

Study Questions/Worksheet for the Carson *Basics for Believers* textbook. Please answer the following questions as you read through the book for your required course reading. Turn in the completed worksheet for homework credit as directed by your professor.

## **Chapter 1**

- p.13-14      What is a “domesticated” version of the Gospel and what might tempt even believers to opt for it?
- p.14      What is “philosophical pluralism”?
- p.15      When and by whom was the church at Philippi founded?
- p.15      When and from where did Paul write Philippians?
- p.15      How does Paul often begin his letters?
- p.16      The biblical meaning of “fellowship” has nothing to do with socializing with other Christians. What does it really mean?
- p.17      Why is Paul so confident/convinced that the Philippians will persevere?
- p.19      What must we put first? And what must we put at the center of our relationships with fellow believers?
- p.20      What do Paul’s petitions (prayers) for the Philippians reflect?
- p.22      What is the ultimate purpose of Paul’s petitions (prayers)?

p.23-24      What were the two positive results of Paul's imprisonment for the advance of the gospel?

p.29      What do Paul's words "*to live is Christ*" mean?

p.29      What do Paul's words "*to die is gain*" mean?

## Chapter 2

p.35-36      Explain with reference to the cross the meaning of the word "propitiation":

p.35-36      Explain with reference to the cross the meaning of the word "expiation":

p.37      What is God's wrath a "function of"?

p.37      How does Carson succinctly define God's wrath?

p.39      What great but neglected theme does the cross demonstrate when looked at from *Christ's* perspective?

p.41      As believers we can have assurance that God accepts us. What is this assurance tied to? What is it **not** tied to?

p.42      To what important words and concepts is the cross tied?

p.43      What is the so-called "hymn" in Philippians?

p.44      What were Jesus' two "modes of existence" as found in this hymn?

p.45 Of what did Jesus empty himself and what does “he emptied himself” mean?

p.46 Who **could** be crucified in the ancient Roman world? Who could **not**?

p.47 What is the “name” above every name and what does this “name” tell us about Jesus?

p.48 What important theological doctrine would later be based on texts like this?

### Chapter 3

p.54 What did the verb “conduct yourselves” refer to in the ancient world?

p.55 What two gracious gifts/privileges has God granted to us? (Hint: one of them is unexpected.)

p.56 What did it mean in the first century to “take up your cross”?

p.57 What is it that will empower us to tread the Christian path of suffering & self-denial?

p.59 Is it ever legitimate to appeal to experience? Where does Paul do so?

p.61-62 Cite the verse(s) in which Paul relates God’s sovereignty and human responsibility:

p.63 Cite the verse(s) in which Paul makes use of **sacrificial** imagery and language:

### Chapter 4

p.69, 71 What is one of the key means by which the Spirit develops godly habits and christian character in us?

- p.72-74      What does Paul tell us about Timothy and his character and priorities?
- p.75-76      What does Paul tell us about Epaphroditus and his character and priorities?
- p.77-78      What is “worship” and to what activity or activities does it refer under the new covenant and how does it relate to what happens in church on Sunday?
- p.81-83      What kind of error (recurring problem) does Paul oppose, who is teaching it, and what strong language does Paul use to describe them?
- p.83      How does Paul describe himself and his Jewish background and qualifications? (I.e., in what could Paul have boasted were he so inclined?)
- p.84      What does Paul mean when he says he was “faultless”?
- p.85      What does Paul mean by the word “righteousness” and how else could it be translated?
- p.87      What does Paul, who had been a Christian for 30 years, still desire to know?
- p.88      Is Paul unsure about his own resurrection or final salvation? What does he mean by “somehow”?
- p.89-90      What would Paul say about the doctrine of sinless perfectionism, i.e., that idea that we can reach the place in the Christian life where we no longer sin?

## Chapter 5

- p.99-100      What is the main theme of Philippians 4?
- p.100          Who were Euodia and Syntyche?
- p.105          What is its ground or basis of joy in the Christian life and what is it **not**?
- p.109-110      What does Paul mean when he says that the Lord is “near”?
- p.111-112      How does Paul teach that we can overcome worry and anxiety?
- p.115          What is the “real measure of individuals” from God’s perspective?
- p.119          What is Christian contentment utterly independent of? On what is it based or focused?
- p.123          Whose “household” in the early AD 60s surprisingly has Christians in it?