just as Timothy and Epaphroditus did for Paul and the Philippians? Share such examples with one another.



3. Do you find it challenging to shine as a child of God in your generation "as lights in the world"? How does today's passage encourage and empower you to do so?

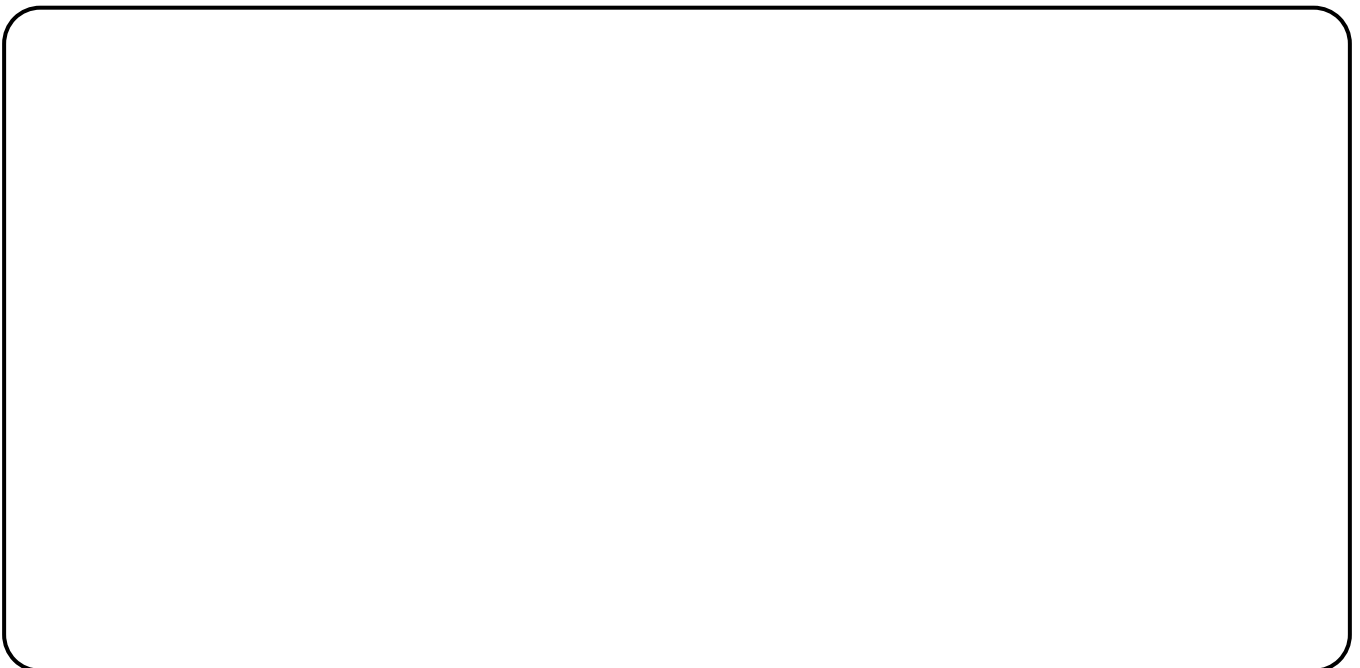


RESPONSE

1. What is most impactful and relevant to you in this Chapter?



2. My response to God's Word



PHILIPPIANS 3

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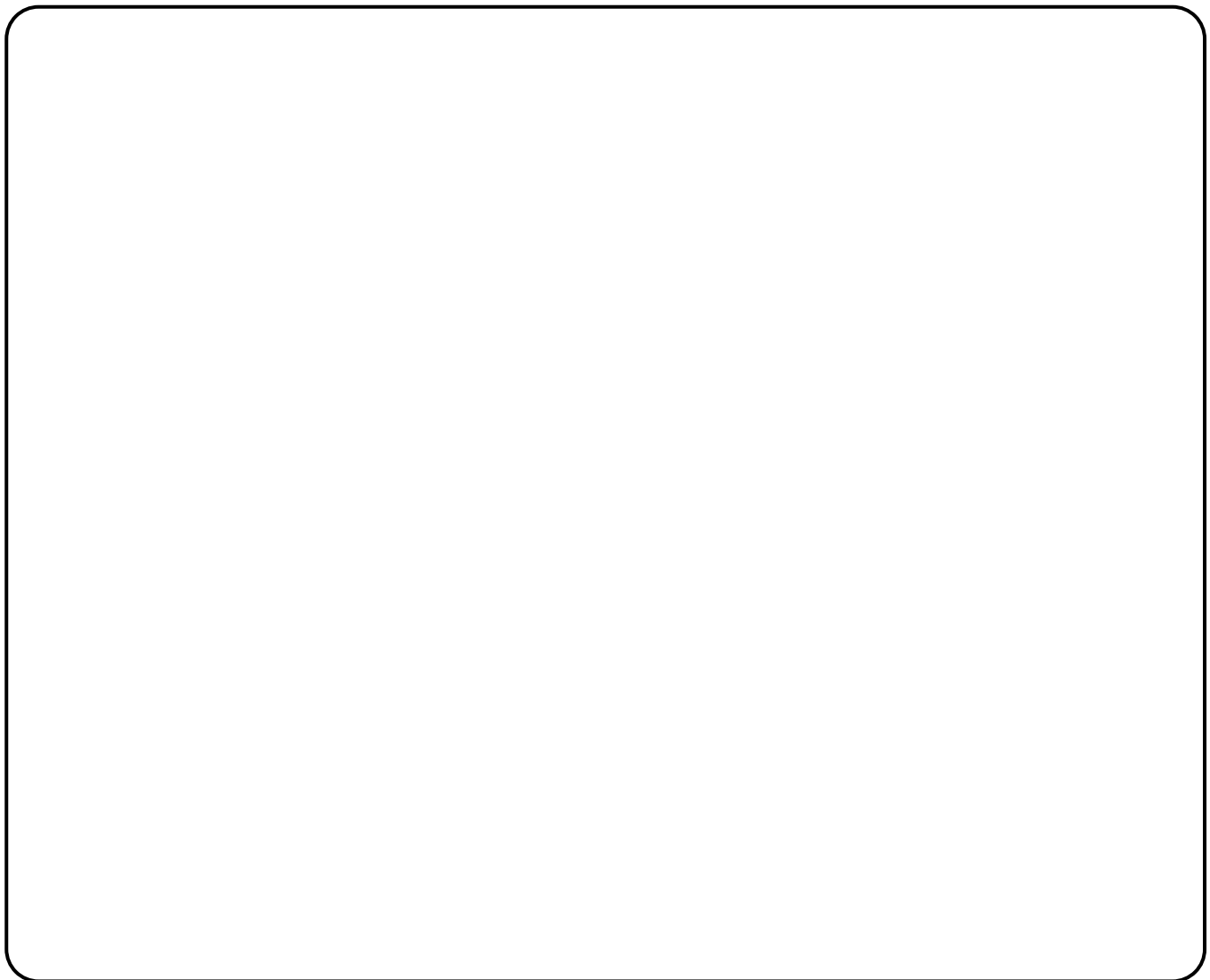
READ

