

Paul's Letter to the Philippians
Basic Training in the Bible, March 31, 2019 (Dan Morris)

The Setting

- Paul, Timothy, Silas and Luke on their Second Missionary Trip (~49AD) founded churches in Philippi, Thessalonica, Corinth and Ephesus
- The Letter of Paul to the Philippians was written in approximately 62-63 AD
- This is believed to be the first Christian Church on European soil
- Paul's purpose for the letter was to thank them for their gifts and continued support, and ... to strengthen them by showing them that ***true joy comes from Jesus Christ alone!***

Tone

- Personal, informal and cordial
- A thank you letter in response to a gift they have sent
- A plea for Unity among the believers, urging them to humble themselves, as Christ Himself was humble
- Expresses joy and contentment during a time of affliction and uncertain future



Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept **by the Holy Spirit** from preaching the word in the province of Asia. When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but **the Spirit of Jesus** would not allow them to. So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas. During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us." Acts 16:6-9

Overview of Philippians:

Introduction (Paul and Timothy, servants of Jesus Christ ...)	1:1-2
Paul's Prayers for the Philippians (I always pray with joy, 1:5)	1:3-11
Paul's Rejoicing in the Advance of the Gospel (v.12)	1:12-30
Paul's Appeal for Like-Mindedness in Christ (2:1-11)	2:1-18
Personal Report and Recommendation of Timothy (v.22)	2:19-30
Caution Regarding Pharisaic Legalism	3:1-21
- put no confidence in the flesh, 3:2	
Press on towards the Goal (v.14)	
Exhortations for unity, 4:2, Rejoice in the Lord, v.4,	4:2-19
Be content no matter the circumstances, v.11	
Concluding Greetings and Benediction	4:20-23

Philippi:

Founded 360 BC by father of Alexander the Great, on the Via Egnatia (Greece to Asia)

Resurgence after battle Octavian/Anthony (Augustus) defeat Brutus/Cassius

- Declared Philippi a "Roman City", with citizenship equal to that of Rome
- Citizens were very loyal to Rome, offended when Christians did not bow to Caesar

Paul's Second Missionary Trip, approx. 49 AD, Lydia first European Christian, followed by a slave girl and the jailor!

After Acts, the city is never mentioned again ...

Weakened by several invasions during the 500's, and by the "Plague of Justinian," 540's AD, it was totally destroyed by an earthquake in 619 AD (Read Acts 16:26!)



"Christ" really is the Theme!

Partnership with the Philippians in the Gospel

Sharing together the Struggle, Strife, Love and Peace of Christ

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me! Phil. 4:13