

Philippians

- I. Background
- II. Overview
 - a. Book Theme
 - b. Chapter 1
 - c. Chapter 2
 - d. Chapter 3
 - e. Chapter 4
- III. Chapter 1
 - a. Key Words
 - b. Chapter Topics
 - c. Scripture Exposition
 - d. Questions/ Application
- IV. Chapter 2
 - a. Key Words
 - b. Chapter Topics
 - c. Scripture Exposition
 - d. Questions/ Applications
- V. Chapter 3
 - a. Key Words
 - b. Chapter Topics
 - c. Scripture Exposition
 - d. Questions/ Applications
- VI. Chapter 4
 - a. Key Words
 - b. Chapter Topics
 - c. Scripture Exposition
 - d. Questions/ Applications

I. Background

Philippi was named for its conqueror, Philippi of Macedon, the father of Alexander the Great. In 42BC it was brought into the Roman Empire through Mark Anthony and Octavius, later a Roman colony.

Its location was a great highway with enormous trade and commerce. Therefore, it was a strategic location for the spread of the gospel. In Paul's 2nd missionary journey the Lord indicated he was to cross over into Macedonia and so Philippi became the first congregation established on European soil.

The account of Paul and Silas, along with Timothy, tells of the salvation of Lydia and her household, along with the slave girl with the spirit of divination. Paul and Silas were arrested and beaten, then put into the innermost part of the jail. But a great deliverance occurred and brought about both their freedom as well as the salvation of many. From there they traveled to Thessalonica.

This letter was sent to the Philipian church nearly a decade later from a roman jail. Paul's purpose in writing them was to thank them for their gift of support, which they had sent, and to encourage them. Throughout the book Paul is consciously entreating them to have the right attitude and to understand the all-sufficiency of Jesus Christ.

1. Read Acts 15:36-16:40

2. Events: Acts 16:1-3; 21-23

Vs 14,15

Vs 16-21

Vs 22-24

Vs 25-30

Vs 31-34

Vs 35-40

3. What strategic events shape your world in the spread of the Gospel?

4. Do you see your life as part of this "spreading" of the kingdom of God?

II. Overview

1. Write out what you find about Paul through the book of Philippians. Include the scriptures where you find these details.
2. Write out what you find about the Philipian church. Include the scriptures where you find these details.
3. Write out the theme of each chapter.
Chapter 1-4
4. Write out scriptures that seem as major topics, or you would like to explore more fully.
5. Further cross-references: Acts 17:1-4, Acts 20:6

III. Chapter 1

1. Read through the chapter getting the flow and thought in context.
2. List the key words you have found in the chapter.

Exposition: break the chapter down into smaller portions to see what Paul is saying, as well as what is in his heart.

Vs 1-11 This is Paul's opening prayer and statement to the Philipian church.

V 6: What is Paul confident of in this verse?

V 7: Why does Paul feel this way?

V 9: What does Paul pray? How will this be accomplished?

V10: Paul's desire was for the church to have a penetrating understanding of Jesus Christ and to have the fruit of life that comes out of a life of righteousness.

Look up any cross-references that add to the text. Acts 16:12-40, Colossians 1:9

Look up any words you do not understand.

Read it over and over to get the flow of thought.

V 12-18: Paul wants them to not be alarmed or ashamed at his imprisonment but to understand what God was doing through this event.

V 12-14: What has happened and why is Paul glad?

V 15-17: What else is happening?

V 18: What is Paul's response?

Cross-References: 2nd Timothy 2:8-9, Acts 28:28-31

Vs 19-30: Paul has an earnest expectation of his entire life, given wholly to Christ, is for his benefit as well as the Philippians. Whether he is with them or apart from them, “to live is Christ to die is gain”.

V 19-20: How will Paul be delivered and who will receive the glory?

V 21-24: What is Paul’s conflict and why?

V 27: What were Paul’s instructions to the believers?

V 28-30: Why should the believers not be alarmed?

Cross-references: 2nd Corinthians 1:11, Romans 5:3-6, 1st Peter 4:12-16, Galatians 2:20
Think back on the text and apply this to yourself; seek through prayer that the Lord will impress upon your heart the truth of the gospel. How precious, how secure is our confidence in Christ.

IV. Chapter 2

1. Read through the Chapter getting the flow and thought in context.
2. List the key words that you have found in the text.

3. Exposition: break the chapter down into smaller portions to see what is being said.

V 1-4: What does fellowship with Christ look like?

How is joy made complete in a believer?

How do believers maintain their purpose in Christ?

Cross-references: 1 Corinthians 12:12-14, Romans 12:19, Galatians 5:16-26, Hebrews 5:9

V 5-11: write out what it meant to Christ to “empty” Himself.

Write out the cost and benefits.

How does this assist the believers’ confidence, joy and unity?

V 12-18 What is our response to be?

What are our instructions?

Cross-references: Romans 12:3,9-21 Hebrews 13: 20-21

V 19-30: Examples of Timothy and Epaphroditus

Cross-references: 2nd Timothy 1:1-8, 2:24-25a, 4:1-5

Look up any further cross-references that add to the text.

Look up any words you do not understand.

Read it over and over to get the flow of thought.

Use chapters 1 and 2 to define “bondservant”.

4. How does my life look in relation to these things? Am I a bondservant to the Lord Jesus, and can it be seen by other believers?