

“An Introduction to Philippians”

Philippians 1:1-2

Background:

Philippi was a strategic city bordering Europe and Asia. Because a Roman civil war in AD 42 determined the fate of Rome’s leadership, it was made a Roman colony. Many Roman soldiers settled here.

Church beginnings:

It was founded on Paul’s 2nd missionary journey (around AD 51) by Paul and Silas (Acts 16), marking the beginning of European evangelization.

When / Why the letter:

Paul wrote this during his 1st imprisonment in Rome (AD 60-62) to thank the ever-generous Philippians and reassure them of his well-being. Aside from some admonitions about unity, the letter is positive and very uplifting with a conspicuous frequency of the word *rejoice / joy*. Like the other three prison epistles Paul penned, his focus is on Christology.

Greeting (1:1-2)

*Why the absence of the common title of *apostle* and inclusion of *slaves*?

*Who are the *saints*? Paul uses this term 49x. See in I Pt. 1:15,16, 2:9.

Who are the *overseers*? They = syn. with elders / pastors--Acts. 20:17ff..

Why might they be uniquely singled out here unlike elsewhere?

For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

1:21

Christ = my life

1:1—1:26

Christ = my model

1:27—2:30

Christ = my goal

3:1—4:1

Christ = my sustainer

4:2-23

Determine to exalt Christ

1:20

Aim to be like Christ

2:5

Press on to gain Christ

3:8

Learn to count on Christ

4:19

EXAMPLES HIGHLIGHTED:

Paul

Jesus, Timothy, Epaphroditus, Paul

Paul

WORDS HIGHLIGHTED:

Rejoice, Think, Gospel

**BIG
IDEA:**