

THE TAKE AWAY

DISCUSSION GUIDE

Sunday, July 31, 2022
The Book of Philippians

Message Summary:

In the next message in our new series, The Book of Philippians, Pastor John Carter continued to give us an introductory survey of the background to the Book of Philippians. Acts 16 tells us that Philippi was a Roman city in the region of Macedonia. He was imprisoned and miraculously released there. 10-12 years later, Paul sent this letter while he was imprisoned in Rome. The church of Philippi had sent a financial gift with Epaphroditus to Paul in prison to support him. Paul sent this letter back to the church with Epaphroditus.

This letter is different from Paul's other letters, as it more a collection of short essays about specific topics about which Paul wanted to encourage the church in Philippi. It is not as corrective in nature as Paul's other letters. When we examine the scriptures of this book, even the opening verses, we see Paul's agenda:

[Phil. 1:1 NKJV] 1 Paul and Timothy, bondservants of Jesus Christ, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:

This is what the Church is designed to look like (a 3-part being):

- Saints – Christian members
- Bishops – Overseers/Leaders
- Deacons – Ministers

[Phil. 1:2-5 NKJV] 2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 3 I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, 4 always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, 5 for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now...

- First Day – Specific moment when this church began, and is also a reference to that moment when they became born again.
 - Described as new born babes
 - Need the Word of God more than anything else to grow up
- Now – The moment 10-12 years later when Paul is writing from prison in Rome

Discussion Questions:

1. Why did Paul write this letter to the Philippians?
2. Why is important recognize that a church must include spiritual leadership?
3. How did the moment you were born again change your life?

Life Application:

This week, we challenge you to read through just the first chapter of Philippians, and focus in on verse 1-5. Remember back on your "first day," that day when you invited Jesus into your heart and were born again. Reflect back on how your life has changed in that time. How has the word of God played a role in your growth? Can you remember key moments where God worked in your life and confirmed your faith? Sometimes, it is important to stop and look back on all God has done in your life. If you don't stop, the busyness of life can make you forget. But looking back and practicing gratitude for all God has done will build your faith for what God will do NOW in your present.