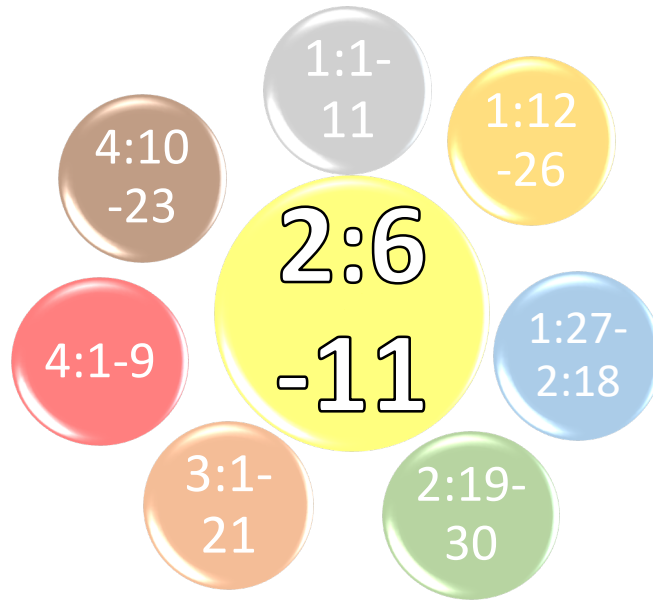




Joy in the Journey
Study in Philippians: An Overview



Reflection Questions

1. The difficulties of life cause us to often search for joy in all kinds of ways – acquiring possession, traveling, seeing people, etc. Where do you find joy amid a trying circumstance?
2. In what practical ways can we follow the example of Jesus in 2:6-11?



