

**February 02 / Sunday**

**Playing Favorites: God's not done with you yet!**

Read [Philippians 1:1-30](#)



**03 / Mon – Philip who?** | Read [Philippians 1:1](#)

So who were the people Paul was writing this letter to? Philippi was actually an important Roman city where many military veterans retired; it was located in northern Greece, close to present-day border of Bulgaria. Paul's first visit caused quite a stir (see Acts 16) which resulted in a group of people becoming followers of Jesus. Paul later wrote to encourage them while he was imprisoned in Rome. Who has encouraged you to grow as a follower of Jesus? How did they do that?

**04 / Tue – God is not done with you yet** | Read [Philippians 1:2-6](#)

This letter was written during a time of terrible Roman persecution of Christians. Paul reassured these Philippian believers that God, not he, was the author of the work being done in their hearts. They could trust Him to continue the work until it was done. Do you sometimes get weary trying to live as a Christian? Apply Paul's reminder to yourself. God IS at work in your life, changing you from the inside out. Your job is to cooperate and obey as He leads you.

**05 / Wed – Somebody's praying for you** | Read [Philippians 1:7-11](#)

Paul prayed for these younger believers because they were as dear to him as family, though they were probably unrelated. His prayer was specific: that their love for Jesus would be strengthened by more knowledge and depth of insight which would lead to discernment. As they matured in faith, their lives would be marked by such purity and right living it would honor God in the eyes of those around them. Who prays for you? (see Hebrews 7:23-25) Who needs your prayers?

**06 / Thu – Where is your focus?** | Read [Philippians 1:12-26](#)

Paul was in prison and facing death because of his faith but that did not discourage him. Paul's focus was on Jesus and he believed his chains were advancing the gospel. The palace guard, an elite group of up to 12,000 soldiers, was watching the gospel lived out by this famous prisoner. Could it be possible that God has placed you in your present situation because of someone who needs to see the hope you have found in Jesus?

**07 / Fri – A worthy life** | Read [Philippians 1:27-30](#)

When Paul urged the Philippians believers to live in a way that was worthy of the gospel, both he and they knew it would not be easy. They could see what it was costing Paul to stand firm in faith but he reminded them it is an honor to live for Jesus and even suffer for Him because of what He had done for them. How might this apply to you? Do others put you down when you are vocal about your faith? Will you allow Paul's perspective to offset any social difficulty you might experience?

**08 / Sat – It makes a difference** | Read [1 Corinthians 12:12-13 and 26-27](#) / [1 Peter 5:9](#)

What happens to one part of your body affects the rest of the body, right? Paul describes Jesus' followers worldwide as the body of Christ. While you might be scorned for being a Christian, your spiritual brothers and sisters in other countries are experiencing unprecedented physical suffering, losing homes, jobs, family relationships, beaten, tortured and killed for refusing to renounce Jesus. Will you pray for them? For specific ways to support them in prayer, see [icommittoprayer.com](http://icommittoprayer.com).