

Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible

Current Book: Nehemiah – verse by verse

Scriptures for Today: Philippians 1:1-5 – *The Introduction and Context of the book*

Today's Message:

"A Prison Ministry"



INTRODUCTION

Today, we begin a new book – *Philippians* – with an overview and introduction. It is the great missionary letter of the NT and is a joy to read. Paul, the man of God, had deep love for the believers in this church. They demonstrated their love for him by sending support. They adopted him as their own missionary and had a **PART** in his work. The same is true when we support missionaries. This church was planted in part in a Roman **PRISON**. It is fitting that Paul would later write them this letter from a Roman prison. God has a plan to use His words to change us for His glory. This is God's message to you...

FUNDAMENTAL INFORMATION

Overview of Philippians

Title Means: People of Philippi; Lover of horses. **Time:** 62 to 64 AD

The Numbers: Chapter(s): 4 | Verses: 104 | Words: 2,002 **Ps 12:6-7; Prov 30:5**

Author: Paul Timothy was with him (not in prison); delivered by Epaphroditus. (*KJV translator note*)

Theme: **Jesus Christ is everything we need.** He is our example, our strength, and our joy.

Context: Philippi was a Roman colony whose citizens had full Roman rights and privileges. It was 700 miles from Rome (a.k.a. "little Rome"). The Lord chose this place to begin to penetrate the continent of Europe with the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is interesting to note the letter reveals no doctrinal or major sin problems which explains why they brought much joy to Paul!

THREE BASIC APPLICATIONS

- 1. Historical** Paul writes to this dear church to thank them for their support, to update them, and to encourage them to live in the joy that comes from minds fixed on Christ.
- 2. Doctrinal** Like Philadelphia (brotherly love), any church may enjoy fruitfulness and joy in the midst of difficulties if their focus is on Jesus Christ, His gospel, and His glory.
- 3. Devotional** The kind of mind that enables the believer to live a life of joy is a mind that is fixed on Jesus Christ alone.

OUTLINE STRUCTURE

Chapters 1	Christ, the purpose of a joyful life – the Single mind.	1:21
Chapters 2	Christ, the pattern for a joyful life – the Submissive mind.	2:5
Chapters 3	Christ, the pursuit of a joyful life – the Spiritual mind.	3:10
Chapters 4	Christ, the power of a joyful life – the Secure mind.	4:13

"For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain." (1:21)

Jesus Christ is everything we need. Amen.

LEARNING TOGETHER

❖ The Text Acts 16:1-40; Philippians 1:1-5

A. Humble Beginnings – the 2nd missionary journey planted a church in Philippi.**Acts 16:6**

... were **forbidden** of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia...

Important Note

God opened Lydia's heart; she immediately offered her life and resources!

Important Note

Paul used his "Roman card" to protect this little church for God's glory!

1. God opened a **DOOR** to Macedonia...
 - **Acts 16:9** – And a vision appeared to Paul in the night; There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, Come over into Macedonia, and help us.
 - The Holy Ghost forbade Paul go east to Asia and led him **WEST** to Europe – PTL!
2. God used a **PRAYER** meeting of women ...
 - **Acts 16:13** – And on the sabbath we went out of the city by a river side, where prayer was wont to be made; and we sat down, and spake unto the women...
 - Lydia, a business women (sold purple dye from Thyatira), worshipped God.
 - Lydia got saved, baptized, and opened her **HOUSE** to the missionaries!
3. God used a **DEMON** possessed girl ...
 - **Acts 16:16-19** – And it came to pass... a certain damsel possessed with a spirit...
 - She was being used by her masters; her salvation led to the arrest and beating.
4. God used a **PRISON** cell ...
 - **Acts 16:25-40** – And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them. And suddenly there was a great earthquake...
 - The jailer got saved (and all his house) and was baptized the same night!

B. Present Conditions – the church had been faithful; Paul was in prison again.

5. The church was **FAITHFUL** to God and to Paul.
 - **Philippians 1:3-5** – I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, Always in every prayer of mine for you all... **For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now;**
 - **Philippians 4:10** – But I rejoiced in the Lord greatly, that now at the last your care of me hath flourished again; wherein ye were also careful, but ye lacked opportunity.
 - **Philippians 4:14-16** – ... departed from Macedonia, no church communicated with me... giving... but ye only... in Thessalonica ye sent once and again unto my necessity.
 - **Philippians 4:17-18** – ... but I desire fruit that may abound to your account... sent from you, an odour of a sweet smell, a sacrifice acceptable, wellpleasing to God.
 - They were generous givers to the Lord and to His missionaries! Amen.
 - This church is a model of missions support and gospel partnership.
6. Paul was back in a Roman **PRISON** – but the word of God was not bound!
 - **Philippians 1:7, 13, 14, 16** – ... **MY bonds... MY bonds... MY bonds... MY bonds...**
 - **2 Tim 2:9** – Wherein I suffer trouble... unto bonds; **BUT the word of God is not bound.**
 - What a story! The word of God motivates us! It is time to step forward by faith.
 - What are your perceived limitations? What excuse do you use **not** to be faithful?

2 Corinth 11:9

... which was lacking to me the brethren... from Macedonia supplied...

Important Note

What the devil intended for evil, God used for His good and glory!

"I thank my God upon every remembrance of you..."

What a love for God's people! What a love for God's missionaries and work!
This letter should motivate us to step forward by faith and live for God's glory!