

## **Philippians 1:12-21**

### **International Bible Lesson Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further**

Some Bible study groups or classes can further discussion by asking some or all the **Questions for Discussion and Thinking Further** below. Others may want to send the bulletin size *International Bible Lesson* home with their students for further study in the coming week to encourage continuing Bible study. The ***Study Hints for Discussion and Thinking Further*** below are not actually intended to be *the answers* to the discussion questions. These indeed are “hints” a teacher may use to help students think through and discuss the questions in class. The *Class Preparation Guide* includes the questions below, and it can be given to students at the end of the previous class; then, they can pray, read, and think ahead to prepare for the next week’s Bible lesson. And/Or, consider giving each student the *International Bible Lesson Study Guide*, which includes the Bible verses to be studied before class and other questions.

#### **1. Thinking of the good consequences of Paul’s imprisonment, can you think of any other examples in the Bible when something bad happened to someone and God worked it out for good?**

After Daniel was thrown into the lion’s den and God saved him from death, the Babylonian king honored God and Daniel; some came to believe in the true God, and some were encouraged to remain faithful to God when facing persecution or death.

After Jesus died on the cross, God raised Him from the dead, so He could save His people from their sins.

#### **2. Since Paul was a faithful apostle of Jesus Christ, how would you explain to someone why Paul was in prison?**

The Apostle Paul loved God and others, so he proclaimed Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, so people could know the truth and follow the truth in Jesus Christ. Until Jesus Christ returns, Christians will face opposition as

Paul did, especially from those who hate God and the truth. The way those who follow Jesus Christ face opposition and persecution in the power of the Holy Spirit according to the Scriptures can lead some to trust in Jesus and encourage His followers to remain faithful and obedient to Him. Paul's imprisonment enabled him to witness by life and words to guards, prisoners, and their families, to those he might never otherwise meet. We can be faithful and be placed in hard places to share the good news about Jesus with people we might not meet anyplace else.

### **3. What are some of the ways Paul serves as a good example for other Christians to follow?**

Paul kept rejoicing and giving thanks to God even when suffering or facing death. Paul kept obeying God and proclaiming the truth about Jesus despite opposition from non-Christians and those in the church who wanted to afflict him. Paul kept on loving God and chose not to complain against God when he suffered or did not achieve the results he expected from his labors and prayers.

### **4. What might you say to someone who expressed envy or jealousy of another Christian?**

God has given the Church a variety of gifts and God has given different individual Christians different individual gifts. When we envy another Christian (or anyone), we criticize God for giving people the gifts He has given to them. If we envy someone, we may not understand why they have their gifts and why we have ours, and we need to give God thanks for all the gifts He gives to everyone without being jealous of others. Rather than envy others, we need to focus on faithfully using the gifts God has given us in the best way we can as we pray for God to help us use His gifts wisely in the power He gives us.

### **5. What are some good reasons for telling others about Jesus Christ?**

We love God. We love our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ. We love others. We want to obey Jesus Christ because we love Him. We love the Word of

God and we want to share the truth of the Bible with others. We want others to love and honor God and Jesus Christ too. We want others to receive and follow Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord

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