

# TAKING THE **WHOLE WORD** TO THE **WHOLE WORLD**

WHAT OUR LORD DID FOR US

*He did with delight,*

NO RELUCTANCE.

**JESUS HELD NOTHING BACK**  
BUT WILLINGLY SACRIFICED FOR US.

DR. J. VERNON MCGEE



THRU the BIBLE



# WHERE THE RUBBER MEETS THE ROAD

## FOLLOWING JESUS' EXAMPLE



Dr. J. Vernon McGee  
THRU the BIBLE Founder



This article is an excerpt from our **Philippians Bible Companion**.  
Download the full digital booklet [here](#).

***“Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus.”*** -Philippians 2:5

What kind of mind did Jesus have? In a word: humble. Jesus thinks of Himself with humility. He is God, yet He left heaven's glory where He is worshipped to come to a world that dismissed Him, locked Him out. It's beyond human comprehension to understand what our Lord did for us. And He did it with delight, no reluctance. He held nothing back but willingly sacrificed for us.

### **AND WE CAN FOLLOW HIS EXAMPLE.**

Yet, on our own we can try, but never live with such humility. Left to ourselves, we demand our rights, we insist on our needs being met, and we easily overlook those around us who need God's grace.



We need the Holy Spirit to form humility in us. Jesus showed us what it looks like to empty our lives of all self-serving habits and habits in order to serve other people.

First, Jesus left His Father to come to earth. Having existed throughout eternity past, He willingly came down to where we are without even a thought of what it would mean to leave the wonder and splendor of heaven. He willingly left His Father's presence and though He remained fully God, He became human so He could be with us and live as we live.

The second step down was when Jesus willingly surrendered His reputation. He didn't give a second thought to becoming a lowly servant, not demanding people's respect and worship, but joyfully coming to serve.

Jesus surrendered not His deity, but all the rights and prerogatives He deserved as God. He was 100 percent God when He was a baby sleeping helplessly in His mother's arms. At that moment He could have spoken this universe out of existence. Why? Because He's God. There was never a moment when He wasn't God. (Read John 1:1-3, 14.)

At the end of His earthly ministry, Jesus got His disciples together on His final night on earth and prayed an awesome prayer:

***"And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was."*** -John 17:5

He wasn't asking to be restored as God, but instead He asked His Father for *His glory* to be restored. Jesus gave up His glory to serve us as a human, and now He wanted it back.

In His coming, Jesus didn’t cling to His rights and privileges. Not like us—we are always pushing for promotion, recognition, and applause. Pause for a moment and praise God for such a wonderful example Jesus is to us—He surrendered heaven so you could know His Father in heaven. He gave up all these rights so you could have a relationship with Him.

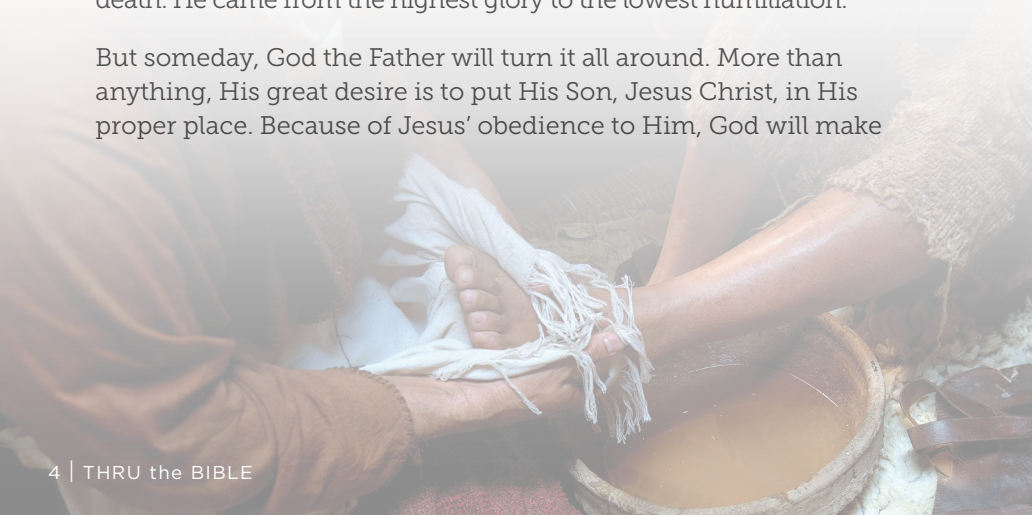
Next, the apostle Paul described how Jesus took this humble position to its absolute end in order to fulfill God’s purposes. He willingly offered His own life as a sacrifice for our sins by dying on the cross. He chose to come, to be a simple servant, to make Himself a substitute for us. Even in disgrace. Even in all the weak limitations and constraints of the human body. Even with all the frailties of our human emotions. Even willingly as a bondservant, a slave, the lowest of human statuses.

