



WHO WROTE THE BOOK?

- ▶ The book opens with the introduction, Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus. Paul ministered at Philippi during his second missionary journey, spending about three months in the city. The ministry at Philippi marked Paul's entrance into Macedonia, which came about as a result of a vision he had in the city of Troas.

Acts 16:8-10 "So instead, they went" on through Mysia to the seaport of Troas. That night Paul had a vision: A man from Macedonia in northern Greece was standing there, pleading with him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us!" So we decided to leave for Macedonia at once, having concluded that God was calling us to preach the Good News there."

- ▶ Paul later briefly visited the city on his third missionary journey (**Acts 20:6**)—Paul brought to faith in Christ people who would form the core of the growing congregation in the city. Among them were Lydia, a businesswoman who opened her home to Paul and his coworkers (**16:13-15**), and the Philippian jailer, who was converted under Paul's ministry after an earthquake miraculously broke open the prison (**16:22-34**).



Acts 20:5-6 “These went on ahead and were waiting for us at Troas, but we sailed away from Philippi after the days of Unleavened Bread, and in five days we came to them at Troas, where we stayed for seven days.”

WHERE ARE WE?

- ▶ Of the four Prison Epistles, Paul likely wrote Philippians 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. However, 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**).

Philippians 4:18-20 “I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. ¹⁹ And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. ²⁰ To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen.”

WHY IS PHILIPPIANS SO IMPORTANT?

- ▶ The apostle Paul did not write Philippians in response to a crisis, as he did with Galatians and Colossians. Instead, he wrote to 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**). 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**).
- ▶ Philippians contains many often quoted passages: “He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus” (**Philippians 1:6**), “To live is Christ and to die is gain” (**1:21**), and “I can do all things through Him who strengthens me” (**4:13**) are just a few. Paul concentrates on Jesus Christ as a humble servant. It serves as the core of Paul’s teaching in this letter (**2:5–11**).



Philippians 2:5-7 “Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant.”

HOW DO I APPLY THIS?

- ▶ We all have so much to be thankful for, but often the pace and the pressure of life often squeezes the joy from us. Our shoulders slumped and our heads bowed, we find some days—or months—very difficult to get through. Desperate, we often search for joy in all kinds of ways—acquiring possessions, visiting places, or seeing people. But none of these can provide lasting joy. Where do you find joy in the midst of a trying circumstance? True joy comes only through humble faith in Jesus Christ, joining ourselves in harmony with His followers, and serving others in the name of Christ. This was the life experienced by the Philippian believers, and it is a life available to us today. As we journey through the letter we will find that in Christ He will guide us into a real relationship with God and His people.

PHILIPPIANS 1:1-13

“Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus

1. Paul and Timothy are identified as the authors.
2. They are qualified because they are servants.

To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are at Philippi, with the overseers and deacons:

1. The letter is to the church.
2. Specifically to the believers in Philippi.

²Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

This is a form of a blessing, which was very much a part of the culture (**Numbers 6**).

³I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, ⁴always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, ⁵because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now.

1. Paul in his many writings and letters often refers to his prayer discipline.
2. Paul considers the Philippians as co-laborers.
3. He encourages their consistency.



⁶ And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

1. The work of the Holy Spirit is steady and sure.
2. That which He starts He will finish.

⁷ It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. ⁸ For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus.

Paul is grateful for their dedication even in his imprisonment.

⁸ For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus.

1. To be a witness in the scripture under the Torah was a requirement!
2. **Leviticus 5:1** “If anyone sins because they do not speak up when they hear a public charge to testify regarding something they have seen or learned about, they will be held responsible.”
3. In **John 17:26** Jesus says this, “I made known to them your name, and I will continue to make it known, that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.”

⁹ And it is my prayer that your love may abound more and more, with knowledge and all discernment, ¹⁰ so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹ filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

1. Later on in Philippians we see a similar discourse in chapter 4 that relates on what we should think on.
2. **Philippians 4:8** “Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.”

¹² I want you to know, brothers that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel,

1. **Romans 8:28** “And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.”



2. **Genesis 50:20** “As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.”

THE RIGHT ATTITUDE

Attitude: A manner of thinking, feeling, or behaving that reflects a state of mind or disposition.

Classic Paul

Attitude: Excellent ✓

Characteristics: Always looking for the good in people and the circumstances. ✓

Outlook: Not dependent on the situation. ✓

Negative Mind-Set

1. Those who need certain things *before* they can be happy.
2. Those who are dependent on *others* for happiness.
3. Those who see happiness as *future*.

Positive Mind-Set

1. Those who need *virtually nothing* to have inner joy.
2. Those who depend on *Christ* for joy by the Holy Spirit.
3. Those who choose to experience joy *now* (it's a present experience).

¹³so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ.”

1. It is noted that one of the reasons of the success of the spread of the gospel in the first century was because of the Roman infrastructure.
2. No doubt that Paul preaching to the imperial guard produced conversions with credibility as well as far reaching results.
3. Also, it was evident that Paul was not a criminal, but a faithful follower of the Way!