Philippians 3

STUDY

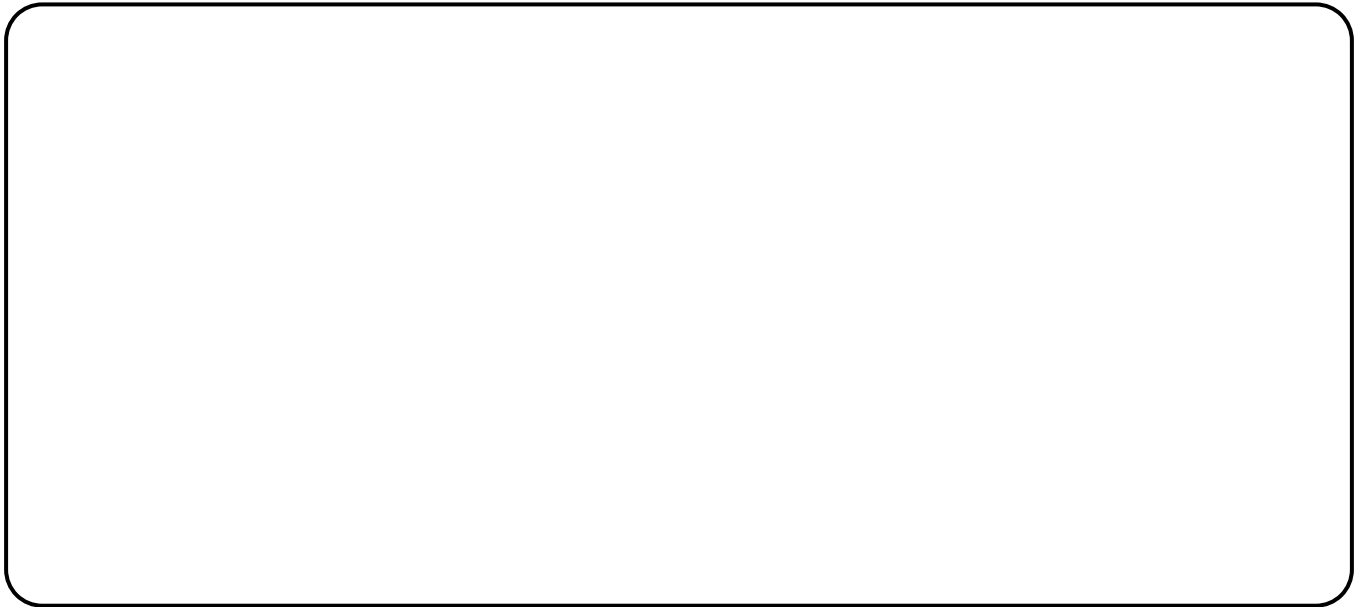
Philippians 3:1-3

1. What is the danger Paul warns against? Why is this dangerous?



Philippians 3:4-11

2. Paul's credentials would have been considered significant in his day. Why did he list all of them out here?

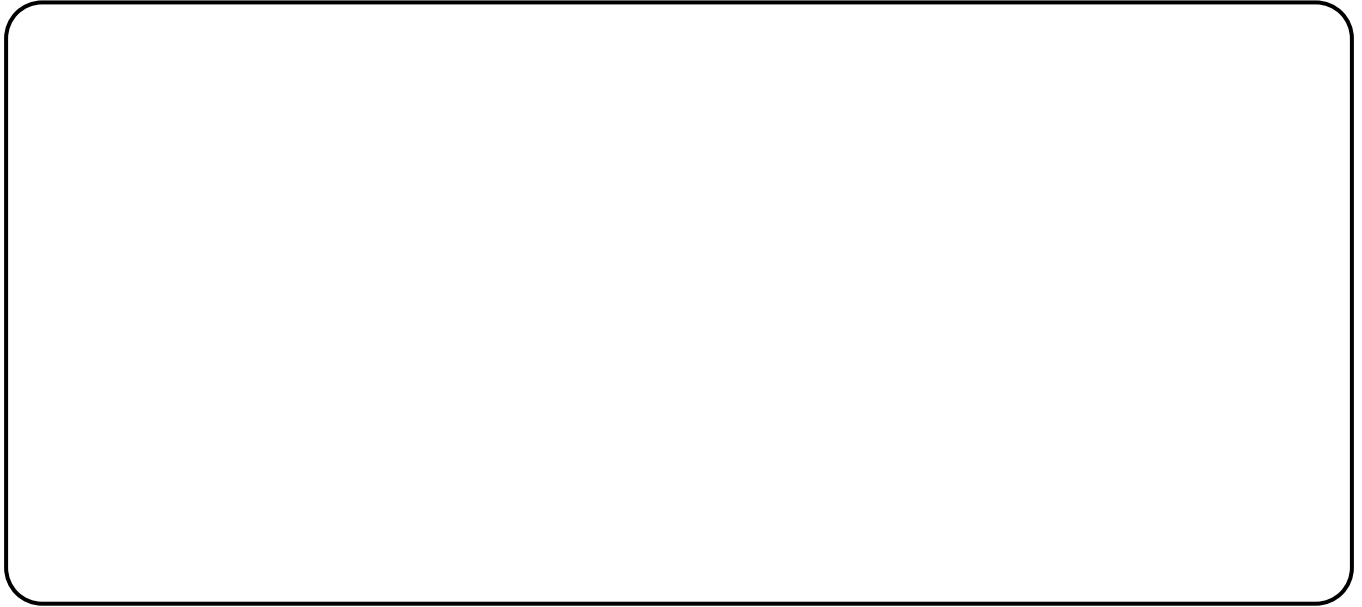


3. Paul talks a lot about the value of knowing Christ (v10). What does it mean to "know" Christ? (Compare with Jeremiah 31:34, 1 John 4:7)