A STUDY
JOY
in the
JOURNEY
OF PHILIPPIANS



WARRIOR'S HEART

BAND OF
BROTHERS
MEN'S MINISTRY

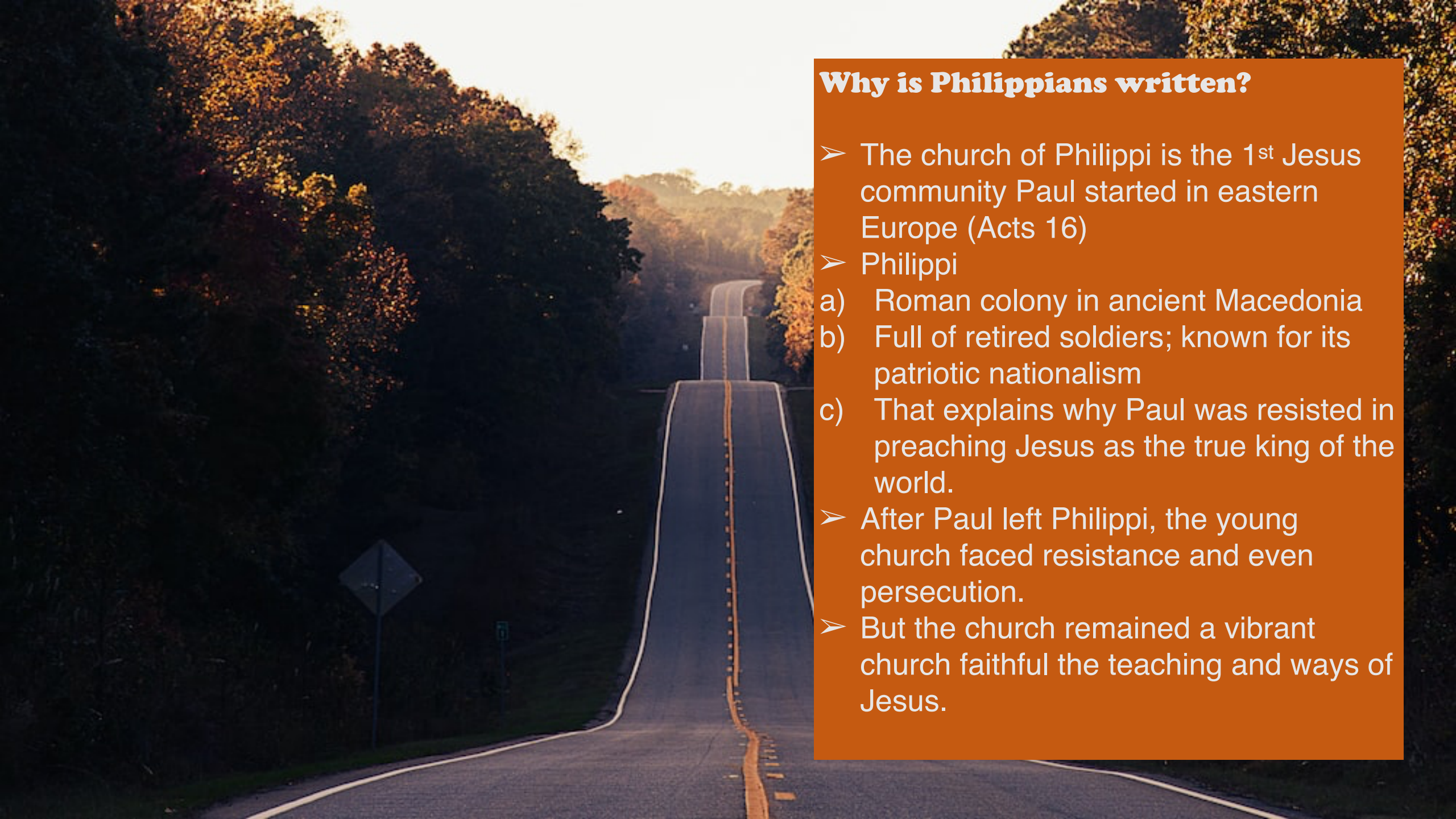
An Overview





Where are we?

- Philippians is one of four letters Paul wrote from prison likely the last, near the end of his Roman imprisonment in AD 61 or 62.
- Paul sent the other three Prison Epistles—Ephesians, Colossians, and Philemon—by the hand of Tychicus, as their destinations were near one another.
- The letter to the Philippians was to be delivered by Epaphroditus, who had come to Paul in Rome with financial help from the church at Philippi ([Philippians 2:25](#); [4:18](#)).
- But during his time in Rome, Epaphroditus took ill, which delayed his return home and, therefore, the delivery of the letter (2:26–27).



Why is Philippians written?

- The church of Philippi is the 1st Jesus community Paul started in eastern Europe (Acts 16)
- Philippi
 - a) Roman colony in ancient Macedonia
 - b) Full of retired soldiers; known for its patriotic nationalism
 - c) That explains why Paul was resisted in preaching Jesus as the true king of the world.
- After Paul left Philippi, the young church faced resistance and even persecution.
- But the church remained a vibrant church faithful the teaching and ways of Jesus.



Why is **Philippians** written?

- The letter was written for practical reasons
 - a) The Philippians sent one of their own, Epaphroditus to take a financial gift to Paul in prison
 - b) Express his appreciation and affection for the Philippian believers. More than any other church, the believers in Philippi offered Paul material support for his ministry ([2 Corinthians 8:11](#); [Philippians 4:15–18](#)).
 - c) Paul's affection for these people is clear throughout the letter as he encouraged them to live out their faith in joy and unity (1:3–5, 25–26; 4:1).



