

# SERMON NOTES:



WESTERN MEADOWS BAPTIST CHURCH  
COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY GUIDE



## OPENING THOUGHT

Paul's letter to the Philippians was an extended thank you note after receiving some sort of gift from the believers there. Despite Paul's imprisonment, the Philippians continued to partner in his ministry, even as they began to experience persecution themselves. Thus, from his cell, the apostle writes to repeatedly encourage the Philippians to rejoice in the Lord, regardless of their present circumstances.

Paul began the letter by thanking God for the Philippians and their partnership with him in the gospel. He then addressed his imprisonment and how God was already using it to advance the gospel further. Next, he urged the Philippians to behave as citizens worthy of the gospel by being humble and united together. In chapter three, he defended the gospel against legalism and reminded us of our hope in the resurrection.

Having discussed last week how we should be, how to overcome anxiety, and about the peace of God, he now addresses how we should think. Paul gives a list of virtuous concepts that we should turn our thoughts upon, while also urging us again to imitate how he conformed his life to the message of the gospel.

For more information and resources visit:

[www.wmbc.church](http://www.wmbc.church)  
[www.bcnewton.co](http://www.bcnewton.co)

## SUGGESTED VERSES FOR MEMORIZATION & MEDITATION

- Philippians 4:8-9 | Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.

## GROUP DISCUSSION

### READ PHILIPPIANS 4:8-9 AND DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING

1. Which verses stood out most to you as you read Philippians 4:8-9 this week? Why? What do these verses teach you about who God is?
2. Do your thoughts match the virtues presented by Paul in verse 8? How can meditation on Scripture help us obey this verse?
3. In what ways do you practice what you learn from God's Word? How does our striving to obey the Scriptures relate to our being saved by grace alone?

## PERSONAL REFLECTION

*Because all Scripture profits us through teaching, reproving, correcting, and training us, reflect upon the studied text, and ask yourself the following questions about the present text*

- What has God taught you about Himself?
- What sin is God convicting or reproving you of?
- How is God correcting you?
- How is God training and equipping you for righteousness?

## PRAYER FOR MISSIONS MONTH

We pray that you are able to see how the false teaching of Islam is expanding so rapidly through the world. We pray that this is beyond the safety of your homes and political views, but that the Holy Spirit gives you a heart of compassion understanding that all these people will go to hell if they do not hear about Christ, and many of them do not even have the chance either the option of hearing the Gospel. Pray that your heart is sensitized towards the Muslim people.

## Western Meadows Community Groups

Mays / Tuesday @ 6:30

Whitleys / Tuesday @ 6:00

Richards / Thursday @ 6:00

Newtons (Spanish) / Monday @ 5:30

For more information ask Andy Whitley