Philippians 3:12-16

4. What does Paul want to press on to take hold of? How does he deal with possible disagreement?



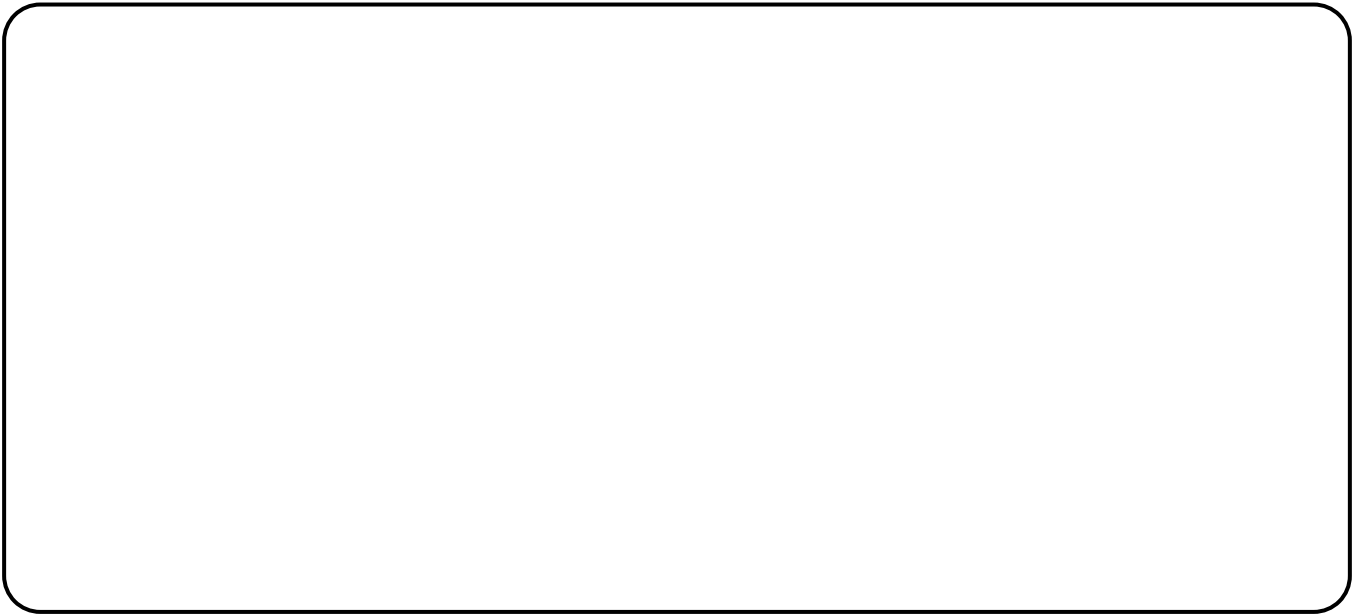
Philippians 3:17-21

5. What is the difference between how the “enemies of the cross of Christ” (v18) live and how we are called to live? What does this teach us about Christian living?




DISCUSSION & SHARING

1. Paul lists some reasons for confidence in the flesh (v4). What would be the modern-day equivalent of these? Do you find yourself placing confidence in them?

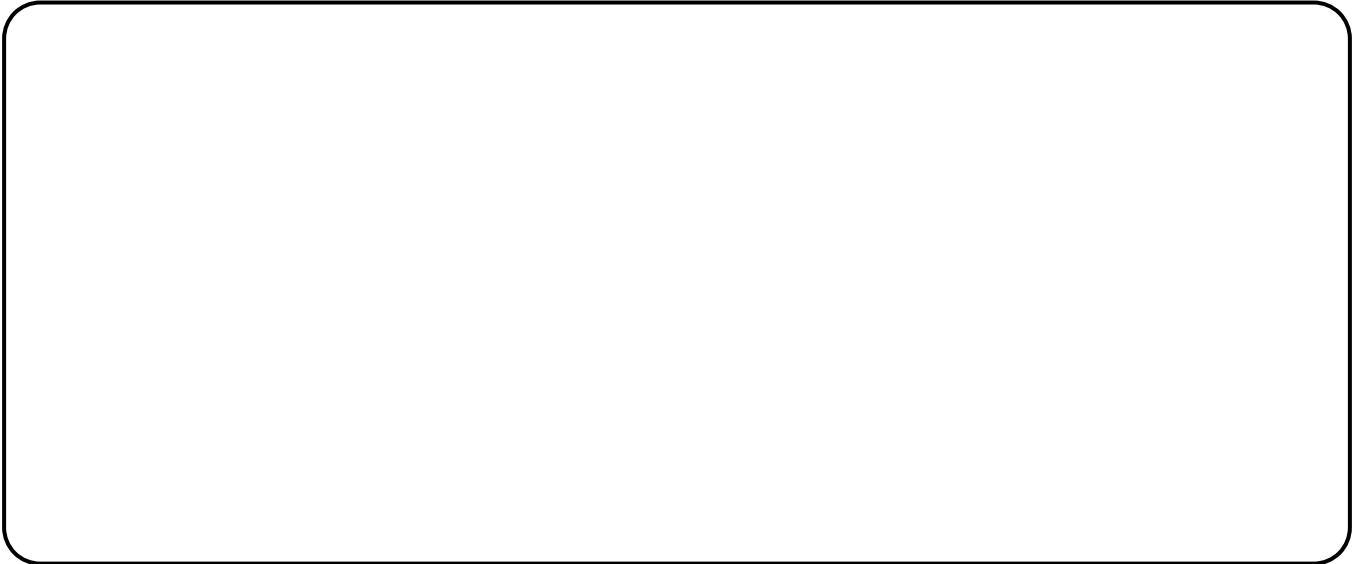


2. How can you grow deeper in knowing Christ Jesus your Lord, as Paul describes in v8-10?




DISCUSSION & SHARING

3. How can you keep pressing on toward the goal of following Christ faithfully? What might be holding you back from doing so?