Why? So He could take our place on a cruel cross and pay the penalty of our sin. Someone had to pay—either Him or us. Jesus died in our place.

Death is the most humiliating of all human experiences. Death is not natural. God didn’t create humans to die. Death entered the human experience because of sin (read Romans 5:12-21). Death came because one man sinned; because of Adam, death passed down to all humans. Only one man, who had never sinned, could pay sin’s price. Only Jesus could die for us.

Finally, not only did Jesus obey His Father’s directive to die, but He died on the cross. He was executed—like death through lethal injection, in the electric chair, or at the cruel aim of a firing squad. A disgraceful death. He came from the highest glory to the lowest humiliation.

But someday, God the Father will turn it all around. More than anything, His great desire is to put His Son, Jesus Christ, in His proper place. Because of Jesus’ obedience to Him, God will make



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sure every creature in heaven and on earth will bow in worship before Jesus Christ. On that day, we will join with everything that has breath in calling out praise that Jesus—who once was a bondservant—now is Lord and master of all.

God the Father will make sure Jesus Christ will be glorified in the universe He created and be glorified on the earth where all His creation lives and, ironically, on the planet where mankind rebelled against Him.

God gave Him the highest exalted name, the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. His name will be revered in praise and in worship. This is the name in which we pray, the name that satisfies our deepest longings in prayer.

When Jesus' name is mentioned in glory, every person on earth—from every nation, every tribe, everyone from every language—will bow and praise Jesus Christ. We will worship and adore Him. And even those who will not worship Him, will bow in full surrender and submission to His name.

## MY TURN

- 1 The world around us may not value humility. Do you find it difficult to practice humility when it is so neglected by others?
- 2 Much of following Jesus' example is allowing the Holy Spirit to train our minds to think like Christ. What challenges you about changing your thoughts?
- 3 What does it tell us about Jesus that He surrendered His life willingly for our sins?
- 4 We don't have to wait until the day that every person on earth will praise Jesus, we can do it now. What do you personally have to praise Jesus for?
- 5 Think about that day in the future when all of heaven and earth will worship Jesus. What do you think it will be like when believers in Jesus Christ from east, west, past, present, and future come together to worship our Savior?



## ANOTHER GREAT YEAR FOR INDIA'S BIBLE QUIZ

**Goal:** Challenge a country to study the Bible

**Result:** 70,000 show up for the quiz

As it has occurred for the last decade, THRU the BIBLE's partners in India pulled off another Bible Quiz—this time on the books of Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther.

Dipendra Halder, TWR-India's CEO says,



"The reason we do this quiz is to **encourage as many people as possible to invest time in studying the Word of God.** It is a unique opportunity to study the Word, to grow in the knowledge of God, and to have some friendly competition spurring one another on as we mature in Christ.

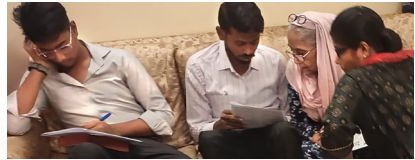
"While some might have started the study of these books with skepticism, it soon became apparent to many of us that these books are packed with deep truth and encouragement that push us to live lives of great faith. **The true prize of the Bible Quiz is the time spent in His presence and growth in our intimacy with the Lord through His Word.**

"My compliments to all the participants for their efforts as students of His Word. I pray that what has been learned now will not be lost in our memories but will continue to resonate in our hearts and minds throughout this year. We do hope that each one will continue to spend much time with His Word and that the habits picked up in preparing for the Quiz will continue to last us a lifetime!"



