

PHILIPPIANS

Rejoice In
The Lord!

Rejoice!
You'll Be Just Like
Jesus

Lesson Thirty-Nine

Philippians

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Lesson Goal: To assist students to look forward to a new body like that of Jesus.

Scriptures: Philippians 3:20, 21

For Memory: “For our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ.” Philippians 3:20

Rejoice! You’ll Be Just Like Jesus

There will come a time when we will have bodies just like Jesus. Rejoice! Well, at least some of us will have that kind of body. Those who believe in Jesus will, through the power of Jesus, be given a body like Jesus has had since His resurrection. That is Paul’s promise to the church at Philippi.

First, he reminds them that they are citizens of Heaven. When we studied Philippians 1:27, (Kingdom Citizen) we said, “We should truly enjoy living in this world as God’s children. We should follow Paul’s advice and live out the good news that Jesus brought to earth with Him. That is: God loves everyone and wants everyone to be part of His Kingdom.”

Since we are citizens of Heaven, we look forward to the time when we will actually be there in Heaven with God. But before that, Jesus, God’s only Son, had to come here to make all that possible. He had to live perfectly, die for our sins, rise from the dead and go back to Heaven to be with His Father.

And Paul refers here to the fact that Jesus will return to earth at some time in the future. A lot is said about the second coming of Jesus in the Bible. Jesus, Himself, said it would happen. (Mark 8:38; Mark 13:26, 27; John 14:2, 3) There are also many other places in the New Testament that promise this great event. It will be a personal appearance of Jesus. He will come back, the angels said, just like He was seen going away. (Acts 1:11)

Jesus said that He was going to prepare a place for us, His children, in Heaven. He said that when that was completed, He would return to take us there to live with Him forever. (John 14:1-3)

Jesus is going to do all that Paul predicts by the “power that enables Him to bring everything under His control.” Think about it. Jesus was the creator of everything that we know anything about, except God Himself. Jesus has the power to keep all of creation running smoothly and efficiently. He is more powerful than anything humans know of, whether here on Earth or anywhere else. It is by that power that He is going to return to Earth, and do all the other things the Bible says that He will do.

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The last thing Paul says in these two verses, 20 and 21, is that when Jesus does return, He will use His great power to change us, physically, to be like Him. Our limited, weak, dying bodies will be transformed, or changed, to be just like Jesus' body when He rose from the dead.

Wow, what a great promise! We will no longer be limited in what we can do. We will have bodies that will last eternally. We will never die, we will never be sick, we will not be limited by space or time. Just like Jesus!

One more thing. If you really believe in the return of Jesus, it will change the way you live now. Expecting Jesus to return at any time, should make us very aware of our behavior and make us want to live the very best we can so that He will be pleased with us when He does come.

*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. This lesson provides the teacher several opportunities for more “in-depth” study. The whole subject of Kingdom Citizenship is challenging. You might want to review Lesson 10 on Kingdom Citizenship. The second great opportunity is consideration of the second coming of Christ. In addition to the Scriptures cited in the lesson, you might want to look up, I Thessalonians 4:16, 17; I Peter 1:3; Titus 2:13; and Revelation 1:7.
2. The idea of having a new body, one just like that of the resurrected body of Jesus, is one of the great hopes of Christianity.
3. Songs about the second coming, Heaven, hope, eternal life and the resurrection of Jesus are appropriate. “Heaven Came Down and Glory Filled My Soul”
4. Pray with your students: Thank God for sending Jesus to live and die for us. Thank Him for the resurrection and the new body, like Christ's, that we will have one day. Thank Him that Jesus will return one day to take all Christians with Him to Heaven.
5. One great result of our belief in the return of Jesus should be the good lives we live, patterned after the life of Jesus. I John 3:2, 3

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Student Worksheet

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For Memory: “For our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ.” Philippians 3:20

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=Those who believe in Jesus will, through the power of _____, be given a body like Jesus has had since His _____.

=Paul refers here to the fact that Jesus will return to earth at some time in the _____.

A lot is said about the second coming of _____ in the Bible. Jesus, Himself, said it would happen. There are also many other places in the New Testament that _____ this great event. It will be a _____ appearance of Jesus. He will come _____, the angels said, just like He was seen _____ away. (Acts 1:11)

=Jesus is going to do all that Paul predicts by the “_____ that enables Him to bring everything under His _____.” Think about it. Jesus was the _____ of everything that we know _____ about, except God Himself.

=When Jesus does return, He will use His great power to _____ us, physically, to be like Him. Our limited, weak, dying _____ will be transformed, or changed, to be just like Jesus’ body when _____ rose from the dead.

=If you really believe in the return of Jesus, it will change the way you _____ now.

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.