4. Paul cites himself and others as an example for the believers to follow. Are there any people whose lives are examples that you want to follow? How can you set an example for others?

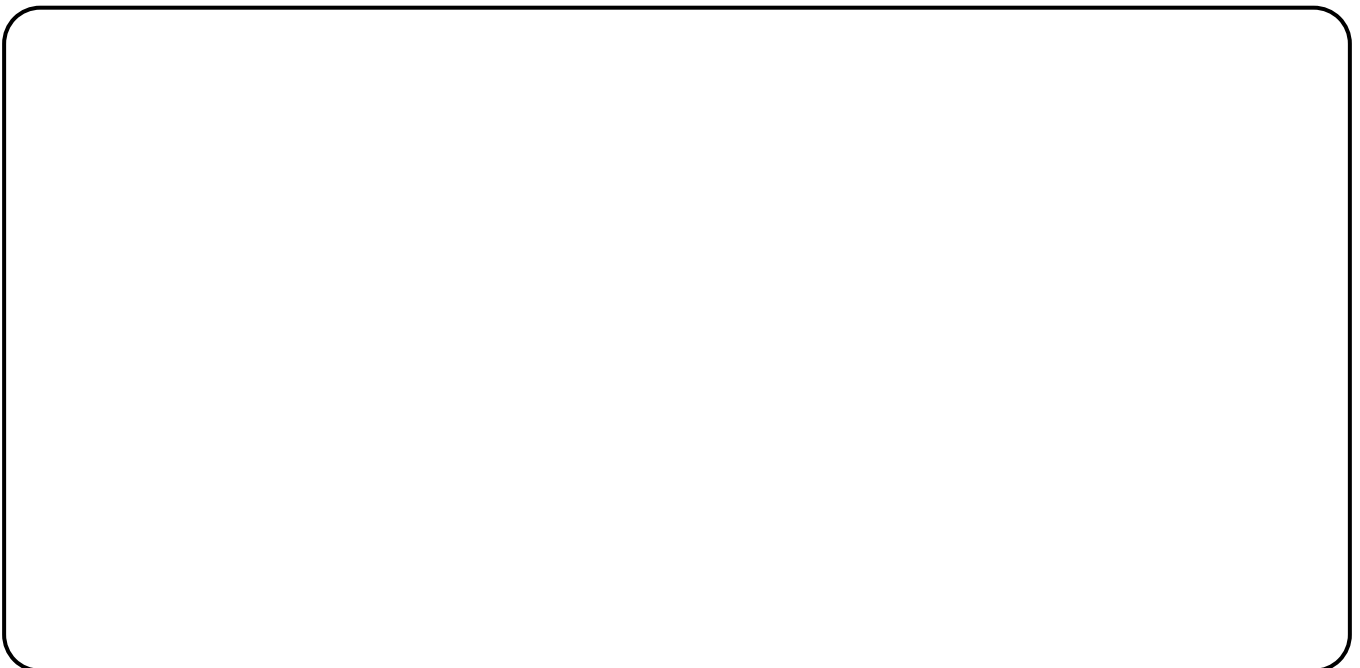


RESPONSE

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2. My response to God's Word



PHILIPPIANS 4

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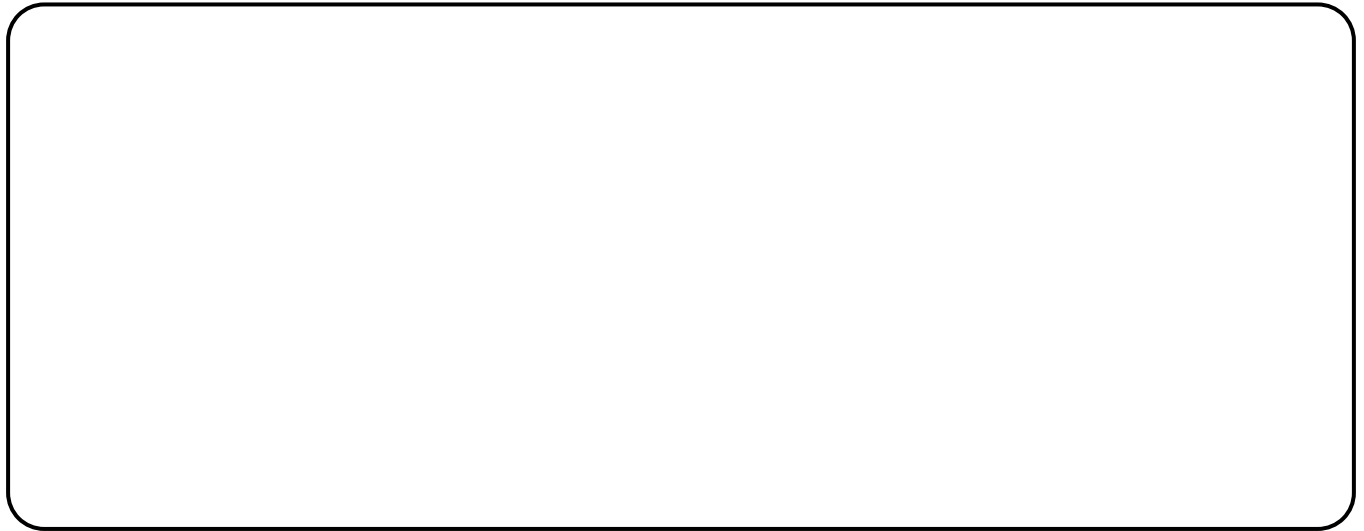
READ

