

# PHILIPPIANS: Introduction

Let's begin by looking at the historical and geographical background of this Church. My resources are:

- The Spirit Filled Life Bible
- The Letters to the Philippians - William Barclay
- The Weirsbe Bible Commentary - Warren Weirsbe - Philippians

1. Geographical: When Paul chose a place wherein to preach the gospel, he did so with the eye of a strategist, He would chose one which was not only important in itself but was a key point of a whole area. Philippi had at least three great claims of distinction.

## SHOW MAP

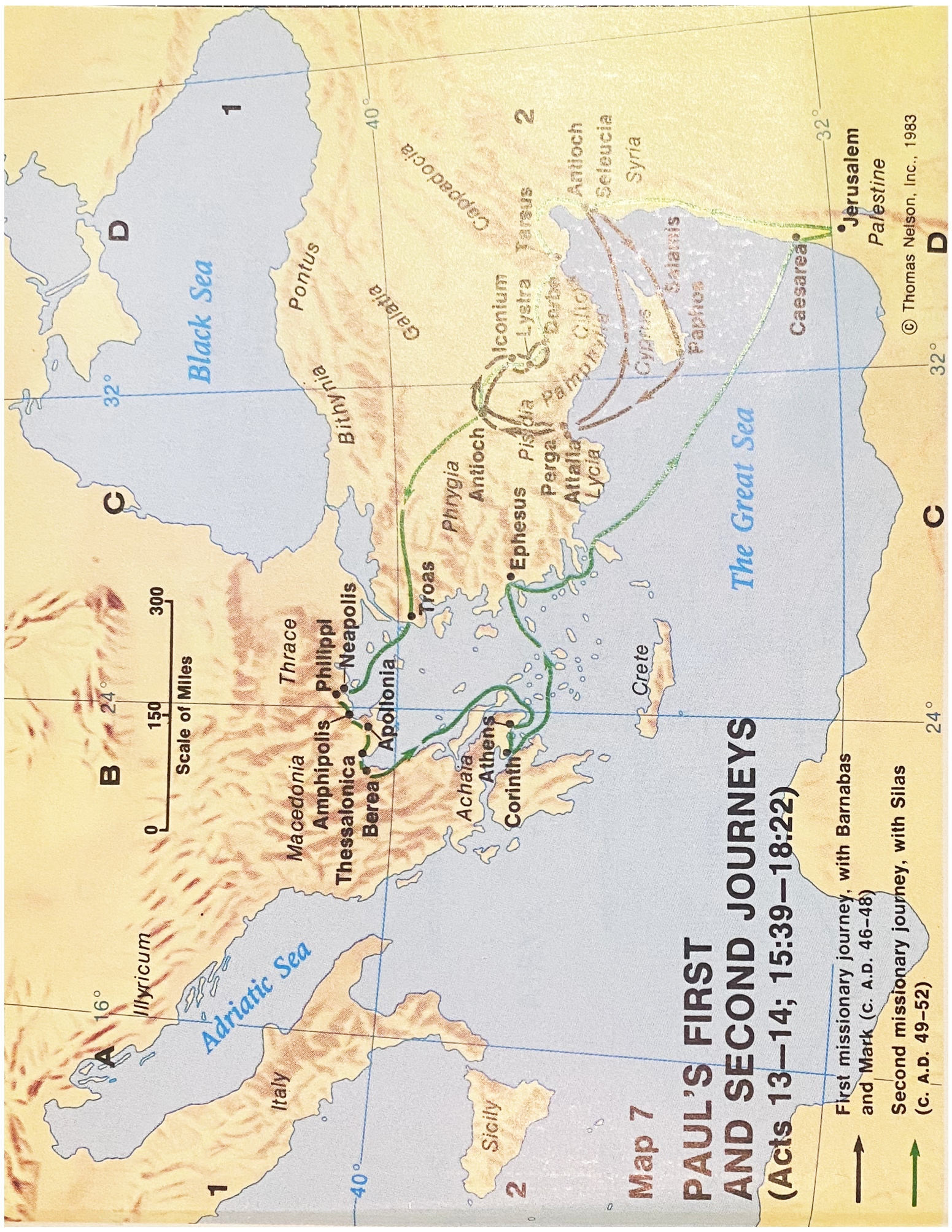
- A. It had been an area of gold and silver mines and though they were now exhausted, they had made Philippi a great commercial centre of the ancient world.
- B. There was no more strategic site in all of Europe because of a range of hills which divides Europe from Asia, east from west and just at Philippi that chain of hills dips into a pass so that the city command did the road from Europe to Asia.
- C. Philippi had attained the dignity of a Roman Colony which were amazing institutions. They had a military significance because they were started by Rome sending out parties of 300 veterans with their wives and children. They were founded to keep the peace. They took great pride in their Roman citizenship - It was their dominating characteristic. It was Roman language, dress, customs, titles. They were stubbornly and unalterably Roman and would never dream of being assimilated to the people who came into their midst.

