

# Melbourne Community Church (MCC)

Sunday Service — June 11, 2023

## Sermon Notes

**Last Week:** “The Letter to the Philippians: An Introduction,” [Philippians](#), by Brandon Harris, Teaching Pastor

Old Testament Reading [Isaiah 45:18-25](#);

New Testament Reading: [Philippians 2:1-11](#)

Major point of Philippians:

- We pledge allegiance to King Jesus ...
  - ⇒ So conduct yourselves as *citizens of Heaven* (the Kingdom of God) ...
  - ⇒ By following Christ’s example.

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**This Week:** “Living as Citizens Worthy of the Gospel: A Study in Philippians —Week 1,” [Philippians 1](#), by Dr. Brian D. Russell, Professor Biblical Studies, Asbury Seminary.

Old Testament Reading [Psalm 145](#);

New Testament Reading: [Philippians 1:27-30](#)

### Study Questions for Philippians 1:27–31

- (1) What does it mean to be a citizen worthy of the Gospel today?
- (2) What roles do unity and suffering play in our Christian witness today?
- (3) Do you find Paul’s metaphor of Gospel citizenship to be a helpful image? If not, what is your favorite metaphor for what it means to be a Christian in the 21st century?

### Study Questions for 1:1–2

- (1) What is the significance of Paul only giving himself and Timothy the title “slave” (Grk: *doulos*)?
- (2) How does Paul’s and Timothy’s title set the tone for the entire letter?

(over)

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### Study Questions for 1:3–11

- (1) For what is Paul thankful?
  
- (2) Why does Paul pray for growth in love for the Philippians?
  
- (3) What insights from Paul’s thanksgiving and prayer can help you in your own prayer life?
  
- (4) Who supports you in your walk with Jesus, i.e., who the Philippians in your life
  
- (5) What is the end or purpose of Paul’s prayer for the Philippians?
  
- (6) How does Paul teach us to pray?

### Study Questions for 1:12–26

- (1) What surprises you about the way Paul understands his imprisonment?
  
- (2) What does it mean “to live is Christ”?

### Additional Notes:

### Internet Resources:

The Bible Project: [New Testament Overviews: Philippians](#); [Download Philippians Overview Poster](#);  
Book Suggestion: [Thriving in Babylon, Larry Osborne](#)

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