Philippians 4

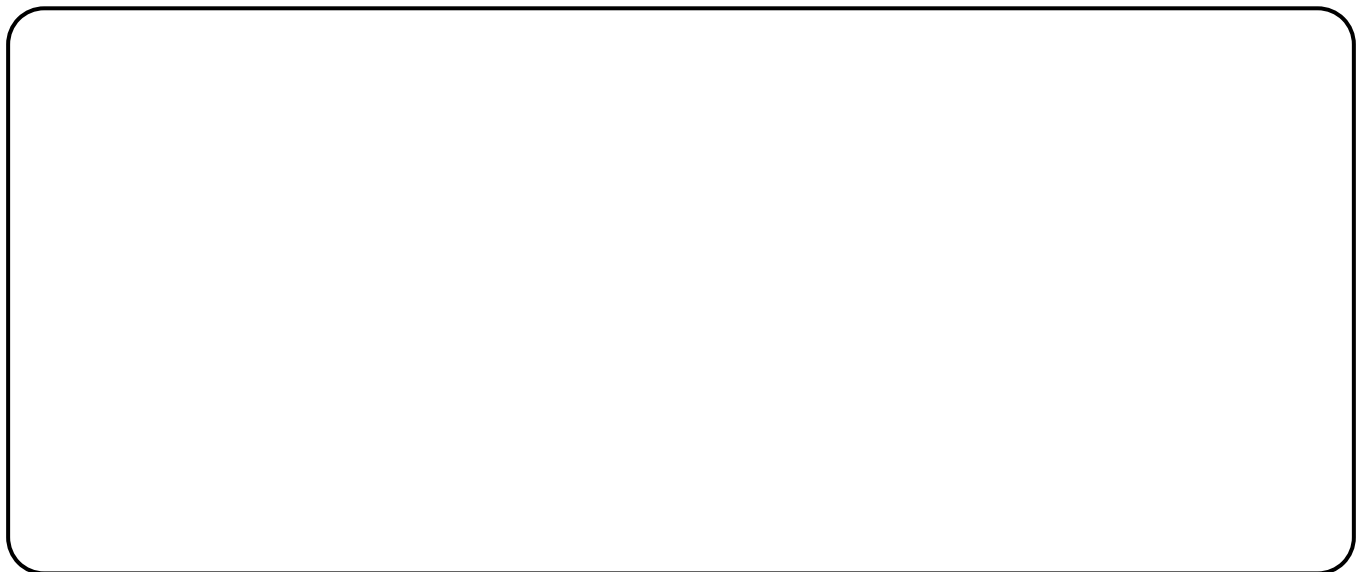
STUDY

Philippians 4:1

1. How does Paul describe his fellow believers? Why does he affirm them with these words?

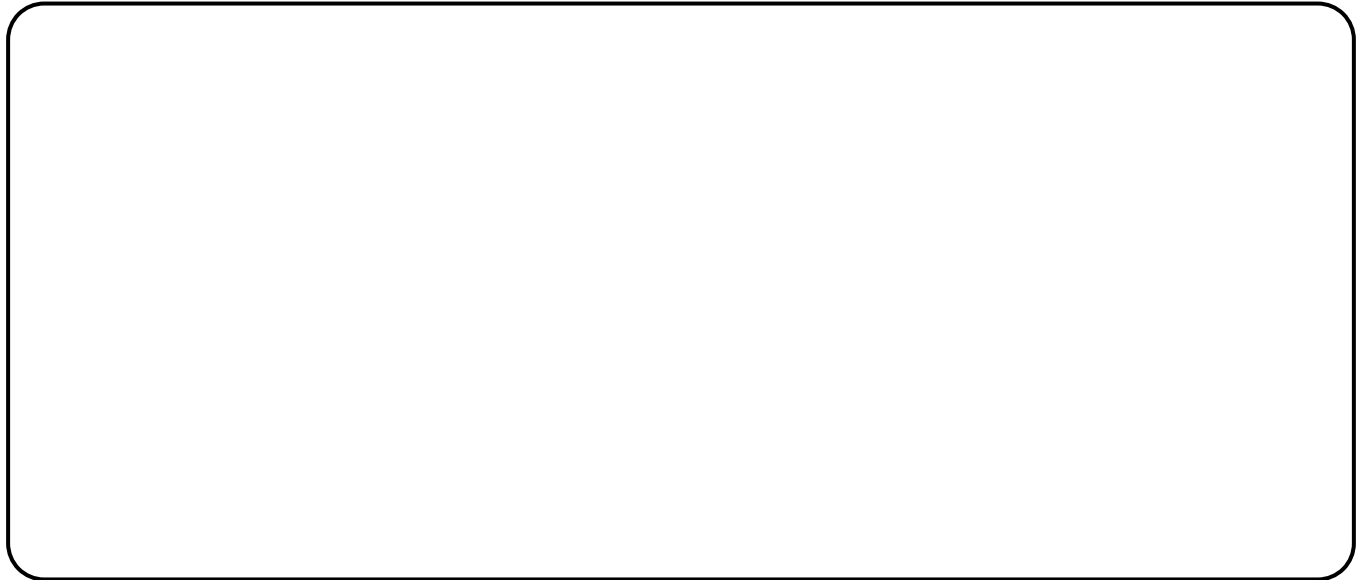


2. What does Paul mean by “stand firm in the Lord” (4:1)? Identify how this phrase is unpacked in the rest of the chapter.



Philippians 4:2-9

3. How does Paul respond to the conflict between Euodia and Syntyche (v2 & 3)? What principles can we learn about handling conflict in the church?



4. What does Paul command the Philippians to do always and when facing anxiety (v4-6)?



Philippians 4:2-9

5. What is the outcome when one maintains the right posture in prayer (v6-7)?

6. According to verse 8, what are believers called to think about? Fill in the list below and give a real-life example for each.

No.	"Whatever is _____" (v8)	What does this mean?	Example in your life:
1			
2			

Philippians 4:2-9

6. According to verse 8, what are believers called to think about? Fill in the list below and give a real-life example for each.

No.	"Whatever is _____" (v8)	What does this mean?	Example in your life:
3			
4			
5			

Philippians 4:2-9

6. According to verse 8, what are believers called to think about? Fill in the list below and give a real-life example for each.

