

Philippians

Introduction to the Book

- Historical Background
 - The City and Its People
 - Philippi was founded by King Philip II, the father of Alexander the Great.
 - The city had originally been settled as the village of Krenides (The Springs) by the Thracians, but Philip conquered the site in 357 B.C. and rebuilt it.
 - Philippi was fortified as a military stronghold and benefitted from easy access to nearby gold mines.
 - Philippi was located in a strategic location in the Macedonian region – a pass through a range of hills which divide Europe from Asia.
 - As a result, the city controlled an important road (Via Egnatia) connecting Europe to Asia which traversed this pass.



- One of the great battles of history was fought at Philippi in 42 B.C. when Antony defeated Brutus and Cassius, influencing the future of Rome.
- Not very long afterwards, Philippi was honored by being declared a Roman colony.
 - It was customary for Rome to send veteran soldiers to settle in new colonies, especially ones located on strategic roads such as Philippi.
 - Thus, these colonies were important military sites on the Roman road system which caused them to be seen as remote extensions of Rome itself.
 - Because of this, Roman citizenship was a source of pride in these colonies.
 - The Roman language was spoken, Roman dress was worn, Roman customs observed, etc.
 - Their Roman pride can be observed in the charges brought against Paul and Silas in Acts 16:20-21.
 - This makes Paul's statement in Phil 3:20 about being citizens of heaven even more significant to the people of Philippi.
- Paul visited Philippi during his second missionary journey around 52 A.D.



- At the time of Paul's visit, the people of Philippi were primarily made up of...
 - Descendants of the Thracians which founded the village of Krenides.
 - Descendants of the conquering Greeks.
 - The Roman veterans and their descendants.
 - Some Jews who had migrated to the city.
- The Founding of the Church
 - Paul's visit to Philippi during his second missionary journey was prompted by a vision [Acts 16:9-10].
 - While Paul was in Philippi, he spoke with some Jewish women on the Sabbath [Acts 16:11-13].

- One of these women, Lydia, responded to the gospel message [Acts 16:14-15].
- After being imprisoned during his visit, Paul led his jailer to faith in Christ [Acts 16:25-34].
- Upon his release from prison, Paul met other brethren at Lydia's home [Acts 16:40].
- Lydia, the jailer, and these brethren who had come to faith in Jesus, established the church at Philippi.
- The Letter to the Philippians
 - Authorship
 - The letter itself attributes the authorship to the Apostle Paul [Phil 1:1].
 - The reference to Timothy in this verse is because he provided scribal assistance for Paul in the writing of this letter.
 - In addition, the author's description of himself [Phil 3:4-6] matches perfectly with Paul's life.
 - Date of Writing
 - Paul was imprisoned at the time of writing [Phil 1:7, 13, 17].
 - Some would debate where he was imprisoned at the time, but this letter was written by Paul during his imprisonment in Rome [Phil 1:13; 4:22].
 - That puts the date of writing around A.D. 61-62.
 - Occasion and Purpose
 - Paul was writing the Philippians to thank them for their generous gifts supporting his ministry.
 - The Philippians had sent multiple gifts supporting Paul while he was in Thessalonica [Phil 4:15-16].
 - The Philippians had also sent a gift to Paul while he was ministering in Corinth [2 Cor 11:9].
 - In this letter Paul also addressed some issues that had cropped up within the church.
 - Some disharmony had arisen within members of the church [Phil 2:3-4, 14 cf. 4:2].
 - The church had faced some negative influences from Judaizers [Phil 3:1-3] and other enemies of the cross [Phil 3:18-19].
 - This letter also has a general theme of encouragement for the believers in Philippi.
 - Paul knew that the Philippians has experienced opposition and suffered as a result [Phil 1:28-30].
 - He wanted these believers to know that they could rejoice in the midst of whatever trials they might be facing [Phil 4:4-9].

- Outline
 - Greeting [1:1-2]
 - Author and Audience [1:1]
 - Grace and Peace [1:2]
 - Thanksgiving for the Philippians [1:3-8]
 - For Participation in the Gospel [1:3-5]
 - For God's Work in Them [1:6]
 - As Fellow Partakers of Grace [1:7-8]
 - Prayer for the Philippians [1:9-11]
 - For an Abounding Love [1:9]
 - For a Blameless Walk [1:10-11]
 - Christ Proclaimed [1:12-18a]
 - The Effect of Paul's Imprisonment [1:12-14]
 - In Pretense or in Truth [1:15-18a]
 - The Exaltation of Christ [1:18b-26]
 - In Life or in Death [1:18b-24]
 - In Remaining On [1:25-26]
 - Conduct Worthy of the Gospel [1:27-30]
 - In the Unity of the Faith [1:27]
 - In the Face of Opposition [1:28-30]
 - Demonstrating Love and Fellowship [2:1-4]
 - Through Unity [2:1-2]
 - In Humble Selflessness [2:3-4]
 - Christ's Example for Us [2:5-11]
 - His Humility [2:5-8]
 - His Exaltation [2:9-11]
 - Exhortations [2:12-18]
 - To Continue Growing [2:12-13]
 - To be Above Reproach [2:14-16]
 - To Rejoice [2:17-18]
 - Other Examples of Faith [2:19-30]
 - Timothy [2:19-24]
 - Epaphroditus [2:25-30]
 - Reminders [3:1-21]
 - Put No Confidence in the Flesh [3:1-6]
 - Count All Things As Loss [3:7-11]
 - Press On Toward the Goal [3:12-14]
 - Maintain the Right Attitude [3:15-16]
 - Follow Godly Examples [3:17-19]
 - Keep a Heavenly Focus [3:20-21]

- A Call for Peace [4:1-9]
 - Through Harmony [4:1-3]
 - Through a Joyful Spirit [4:4-5]
 - Through Prayer [4:6-7]
 - Through the Proper Focus [4:8-9]
- God's Provision for Our Needs [4:10-20]
 - Being Content with His Provision [4:10-13]
 - He Provides Through Giving [4:14-18]
 - He Supplies All Our Needs [4:19-20]
- Conclusion [4:21-23]
 - Greetings [4:21-22]
 - Salutation [4:23]