

Philippians 01

Book Introduction

1. Purpose of Studying Philippians

- a. It's part of Paul's curriculum for edification of the believer – 2 Tim 3:16
- b. We learn what it means to live with the mind of Christ – 1 Cor 2:16
- c. It is a book that should mature us, magnifying Christ in us – Gal 1:19, Phil 1:20
- d. It does not present the gospel, but it establishes Christ in our minds

2. What to Expect

- a. Details – 4 ch. 104 vs. 2,183 words, a prison epistle in the dispensation of grace
 - i. Paul is in bonds, but when? -Phil 1:14-16 (remember Acts 24:23-27)
 - ii. Paul hopes to be released soon – Phil 1:23-24
 - iii. Phil 1:13, 4:22 give evidence he probably wrote this from Rome
 - iv. Paul appeals to Caesar in his trial against the circumcision – Acts 25:10-12
- b. Audience – Among them Lydia (Acts 16:12-14), the jailor (16:31-32), their houses
 - i. Lydia = Jewish proselyte, town was Roman, in Macedonia – 2Co 8:1, 11:9
 - ii. Paul was ill treated there by the unbelievers there – 1 Thess 2:2
- c. Purpose – The Philippians hear of the capture, trial, and threat on his life – Phil 1:12
 - i. Paul writes to comfort, but also confirm the gospel in them – Phi 1:6,7,10
 - ii. It is encouragement, but it is reproof to those not applying the doctrine
- d. Themes – The mind of Christ – (10x) – “same mind”, “likeminded”, “one mind”
 - i. “whether it be by life, or by death”, “to live is Christ, to die is gain” - 1:20-21
 - ii. Joy/rejoicing (18x) in the Lord – Col 1:11
 - iii. Suffering with Christ (Phil 1:29) – Paul in prison, Christ's obedience
 - iv. Ministering to others (charity) – Tim, Epaphroditus, Paul, the women (4:3)
 - v. “Sin” is not in the book, but Christ is all throughout.

3. Significant Passages

- a. Prayer passages – Phil 1:3-11; Phil 4:6-7
- b. Day of Christ – mentioned a few times – Phil 1:6, 1:10, 2:16, 3:14, 4:17
- c. The incarnation of Christ still fuels the fires of controversy – Phil 2:5-9
- d. “I can do all things through Christ” - Phil 4:13

4. Brief Outline

- a. Christ, the believer's principle (1), pattern (2), prize (3), and provision (4)
- b. Introduction and Prayer (1:1-11)
 - i. Paul's thoughts on “what happened”, his life principle (1:12-26)
- c. The mind of Christ (1:27-2:18)
 - i. Paul sends help to Philippi (2:19-30)
- d. Beware the circumcision (3:1-21)
 - i. The excellence of Christ (3:7-15)
- e. Stand fast in the Lord (4:1-9)
 - i. Philippian fruit (4:10-19)