No.	"Whatever is _____" (v8)	What does this mean?	Example in your life:
6			
7			
8			

Philippians 4:10-23

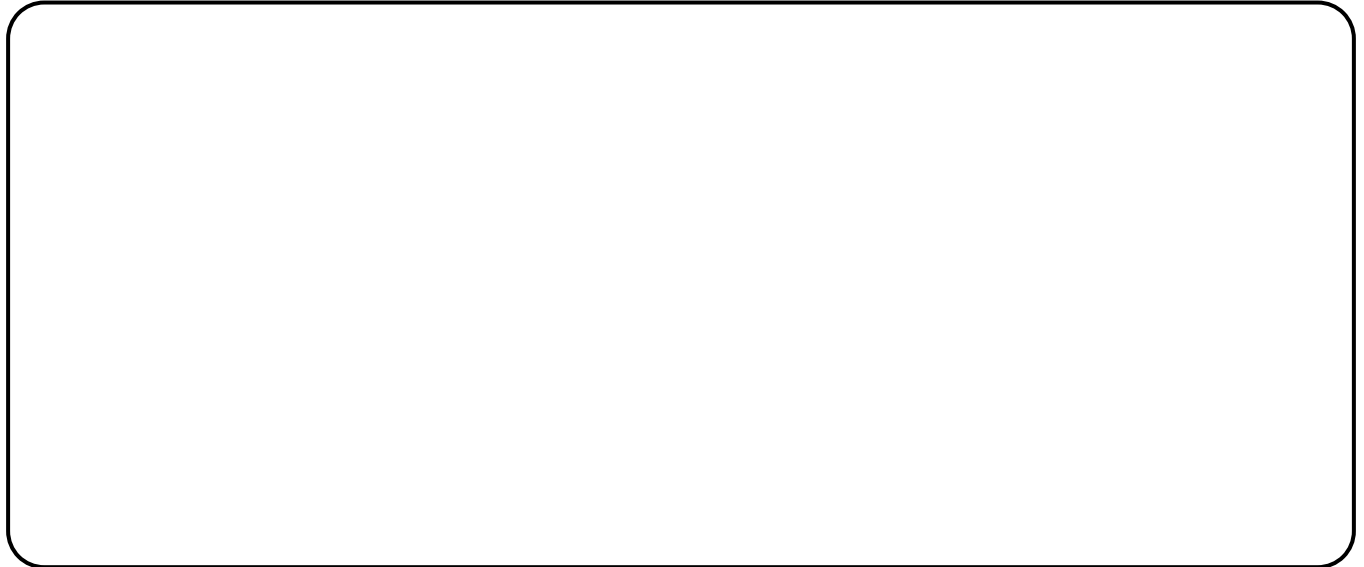
7. According to Paul, what is the “secret” to his contentment?
(Notice the true context in which v13 is written in)

8. How does Paul view the Philippians’ giving (v14-20)?

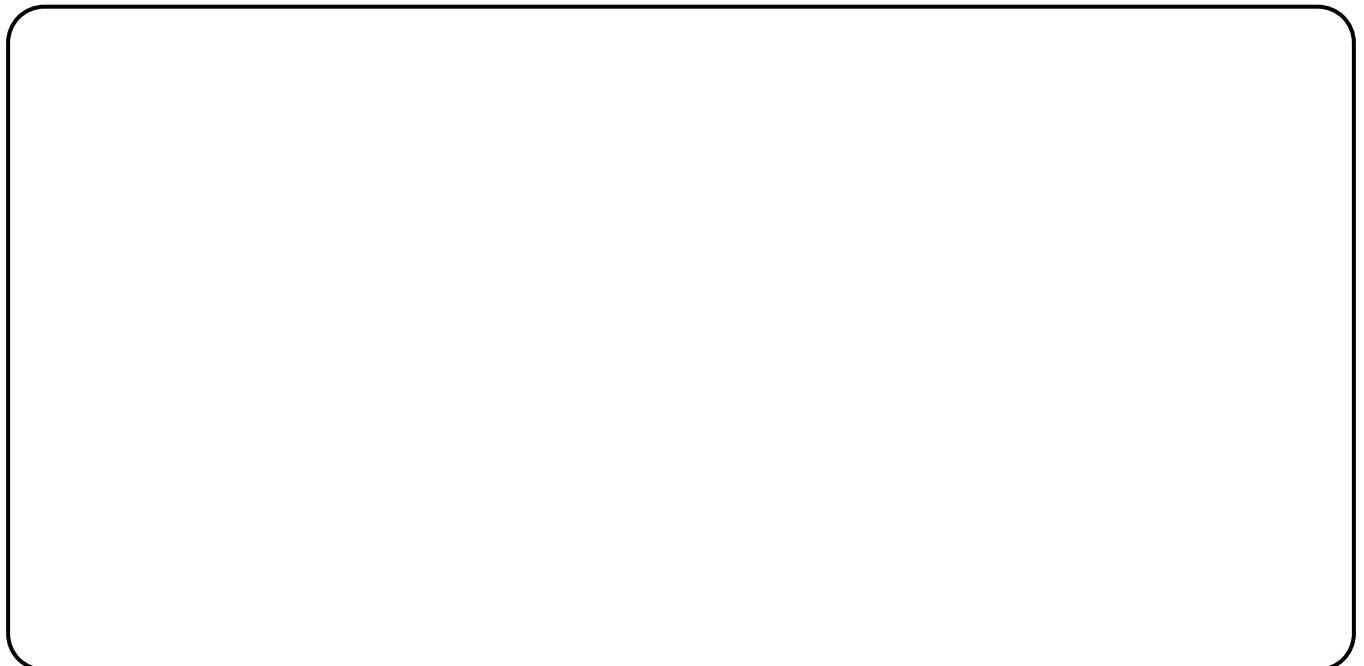
9. What do you think Paul wants the Philippians to feel or remember through his final greetings (v21-23)?

DISCUSSION & SHARING

1. Why do you think Paul emphasises to rejoice IN the Lord ALWAYS, rather than rejoicing in our circumstances? How can we rejoice in the Lord even in difficult times?