2:6-11

Design of letter

- Unlike many of Paul's letters, there is no one single idea that Paul developed from the beginning of the letter to the end.
- However, the numerous topics/essays in the letter revolve around a “center of gravity” (2:6-11)



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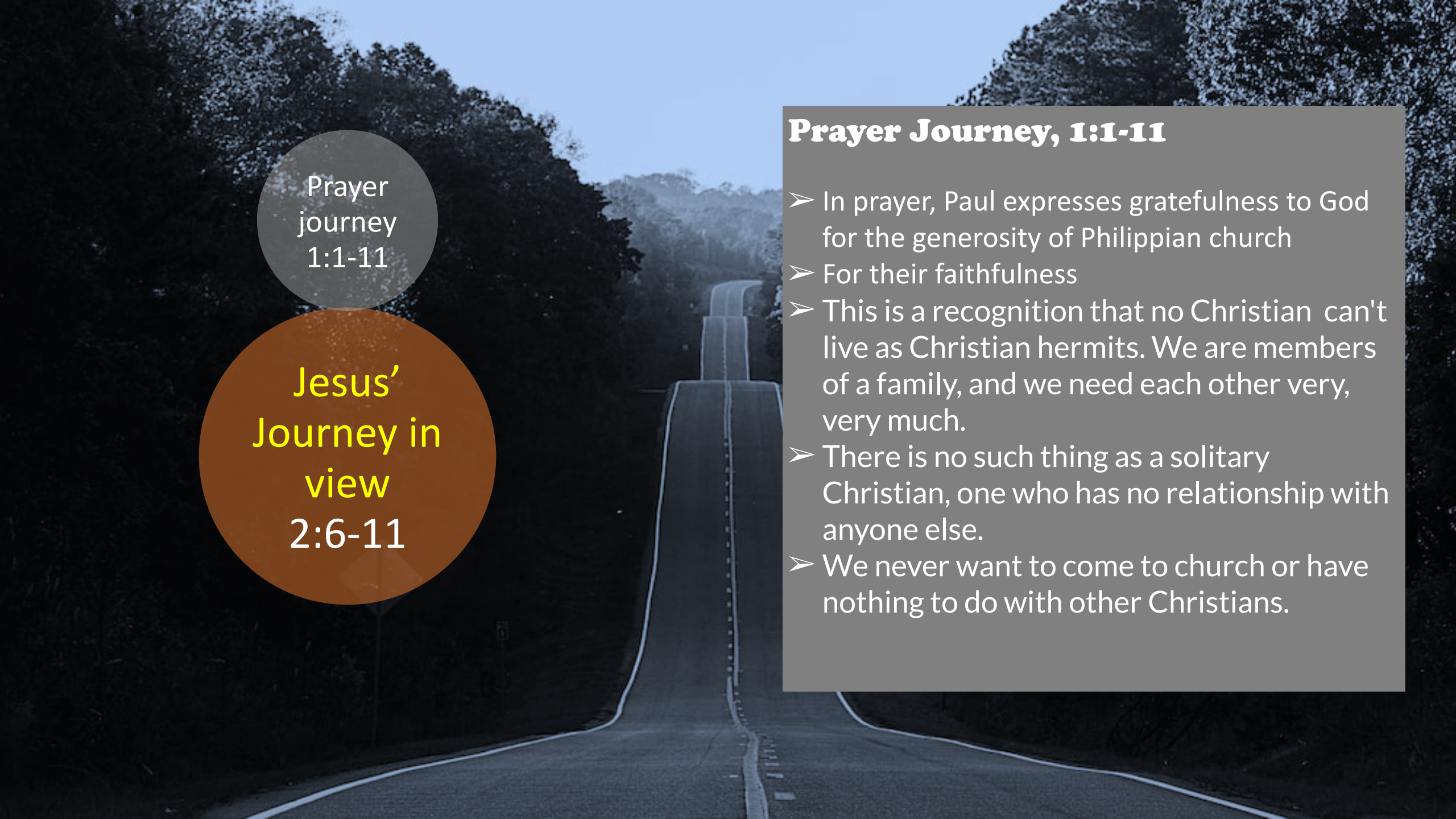


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 1. What it means to live as a Christian
 2. And that our story /journey is lived as an expression of Jesus' own story/ journey





Prayer
journey
1:1-11

Jesus'
Journey in
view
2:6-11

Prayer Journey, 1:1-11

- In prayer, Paul expresses gratefulness to God for the generosity of Philippian church
- For their faithfulness
- This is a recognition that no Christian can't live as Christian hermits. We are members of a family, and we need each other very, very much.
- There is no such thing as a solitary Christian, one who has no relationship with anyone else.
- We never want to come to church or have nothing to do with other Christians.