- We can hear the Roman pride breathing through the charge against Paul and Silas in **Acts 16:20-21** *"These men are Jews and they are trying to teach and to introduce laws and customs which it is not right for US to observe for we are ROMANS!."*
- At a later lesson we will see Paul actually using his Roman citizenship to counteract unjust treatment.

1. The Historical founding of the church can be read in **Acts 16:11-40. HOMEWORK.** The main events took place on Paul's second missionary journey about 52AD and include:

- A. The Salvation of Lydia - a prosperous dealer in Purple.
- B. The deliverance of a young girl possessed by a spirit of divination.
- C. An unjust beating with rods and imprisonment.
- D. A supernatural deliverance through praise.
- E. The salvation of the Jailer and his family.
- F. Paul using his Roman Citizenship for justice sake.





Map 7

# PAUL'S FIRST AND SECOND JOURNEYS (Acts 13-14; 15:39-18:22)

- First missionary journey, with Barnabas and Mark (c. A.D. 46-48)
- Second missionary journey, with Silas (c. A.D. 49-52)



## LESSON 1: Joy Stealers

Jesus Christ was a *"man of \_\_\_\_\_ and acquainted with \_\_\_\_\_."*

Yet He possessed a deep joy that was beyond anything the world could offer. As He faced the cruel death of Calvary, Jesus said to His followers, *"These things have I spoken unto you, that My joy might remain in you and that your Joy might be full."* (John 15:11)

We who have trusted Christ have the privilege of experiencing *"fullness of Joy" (Psalm 16:11 )*; but few have taken advantage of this privilege. Instead, they live under a cloud of disappointment when they could be walking in the sunshine of joy.

**WHAT HAS ROBBED JESUS' DISCIPLES OF JOY?** The answer to this question is found in a letter written to the saints at Philippi centuries ago.

This letter was written by \_\_\_\_\_ while he was a \_\_\_\_\_ in Rome about \_\_\_\_\_. It was written to the church at \_\_\_\_\_ which had been founded by \_\_\_\_\_ on his \_\_\_\_\_ missionary journey (*Acts 16*).

One of the church members, Epaphroditus, had been sent to \_\_\_\_\_ to bring a special offering to the Apostle to help him in time of difficulty. This letter is something of a "thank you" as it also shares the secret of Paul's joy. \_\_\_\_\_ times Paul mentions joy, rejoicing or gladness in this letter.

The unusual thing about the letter is that Paul's situation did not seem to warrant rejoicing. He was in a position to be \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_.



**Acts 28:30-31** indicates he was a prisoner in his own rented home but was chained to a Roman soldier and not permitted to preach in public.

He had wanted to come to Rome a \_\_\_\_\_ but instead became as a \_\_\_\_\_.

Also, believers at Rome were \_\_\_\_\_; some were for Paul and some were against him (**Philippians 1:15-17**). Some even wanted things to be difficult for him. In spite of these things, Paul had great joy. His secret is found in the word \_\_\_\_\_. Paul uses \_\_\_\_\_ ten times and the word \_\_\_\_\_ five times. Add the times he uses the word \_\_\_\_\_, and you have a total of sixteen references to the mind.

The secret of Christian joy is found in the way the believer thinks - in his attitudes. "**As we \_\_\_\_\_ so are \_\_\_\_\_**" (**Proverbs 23:7**).

Philippians, then, is a Christian psychology book based solidly on Bible doctrine.

This book tells us what we must do to experience Christian joy in a trouble-filled world.