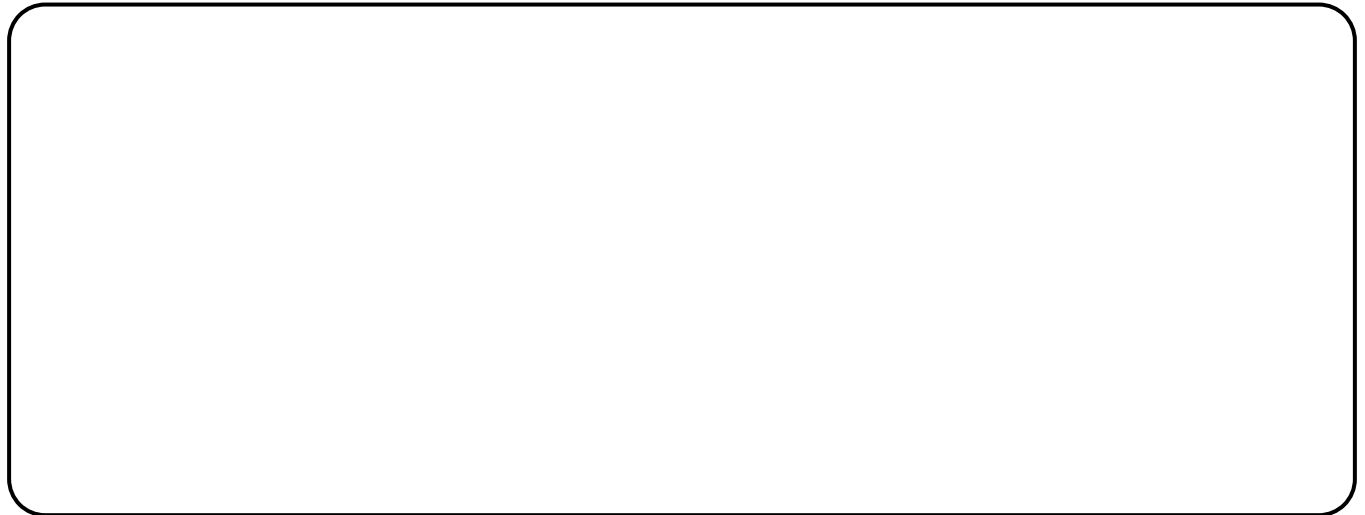


2. What areas of your life are you currently anxious about? Bring them to the Lord in prayer and thanksgiving today.



DISCUSSION & SHARING

3. In what situations do you tend to struggle with discontentment or comparison? Where do you think this discontentment stems from (e.g. expectations, insecurity)? How can we learn to be content, like Paul?

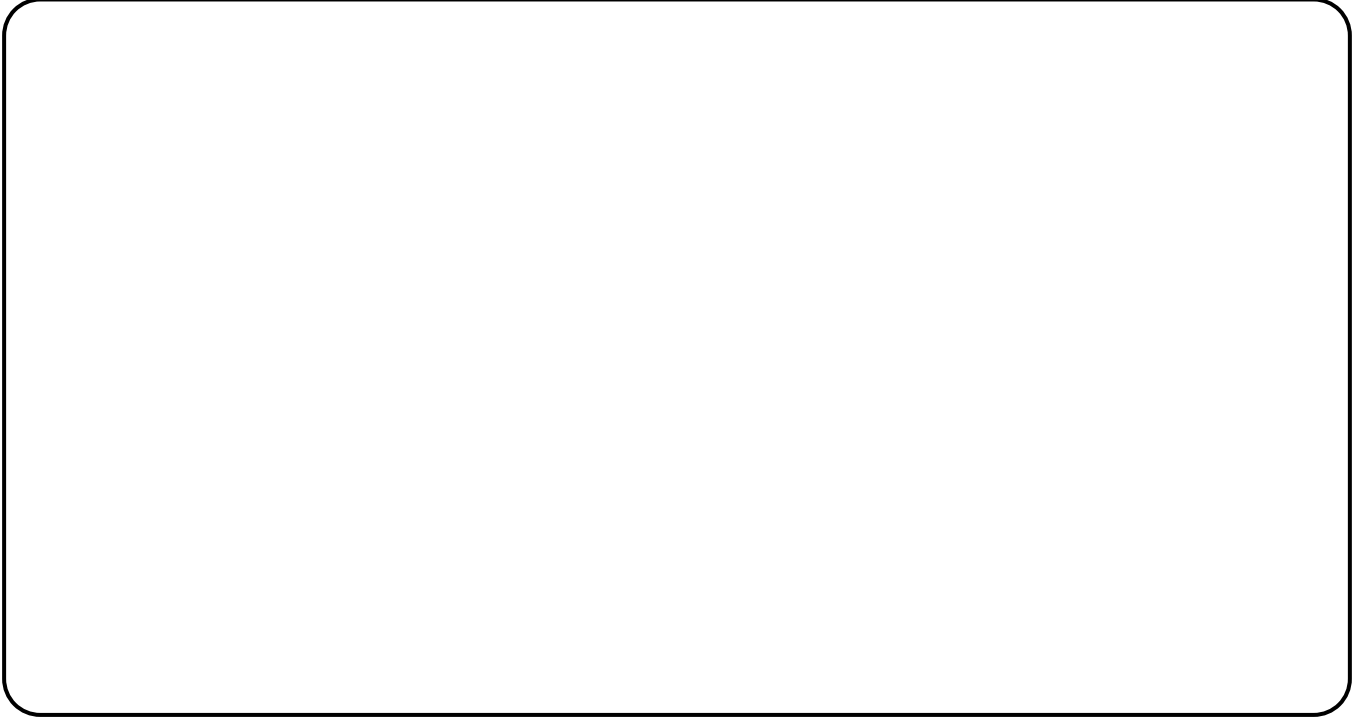


4. How have you experienced God's provision - either as a giver or a receiver? What is one practical way God is leading you to support or partner in God's work (like the Philippians did)?

