
PHILIPPIANS

Foundations of the Faith

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PHILIPPIANS

OUTLINE

Author	Paul
Focus	The Mind, Knowledge And Peace Of Christ
Key Word	To Live Is Christ
Key Verses	Philippians 1:21 Philippians 4:12
Key Chapter	Philippians 2
Location	Rome
Time	C. A.D. 62
Paul's Account Of His Present Circumstances (1:3-30)	
	Paul's Prayer Of Thanksgiving
	Paul's Afflictions Promote The Gospel
	Paul's Afflictions Exalt The Lord
	Paul's Exhortation To The Afflicted
Paul's Appeal To Have The Mind Of Christ (2:1-30)	
	Paul's Exhortation To Humility
	Christ's Examples Of Humility
	Paul's Examples Of Humility
	Timothy's Examples Of Humility
	Epaphroditus Examples Of Humility
Paul's Appeal To Have The Knowledge Of Christ (3:1-21)	
	Warning Against Confidence In The Flesh
	Exhortation To Know Christ
	Warning Against Living For The Flesh
Paul's Appeal To Have The Peace Of Christ (4:1-22)	
	Peace With The Brethren
	Peace With The Lord
	Peace In All Circumstances
Benediction (4:23)	

King Phillip (the father of Alexander the Great) conquered the town, which he expanded and renamed to Philippi in 356 B.C. The city fell to the Romans in 168 B.C. and, in 42 B.C., was the site of Anthony's and Octavian's (later Augustus) victory over the forces of Brutus and Cassius. Octavian made Philippi a military outpost and Roman colony, giving the citizens of Philippi special privileges. As a military outpost, and not a commercial center, there were not enough Jews in Philippi to form a synagogue.

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Paul, on his second missionary journey, around A.D. 51, while waiting on the Lord for direction and leading, was called to Macedonia in a vision, leading to his work in Philippi and the conversion of the first European, Lydia. From the account of his ministry recorded in Acts 16, Paul and Silas were improperly abused and imprisoned in Philippi, which led to the conversion of the jailer. Paul and Silas left Philippi as quickly as the authorities, realizing their error, released the men from prison. It appears, Paul returned to Philippi on his third missionary journey (Acts 20).

The Philippian church was very supportive of Paul, sending financial assistance at least three times (4:16,18). Paul wrote his letter to the Philippians to thank them for their latest gesture of support and love. The church in Philippi had sent support to Paul by the hands of Epaphroditus, who became deathly ill in the process. Epaphroditus evidently remained with Paul for an extended period of time as the church in Philippi had learned of his illness and the gravity of the malady. Once recovered, Paul sent Epaphroditus back to Philippi with his letter.

Paul uses his “thank you” letter to encourage the church and provide some instructions on Christian unity (it appears there were some difference and factions developing within the church). Paul’s central theme is Christ as our model for humility and a harmonious unity; a oneness in purpose, attitude, goal, and service.

In each chapter of Philippians, Paul paints a portrait of Christ¹:

Chapter 1	Christ is life	For me to live is Christ -1:21
Chapter 2	Christ is the model of true humility	Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus – 2:5
Chapter 3	Christ gives us new life	Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself - 3:21
Chapter 4	Christ is the power over circumstances	I can do all things through Christ which strengthened me - 4:13

¹ Jamieson, Fausset, and Brown Commentary, Electronic Database. Copyright (c) 1997 by BibleSoft
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