

**PHILIPPIANS**

Rejoice In  
The Lord!

# Kingdom Citizen

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Lesson Ten

# Philippians

## Rejoice In The Lord!

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Page 2 of 4

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**Lesson Goal:** To encourage students to live like Kingdom citizens.

**Scriptures:** Philippians 1:27a

**For Memory:** “Whatever happens, conduct yourselves worthy of the Gospel of Christ.” Philippians 1:27a

### Kingdom Citizen

In this part of a verse we find one of the most important statements of the New Testament.\* When Paul thought about the Philippians and the situation in which they found themselves, he wanted to encourage them. He says that they were to behave like they were citizens of, not only Rome, but God’s Kingdom.

We have said before that Philippi was a Roman Colony. What happened there was that Octavian, the Roman ruler, defeated the army of Mark Anthony and Cleopatra just outside the city of Philippi...that happened between 25 and 30 years before Jesus was born. Many of the soldiers and sailors in the Roman army were retired and assigned to live in Philippi. It was declared to be one of Rome’s special cities with all citizens becoming Roman citizens, and all rules that applied in the city of Rome applied there. It was a great honor for a city to be a Roman Colony.

So, the residents were very proud to be known as citizens of Philippi. Paul uses this pride in giving them instructions as to how they should live. In this verse (27) he writes a word from which we get our word politics. When it is used as it is in verse 27, it is difficult to translate. The New International Version of Scripture uses 7 words to translate it: “conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of.”

If you read about Paul’s first visit to Philippi, you read of him being accused of “advocating customs unlawful for us Romans to accept or practice.” (Acts 16:21) Here we have the pride of Roman citizenship used against Paul and Silas. Paul knew firsthand the loyalty of the Philippians to their citizenship.

It is not easy for people today to understand, because in the United States, freedoms allow us to almost ignore our citizenship and its responsibilities. Some people, however, still take that seriously. Soldiers, who are far away from their families and friends, are in situations every day where they could be killed for the freedom we have as United States citizens. Some people serve in governmental positions so that we can continue to enjoy our citizenship.

Some, if not all of us, feel a sense of pride when our national anthem is played or sung and our flag raised. That feeling is what Paul was appealing to when he wrote

# Philippians

## Rejoice In The Lord!

this letter. It might be well for us to think about how proud we are to live in a family. We have privileges and responsibilities in our home. We feel good about being part of a family. We feel good about being able to try to live by the rules and make our family a good one. Some even adopt others into the family so they can have a good home.

Here in this 27th verse, Paul was telling the Philippians that they should have great pride and behave like good citizens of the Kingdom of God. That is even more important than being a good citizen of the United States and willing to die for it, or even being a good citizen in a family and willing to work very hard at making that family a better one.

He says that we are to “conduct ourselves in a manner worthy of the good news of Christ.” That means that we behave according to God’s rules and guidance, and that we encourage others to behave like that.

What a great privilege we have to be citizens of God’s Kingdom. We should truly enjoy living in this world as God’s children. We should follow Paul’s advice to live like we are continuing the good news that Jesus brought to earth with Him. That is, God loves everyone and wants everyone to be part of His Kingdom.

\*Underlined statements in this Teacher’s Guide appear in the Student Worksheet with blanks to be filled in by the student during the lesson. Words in the Student Worksheet may not appear exactly as printed in the Teacher’s Guide.



### Teaching Tips:

1. In our last lesson, we were told to “stick with it.” The lesson today begins the section that some commentators see as a “challenge to Christian growth.” 1:27 to 2:30
2. Songs that emphasize telling the Good News, living for Jesus and God, and being an example to others will be appropriate.
3. Pray with your students thanking Him for His presence in your lives and his provision of strength to live for Him.
4. This would be a good opportunity to talk to your students about behaviors that honor God and show others how God wants us to live.
5. We are again referencing the sixteenth chapter of Acts. There is much historical data there.
6. Ephesians has much to say about “walking” the right way in this world.

# Philippians

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### *Student Worksheet*

**For Memory:** “Whatever happens, conduct yourselves worthy of the Gospel of Christ.”  
Philippians 1:27a

### **Kingdom Citizen**

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in giving them instructions as to how they should \_\_\_\_\_.

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sung and our \_\_\_\_\_ raised. That is what Paul was \_\_\_\_\_ to when he wrote.

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good \_\_\_\_\_ of the Kingdom of God.

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that \_\_\_\_\_ brought to earth with Him. That is, God \_\_\_\_\_ everyone and

wants everyone to be part of His \_\_\_\_\_.

### **How to begin a Personal Relationship with God:**

First, believe that there is a God.

Second, believe that Jesus, God’s Son, was sent to earth to die so that you can have a relationship with God.

Third, ask God to forgive your sins in Jesus’ name. Jesus’ death on the cross paid the price of every sin you commit.

Fourth, ask Jesus to be your Savior and the Lord of your life.

Fifth, believe that He has answered your prayer and be determined to live for him all the rest of your life.