Premkumar from Telangana has been paralyzed and bedridden since he was in school due to a medical mishap. The turn of events in his life caused him to be deeply depressed. In 1997, Premkumar came to know about the THRU the BIBLE program in Telugu.

They have been a great source of encouragement to him. In 2020, he heard about the Bible Quiz. He signed up to participate and even came first in his language. With the help of his faithful mother, Premkumar has once again been able to prepare for the Bible Quiz and participate from the confines of his bed. **He wants to encourage anyone in circumstances similar to his to spend time with the Word of God. He would like them, too, to experience the joy and wholeness he experiences with Christ today.**



## India's 2023 Bible Quiz



STATES ACROSS INDIA



LANGUAGES



QUIZ CENTERS



PARTICIPANTS



## ALWAYS IN SERVICE TO THE LORD

Our work matters to God and so does our attitude while we do it; we can see it as a burden or as an opportunity to serve God and change the lives of others. That's what Abed in Morocco shares:

*"I was unhappy in my job and with my homeland. I made multiple attempts to escape to Europe by sea. Each time I was apprehended and subsequently I spent three months in prison. During my incarceration, a police guard struck up a friendship with me. With each conversation, he didn't condemn me, but rather, encouraged me to strive for a better path. When I was preparing to leave prison, he handed me a piece of paper with your website address and an audio player.*

*"After some time, I reached out to your team by phone, expressing a desire to meet and discuss my inquiries about the Christian faith. I was so grateful for the time we had together and was surprised you were willing to meet again a few weeks later. By then I was ready to invite*

*the Lord into my life and ask forgiveness for my sins. Since that time, I have secured a good job and become an active participant in a small fellowship. Now, like my friend the guard, I give each day to the Lord and find joy in serving Him. I also find ways to share His love and kindness with others. It made a difference in my life, and I pray it makes a difference in the lives people I meet as well."*

**Praise God for all those who desire to please Him in all they do. Pray His Word is fruitful as it goes out in Morocco and thank Him for the opportunity to serve Him through your work.**

This is an example of the email our World Prayer Team receives every weekday. Together, we travel the world on our knees, interceding for one country at a time. Join us in covering the entire earth with prayer every year.

**GO TO [TTB.ORG/PRAY](http://TTB.ORG/PRAY)  
TO SIGN UP.**



# J E S U S I N

## Philippians

WITH DR. J. VERNON MCGEE

### Others!

Jesus is at the very center of a believer's life. He is what it means to live the Christian life. "For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain" (1:21). In the original language there's no "is"—"For me, to live ... Christ. And to die ... gain." What gain? The apostle Paul thinks of them—*If I stick around, it'll be for your gain. I'll get to share more of Christ with you. But if I die, well I'm going to go be with Him.* You can't hurt a man who has choices like that.

The most important thing in our lives as Christians is to have the reality of Jesus Christ in our day-to-day reality—to live in fellowship with Him. Then our joy will be full and we will know His power. Then we will witness for Him. The source of those actions is our love and fellowship with the Lord Jesus Christ. You do it because you love Him and want to please Him.

What does that look like in a Christians' life? Philippians 2 shows us the *pattern* for godly living—it's thinking like Jesus. So how can we do that?

Jesus—the one God lifted high in glory through suffering and resurrection—was also Jesus, the one who humbled Himself, became a servant to the needs and brokenness of a sinful world. Jesus made Himself nothing so that He could meet the needs of others.

As Paul sits in prison, he is glad in the Lord—why? Because he remembers how Jesus loved and how His example is the perfect call to unity. Is the gospel working in your life? You'll know if you're living like Jesus if you're thinking of others. Adopt His selfless attitude as you focus on meeting the needs of others.

Above all things, the apostle Paul wants every believer to embrace the mind of Jesus Christ and to think like He thinks—not just about your own interests, but about the interests of others.

Let Jesus Christ Himself be your example as to what your attitude should be. Do you share His willingness to give up your rights in order to serve others? This is what Jesus was thinking when He came and died for us.

*Others!* Such an important word in the body of Christ.



Adapted from the **Philippians Bible Companion**. Download your free copy [here](#).



