

L1 | Introduction to Philippians | Php. 1:1-2

I. Intro/Review:

- Intimacy, fellowship, a call for more, joy, suffering as a grace, the hope of glory, knowing Christ not false teachers, glory in Christ equals contentment, thinking and doing, prayer
- The comprehensive work of the Father in Christ through the Spirit, begun, worked out, and confidence of finish

II. Preview:

1. The City of Philippi
2. The Church in Philippi
 1. The Start
 2. Known For
3. Paul, The Prisoner
4. The Purpose of the Letter
 1. Themes

III. Sermon:

**Paul and Timotheus, the servants of Jesus Christ, to all the saints in Christ Jesus which are at Philippi, with the bishops and deacons: Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ.
{Philippians 1:1-2}**

1. The City of Philippi

- "at Philippi"
 - City of Macedonia
 - Called Philippi after King Philip II (father of Alexander the Great) when he took it from the Thracians
 - City important for its gold mines
 - Two centuries after King Philip named it after himself - it became a Roman colony by Caesar Augustus
- In Philippi there was a main road from Asia to Rome
- Roman citizens lived in Philippi and where many ex-Roman military retired
- The city amongst and part of the "perverse and crooked"
 - Nation - generation(s); times, ages, (1x = nation)

2. The Church in Philippi (Acts 16)

- Paul's first church in Europe
- 2nd Apostolic Journey

1. The Beginning

- Paul came down to "Troas" - Mysia region, west of Asia
- Paul receives a vision in the night - Acts 16:9
 - A man of Macedonia - "Come over into Macedonia, and help us."
- Indicator that the Lord had called them to preach the gospel to them - Acts 16:10
- From Troas, to Samothracia, to Neapolis, to Philippi - the chief city of that part of Macedonia (a colony)
- No synagogue - meeting outside the city by the riverside - Lydia - Acts 16:13-14
 - Worshipped God
 - Listened unto the things spoken of Paul
 - First convert
- Her household - Acts 16:15

2. It Came to Pass - Acts 16:16

- Damsel possessed with a spirit of divination
- She brought her masters much gain (trafficking divination) by soothsaying
- The truth spoken by another spirit
- Paul delivers her - Acts 16:18
- Masters upset and draw Paul and Silas to the rulers of the marketplace - Acts 16:19
 - Magistrates - :20
 - Jews, trouble our city, teach customs not lawful for us to receive or observe - :21
 - Multitude rises up against Paul and Silas - :22
 - Magistrates rend cloths and command to beat them - :22
 - Lay many stripes on them and cast into prison - :23
- At midnight Paul and Silas pray, sang praises unto God - and the prisoners heard them - :25
 - Great earthquake, doors were opened and every one's bands were loosed - :26
 - Keeper of the prison - about to kill himself from failed duty - :27
 - Response - what must I do to be saved? - :28-30
 - Paul's Response - :31
 - Another household - :32-34
 - To be let go, but Paul refuses - :35-39

3. The Church

1. Lydia & her household
2. The keeper of the prison and his household

3. **Paul, The Prisoner**

- This epistle is written around 10 years after the founding of the church when he was in prison in Rome
- This epistle was written about 3 to 4 years after the last time he had been there
- After the founding he visits again - Acts 20:1-6
 - Beginning of his trip, and
 - At the end

- Ends up in prison - Acts 28:16-31
- First imprisonment to that of Rome
 - Prison oft - 2 Cor. 11:23
- Philippians may be the 4th of 4 letters Paul writes during this imprisonment
 - Ephesians, Philippians, Colossian, and Philemon
 - Philippians the 4th because of indicators from the epistle he has been there for sometime
 1. Philippians 1:12-13 - "things which happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel; so that my bonds in Christ are manifest in all the palace, and in all other places;"
 2. Philippians 1:25 - "And having this confidence, I know that I shall abide and continue with you all for your furtherance and joy of faith;"
 - Philippians 2:23-24 - "Hiim therefore I hope to send presently, so soon as I shall see how it will go with me. But I trust in the Lord that I also myself shall come shortly."
 3. Remember Acts 28:30 - two years

4. The Epistle to the Philippians

1. Penned by Paul
2. Penned from Rome - Php. 1:33, 4:33
3. Paul sent letter by Epaphroditus (Php. 2:25-30), after Epaphroditus brings support to Paul from the Philippians - Php. 4:18
4. Paul's relationship to the Philippians
 1. The Philippians are a mature church
 2. One of the few churches that generously support Paul
 1. 2 Corinthians 8:1-5 - one of the churches of Macedonia that gave to the poor saints at Jerusalem and contributed to Paul as well - Acts 18:1-5; 2 Cor. 11:9
 2. Contributed to Paul when at Thessalonica - Php. 4:15-16
5. Purpose of Paul Writing the Epistle
 1. Communicate gratitude for the gift they gave him, sent with Epaphroditus - Php. 4:10-20
 2. Send Epaphroditus to them - Php. 2:25-26
 3. Share about his circumstances - Php. 1:12-26
 - Encourage and comfort them in patient endurance together
 4. Exhort them to unity in Christ - Php. 2:1-2, 4:2
 5. Warn them of false teachers - Php. 3:1-4:1
6. Misc.
 - No OT quotes

- No false doctrine - warnings of without
- No major disorders - some minor admonitions
- Exhortations of consistent Christian living in the face of suffering

7. Themes

1. Brotherly love abound - to unity, fellowship till the day of Christ
2. Salvation and supply in suffering
3. Christ's no reputation and exaltation as the excellency of the believers esteem of each other
4. Warnings of pretence
 1. From those that preach Christ
 2. From those that don't - dogs, evil workers, concision
5. Joy & Contentment

IV. Conclusion:

- Php. 1:1-2