Prayer
journey
1:1-11

Prison
Journey
1:12-26

Jesus'
Journey in
view
2:6-11

Prison Journey, 1:12-26

- Paul now transition to their obvious concern: His imprisonment
- His journey into the Roman prison was not fun. But turned out for good to advance the good news about Jesus
- All the guards, administrators, other prisoners heard about Jesus.
- Imprisonment also inspired confident in other Christians to be bold and openly talk their faith
- Paul is also optimistic he will be release, but if not: Living is the Messiah & dying is gain
- Paul's life in the present & future is defined by the life and love of Jesus for him.

Prayer
journey
1:1-11

Prison
Journey
1:12-26

**Jesus'
Journey in
view
2:6-11**

Journey
with Jesus
1:27-2:18

Journey with Jesus, 2:27-2:18

➤ Paul now urges the Philippians to follow the example of Jesus by taking up the same mind set:

- (1) Their life as citizen should be consistent with the good news about Jesus.
- (2) These Christians were living in Roman hot-bed of Roman Patriotism, but their lives must now be shaped by another king, Jesus.

➤ Persecution could come, but it could be one way of living out the story of Jesus.

Prayer
journey
1:1-11

Prison
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Journey with Jesus, 2:27-2:18

- Paul now lays out his ultimate view of Jesus
 - (1) It is rich with OT texts: Adam/Eve – Gen. 1-3
 - (2) Suffering servant in Isaiah 42:1-4; 45:23
- All creation will come to recognize the God of Israel as Lord
- In the crucified/risen Jesus, we discover that the One True God of Israel consists of God the Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Text presents Jesus as our example to follow



A photograph of a winding asphalt road through a dense forest. The road curves to the right in the distance. Four semi-transparent colored circles are overlaid on the left side of the image, each containing text. The circles are: a grey circle at the top left, a yellow circle below it, a large orange circle below that, and a blue circle at the bottom right. The text in the circles is white or yellow, depending on the background color of the circle.

Prayer
journey
1:1-11

Prison
Journey
1:12-26

Jesus'
Journey in
view
2:6-11

Following
Jesus
Journey
1:27-2:18

Prayer
journey
1:1-11

Prison
Journey
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**Jesus'
Journey in
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Following
Jesus
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1:27-2:18

2 males
Disciples'
journey
2:19-30

Example of Two males Disciples, 2:19-30

Timothy & Epaphroditus: Example of people living out the story of Jesus

1. Timothy, vv. 19-21
 - Concerned about well-being of others than himself
 - Embodied the example of Jesus
2. Epaphroditus, vv.25-30
 - Risked life in bringing Philippians gift to Paul in prison.
 - Got sick and almost died