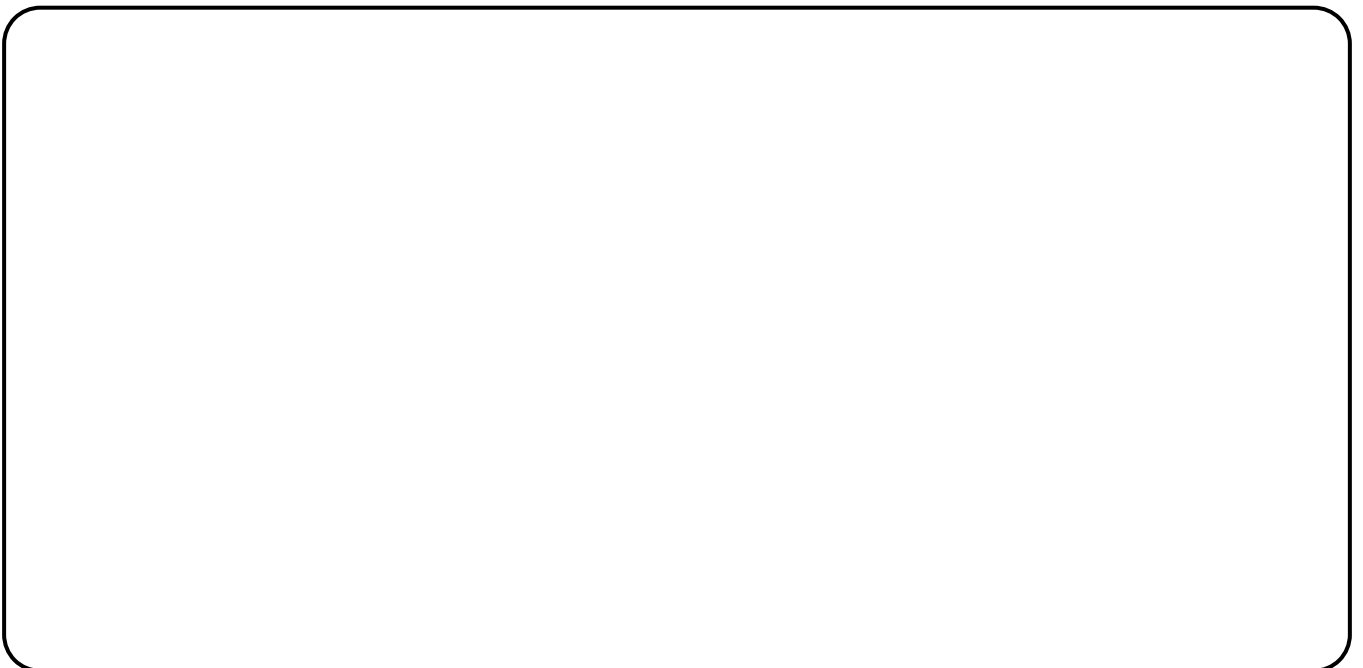


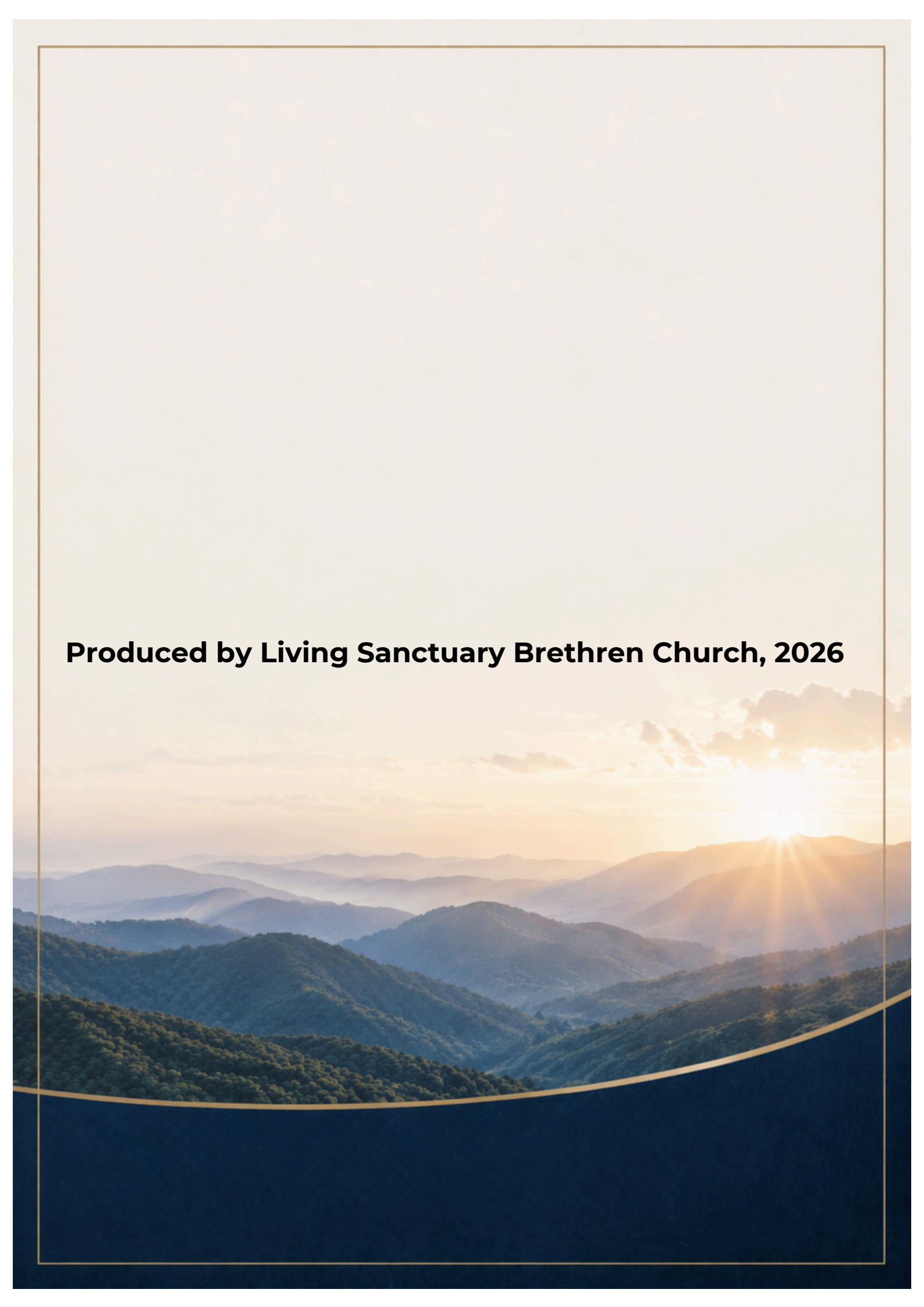
RESPONSE

1. What is most impactful and relevant to you in this Chapter?



2. My response to God's Word





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