**1. The thieves that rob you of your joy:**

A. Circumstances: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

B. People: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

C. Things: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

D. Worry: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. The four attitudes that maintain your Joy:

A. The Single Mind (*Philippians, Chapter 1*) *James 1:8 "A double-minded man is unstable in all his ways...."*

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

B. The Submissive Mind (*Philippians, Chapter 2*) *Philippians. 2:3: "Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem the other better (more important) than himself...."*

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

C. The Spiritual Mind (*Philippians, Chapter 3*) Eleven times in this chapter you find Paul using the word \_\_\_\_\_. He points out that most people \_\_\_\_\_ (*vs. 19*), but that the spiritually minded Christian is concerned about \_\_\_\_\_ (*vs. 20*), which reads, "For our conversation (citizenship) is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ." The person with the spiritual mind looks at the things of this world from Heaven's point of view.



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- D. The Secure Mind (*Philippians, Chapter Four*) *Philippians 4:7: "And the peace of God which passes all understanding shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."* Worry is actually \_\_\_\_\_ (the mind and wrong feelings about circumstances, people and things). The word \_\_\_\_\_ is a military term which means to \_\_\_\_\_ (Paul was chained to a soldier.) Chapter Four describes the spiritual resources the believer has in Christ:

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3. What, then, should we do? We must put the above into practice.

- A. Mark sure you are set apart.

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- B. Admit your failures.

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- C. Surrender your mind to Christ daily.

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D. Look for opportunities to put your mind to work.

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## LESSON TWO: Increasing Joy

### 1. How to Increase Your Joy

In spite of difficult circumstances, Paul is rejoicing. His secret is "the single mind:" he lives for Christ and the gospel. Christ is named eighteen times in Chapter One; in the gospel, six times. *"For me to live is Christ and to die is gain ... (Philippians 1:21).*

**BUT WHAT REALLY IS A SINGLE MIND?** It is the attitude that says, *"It really makes no difference what happens to me, as long as Christ is glorified and the gospel is shared."*

Paul rejoiced in spite of his circumstances because his circumstances strengthened the fellowship of the gospel (*Philippians 1:1-11*), promoted the furtherance of the gospel (*Philippians 1:12-16*), and guarded the faith of the gospel (*Philippians 1:27-30*).

*Philippians 1:1-11* discusses fellowship. Today the word fellowship has a variety of meanings. Some are shallow; some have depth. "Fellowship" is a Bible based word that we need to keep in circulation in its right context. The word \_\_\_\_\_ simply means \_\_\_\_\_.

Paul uses three thoughts on *Philippians 1:1-11* to describe Christian fellowship: *"I have you in my mind" (vs. 3-6); "I have you in my heart" (vs. 7-8); "I have you in my prayers" (vs. 9-11).*

A. *"I have you in my mind" (Philippians 1:3-6):*

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- B. *"I have you in my heart"* (Philippians 1:7-8): Paul's sincere love could not be hidden. Love is \_\_\_\_\_. *1 John 3:14* says, *"We know we have passed from death to life because we love the brethren."* This love is
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- Paul uses the phrase "you all" \_\_\_\_\_ times. He does not want anyone to be left out.

- How did Paul evidence his love for them?
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- How can Christians learn to practice this kind of love?
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- Another evidence of Christian love is \_\_\_\_\_  
*1 Peter 4:8* reads, *"And above all things have fervent (love) among yourselves, for charity (love) shall cover the multitude of sins."*

- C. *"I have you in my prayers"* (Philippians 1:9-11).
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- This is a prayer for maturity, and Paul begins with love: abounding and discerning love. Paul wants his friends to grow in discernment, In being able to distinguish the things that differ."



- The ability to distinguish is a mark of maturity.

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- He also prays that they might have mature \_\_\_\_\_  
"sincere and without offense." "Sincere" means \_\_\_\_\_.
- Paul prays for them to have mature Christian love and character "without offense until the day of Christ." Here are two tests for us to follow as we exercise spiritual discernment.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

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2. \_\_\_\_\_

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- Paul prays that they might have mature Christian service. He wants them to be \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

- What Is the fruit? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

- John 15:15 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

- This, then, is true Christian fellowship: having-in-common that which is deeper than mere friendship. The fellowship that produces joy is the fruit of a single mind: a mind that has others in mind, heart and prayer.