Prayer
journey
1:1-11

Prison
Journey
1:12-26

**Jesus'
Journey in
view**
2:6-11

Following
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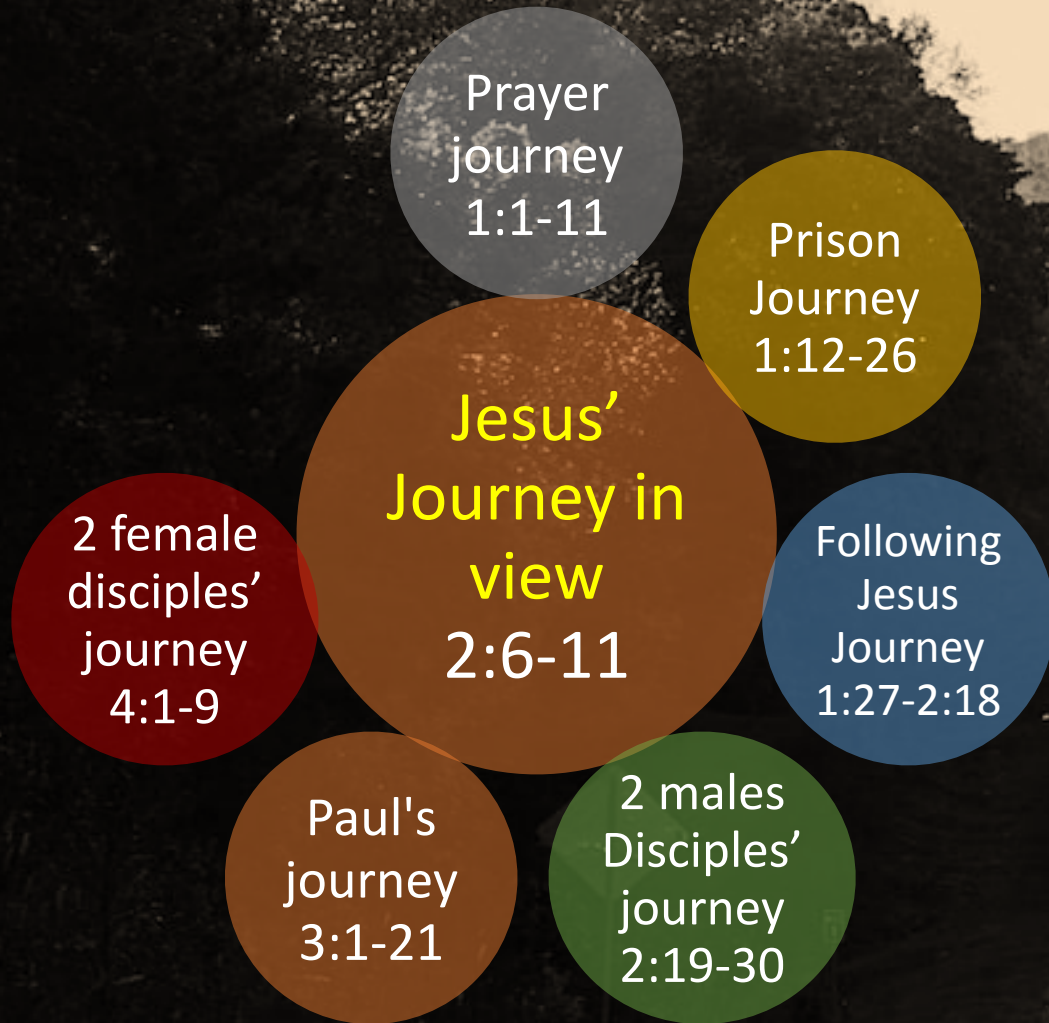
Paul's
journey
3:1-21

2 males
Disciples'
journey
2:19-30

Paul's journey, 3:1-21

Paul now turns to his own story as an example of living for Jesus.