## Behind Every Story

“Why did Christ come from glory to this earth? It was for *others*. Why should we carry the gospel and endure the suffering that may bring? For others. To think of others above ourselves is to think like Jesus Christ.”

We'll hear this from Dr. McGee this month in our study of Philippians. It reminds me of so many of your letters and emails that explain why you're putting gas in the Bible Bus—because you want to get it to others. You're not just thinking of your own interests, but also about the interests of others. Behind every story you write, how many others are impacted? Only heaven will tell.



One of my favorite stories behind India's Bible Quiz event (pages 6-7) is of a young man who was thinking of others. Daniel, on TWR-India's staff (pictured here), rode his bike 500 kms across the state of Bihar to visit and collect the Bible Quiz answer sheets from 80 centers. He then carried them all back in an oversized delivery bag. The Bible Quiz effort

(which included 70,000 participants) would be impossible to pull off if not for the tireless efforts of people like Daniel.

The same is true across THRU the BIBLE's global reach. The impact is reflective of people like you—willing to pray, give, and get involved.

Thank you once again for your partnership in taking the whole Word to the whole world.

Grateful for your partnership,

Gregg Harris  
THRU the BIBLE, President



# WHY STUDY PHILIPPIANS?

Join in the studies on  
THRU the BIBLE JANUARY 10–  
FEBRUARY 2 or anytime online, by  
podcast, or by mobile app.

Don't you love to get mail? The apostle Paul wrote this loving letter to the Philippians from prison—though you'd never know it. It overflows with practical, personal help to live the Christian life. As Dr. McGee says, "It meets us where the rubber meets the road. It's a wonderful little letter and we will be enriched by the sweetness of it."

## UNDERLINE THESE VERSES IN PHILIPPIANS:

- 1:6       2:5, 10–11       3:13–15       4:5–8       4:19  
 1:21       3:1       4:1       4:13

## !!! IS IT ABOUT JOY? OR IS IT ABOUT JESUS?

*"Although the word 'joy' appears 19 times in this letter, it shouldn't be called the 'joy epistle.' If we are to pick out the word that occurs more than any other word, then it is 'Jesus,' which is used more than 40 times. Jesus is the center of this letter and the One who is the source of all joy."* —Dr. J. Vernon McGee

**PHILIPPIANS 1** The philosophy of Christian living has to do with Jesus.

**PHILIPPIANS 2** The pattern of the Christian life follows the life and model of Jesus.

**PHILIPPIANS 3** The price and prize of Christian living has to do with Jesus.

**PHILIPPIANS 4** The power for Christian living has to do with Jesus.

OUR **PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP** WITH JESUS CHRIST BRINGS **JOY TO A BELIEVER'S LIFE.**

### Where do you find joy in the middle of a difficult situation?

We'll learn in this loving and faithful letter that true joy comes only when we humble ourselves in God's hand and believe in the saving work of Jesus Christ, when we live in harmony with other followers of Jesus Christ and serve each other in His name.



I LOVE TO

TELL THE STORY

## GREETINGS FROM THE BIBLE BUS

GREAT STORIES OF GOD AT WORK THROUGH INDIA'S BIBLE QUIZ



"I really enjoyed studying these books, especially Ezra. It taught me about the greatness of God, and I learned why we should fear and obey Him. All three of these books have become my favorite in the Bible. The study material helped me understand deeper truths and helped me in my walk with God as a teenager. These books taught me strong truths and reasons to fear God in obedience. I enjoyed studying and attempting the exam more than being worried about marks." **From Zaneta | Jharkhand**



"The habit of systematically studying the Bible has been profitable to me. The Bible Quiz has encouraged many in our church to develop the practice of reading the Bible regularly, and this is helping many of us grow spiritually. It has contributed to leadership development in our church."

**From Abhijit | Tripura**



"Preparing for the Bible Quiz ignited a passion for service and outreach in me. As I delved into the Scriptures, I couldn't ignore the messages of compassion, justice, and love. It's amazing how a simple exam can inspire you to live out the teachings of the Bible in practical ways.

I was truly inspired by the book of Esther, as it highlights the themes of courage and God's providence and how Queen Esther along with Mordecai, through courage and divine providence, save their people from destruction. It empowers me to be like her and live my life with courage." **From Sunita | Bihar**



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