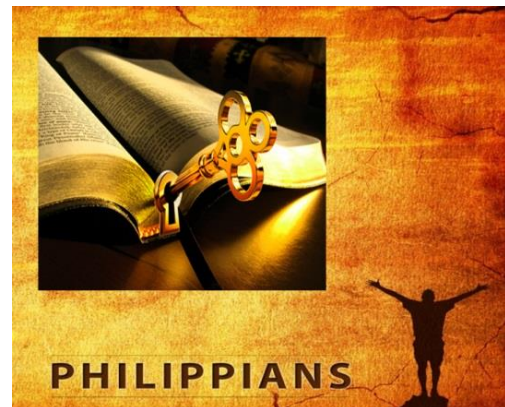
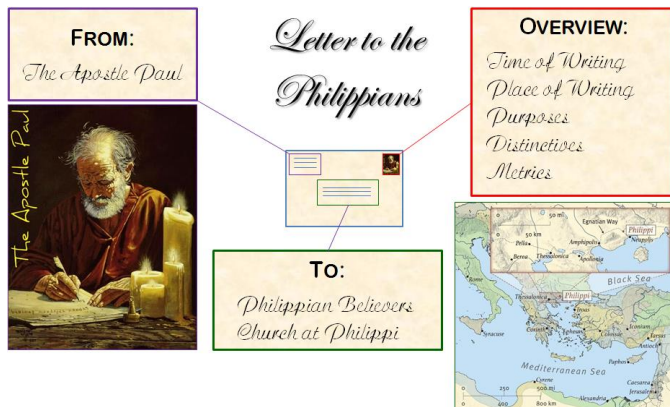




The Apostle Paul's most personal letter was sent to the believers in Philippi. This intimate and loving epistle was written to believers who lived in the shadow of the Roman tyrant Nero. Paul himself was in a Roman prison, facing an uncertain future. Yet, surprisingly he wrote to the Philippians of the importance of Christian joy. As they were together in a worshiping community, even in the midst of their difficulties, they could experience the joy of the Lord that Jesus promised those who follow Him.

## Outline

- **Preview** ..... Introduction
- **Letter Basics** ..... Philippians
- **Overview** ..... Philippians



## Truths & Principles

- ✓ Epaphroditus showed genuine love and concern for Paul and the furtherance of the Gospel.
- ✓ All believers are one in Christ – there are not distinctions or barriers (GALATIANS 3:28).
- ✓ There is a distinction between “joy” and “happiness”. Our joy is in the Lord and it is internal and not dependent on the external circumstances of life.
- ✓ Joy is the 2<sup>nd</sup> aspect of the Fruit of the Spirit (GALATIANS 5:22-23).

## Applications

- ✓ We need to show genuine love and concern for our fellow brothers and sisters in the Lord and do what we can for the furtherance of the Gospel.
- ✓ Never discriminate against fellow believers in serving the Lord – God is no respecter of person. We are all one in Christ.
- ✓ Choose joy for your life. Choose to serve the Lord who is the source of Joy.
- ✓ Do not engage in the ephemeral pursuit of happiness – it will leave you unfulfilled.



*Test all things; hold fast what is good. 1 Thessalonians 5:21*

1. On which missionary journey was the church at Philippi established? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Where can we read about the beginning of the church at Philippi? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Who seems to have stayed at Philippi after Paul left? ("we, they", Acts 16:12; 17:1)? \_\_\_\_\_
4. From where and when did Paul write Philippians? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What three other epistles were written about this time? What are the four epistles sometimes called? \_\_\_\_\_
6. What prompted the writing of Philippians? (4:10, 18)? \_\_\_\_\_
7. From Acts 16 and Philippians 4, who were some of the members of the church at Philippi? \_\_\_\_\_
8. What is the theme running throughout this epistle? Which verse stands out as the key verse? \_\_\_\_\_

## Study Questions

1. Read ACTS 16:6-40 for background on Paul's initial experiences in Philippi. Ponder the ways the encounter with Lydia, the slave-girl and the jailer accelerated the formation of the Christian church in Philippi.
  - ❖ Explore the conversions of each of these Philippian founding church members?
  - ❖ What are the circumstances related to each?
  - ❖ Can you make any observation and principles that you can apply to your life?
2. Philippi had a prohibition against bringing unrecognized religions into the city.
  - ❖ How do you suppose Paul would have responded to a charge that Christianity was not a legitimate religion?
  - ❖ What was the status of the city? Hint: Roman privileges of Philippi.
  - ❖ Knowing that Paul and Silas were Roman citizens, what were the mistakes the magistrates of the city made toward Paul and Silas?
  - ❖ Contemplate your heavenly citizenship privileges.
3. Read ACTS 16:13-15 and consider Paul's first convert to Christianity in Europe appears to be a businesswoman named Lydia; key role in the formation of the Philippian church.
  - ❖ What does this tell you about God's view of woman?
  - ❖ What about Paul's view of women?
  - ❖ How does this relate to GALATIANS 3:28?
  - ❖ How does this compare to what you hear about God's/Paul's view of women?
  - ❖ How can you counter the false perceptions?