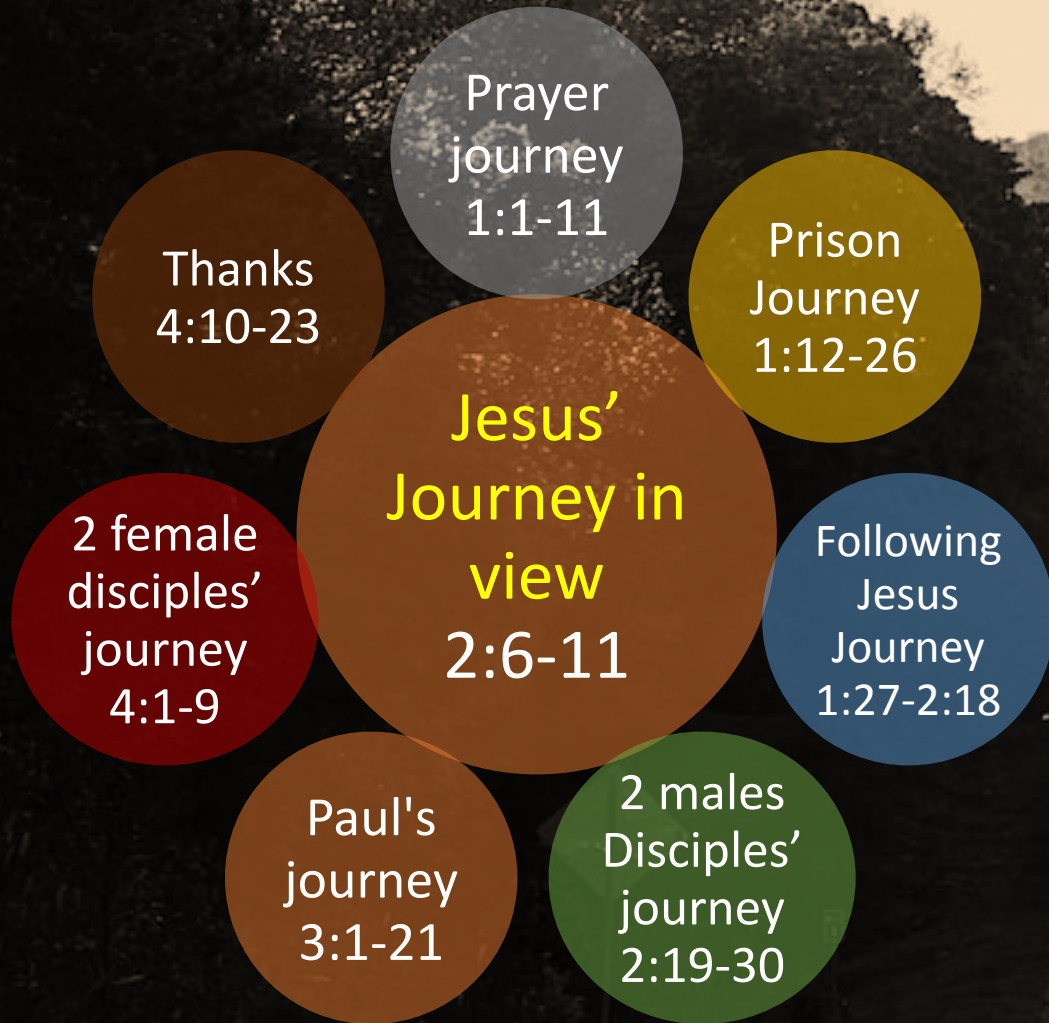
- The Jewish Christians who demanding circumcision of non-Jewish Christians were still be problematic for Paul.
- They reminded him over and over of his past – persecuting the young church and zealous for the Law.
- Like Jesus, Paul gave up all that status and privilege (calls it FILTH, 3:8) to participate suffering and love of Jesus.



Examples of Two Female Disciples, 4:1-9

Paul challenges Philippians to live out the true Jesus story. He did so by appealing to two prominent women leaders in the church

- Euodia & Syntyche are in some kind of conflict. Paul pleads with them to follow Jesus' example of humility to reconcile & unify.
- He encourages rest of the church not to give in to fear in spite of persecution, but to bring all their needs, emotions to God through prayer who will give them peace.
- That peace comes by focusing on what is good, true and lovely, v.8



Thank You, 4:10-23

Paul ends on a thanksgiving note

- Thank the Philippians for their sacrificial gift
- Reminds them that his
 - (1) times in imprisonment
 - (2) poverty and sufferingare not true hardship for him.
- Hardships are Paul's greatest teacher.
- No matter the circumstance, Paul has learned the secret of contentment.
- Key is: Dependence on the One who strengthens him.

- Pauls' letter to the Philippians gives us a window into his thinking
- Paul sees his life and journey as a reenactment of Jesus life and journey
- He is aware that Jesus' love and presence is closer than Paul's own skin
- Knowing Jesus humbles us even in the darkest hours of our journey.

