

Acts to Revelation
Bible Course
Lesson 34

Name: _____

Philippians

Philippians was written in approximately 62 A.D. by Paul to the church in Philippi, which he had founded on his 2nd missionary journey. This church was the first church Paul started in Europe, as recorded in Acts 16.

Philippi has a rich, biblical history. Paul had seen a vision in Troas in which he was instructed to “come over and help” in Macedonia. His ministry in Philippi led to the conversion of Lydia, the jailer, and others. There seems to have been no Jewish synagogue there, since their religious meeting occurred at the riverside, where the only persons mentioned are women. Paul also visited Philippi on his 3rd journey in Acts 20. Most of the early church members were undoubtedly Gentiles.

When the members of this church heard that Paul was in prison in Rome, they sent their pastor, Epaphroditus to Rome with some expressions of their love. On one of these occasions, Epaphroditus became sick and almost died. Upon his recovery, Paul sent this epistle back with him to Philippi.

This church in Philippians was known for its liberal giving to others, as recorded in 2 Corinthians 8. A key idea in this book is stated by Paul: “For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.” Philippians is an epistle of joy and encouragement in the midst of adversity. In his imprisonment he could say: “Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice.”



<http://www.ccel.org/bible/phillips/CN092MAPS1.htm>

1. Philippi was the “chief city of that part of _____” (Acts 16:12).
2. When was this book written? _____
3. To whom is Philippians written? _____
4. Describe the Philippian church:
 - a. Philippi was more _____ than any other.
 - b. Philippi was the _____ church in Europe.
 - c. Women were important here. Paul first attends a _____ of _____, where _____ is converted (Acts 16:13-15).
 - d. This church was generous in giving to the Lord [2 Cor. 8:1,2]. “... the _____ of their _____ and their deep poverty _____ unto the riches of their _____.”
5. Name three biblical figures that lived in Philippi and specifically felt the power of God in their lives (Acts 16:12-40).
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
6. What is the purpose of the book of Philippians?
 - a. Inform of the purpose for his _____ (1:13).
 - b. Explain the return home of _____ (2:25)
 - c. Urge the church to live in _____. Paul seems to be trying to solve some divisions in the church. “I beseech...that they be of the same _____ in the _____” (4:2).
 - d. Caution them about the Judaizers or, in Paul’s words, “Beware of _____, beware of _____, beware of the _____” (3:2)
7. There is a particular key word or theme in the book of Philippians. Look up the following verses, find the word that is in them all and write the phrase of the verse that contains the key word.
 - a. Key word = _____

- b. 1:4 _____
- c. 1:25 _____
- d. 2:2 _____
- e. 2:17 _____
- f. 2:18 _____
- g. 4:1 _____

Read Philippians 1

The joy of Christ: our life (chapter 1). Paul expresses love to them and joy at their loyalty to Christ.

8. Why was Paul thankful and confident about their life? (v. 5-6) “For your _____ in the _____...being confident of this very thing, _____.”
9. What prayer did Paul utter for this church (1:9-11)? Paul prayed that the joy of Christ may be evident in their life in three ways:
 - a. “...that your _____ may _____”
 - b. “...that ye may _____ that are _____”
 - c. “... that ye may be _____ and without _____ ... being filled with the _____ of _____”
10. What example of a life lived in the joy of Christ is found in vs. 21? “For to _____ to _____ is _____ , and to _____ is _____.”
11. Why was Paul “in a strait” (vs. 23-24)? _____

Read Philippians 2

The joy of Christ: our pattern (chapter 2). Paul sees many characteristics in this church that should be a pattern for all believers.

12. What pattern of life or attitude does Paul urge?

- a. Unity within the church: “That ye be _____ , having the same love, being of _____ , of _____ ” (2:2)
- b. Humility: (write out verse 3) _____

- c. Self-denial: “Look not every man on his own _____ , but every man also on the things of _____ ” (2:4).
- d. Godly life: “Do all things without _____ and disputing: that ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without _____ , in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; holding forth the _____ of _____ ” (2:14-16).

Philippians 2:6-11 is one of the well-known passages detailing Christ’s humiliation and exaltation.

“Who being in the form of God, thought it not _____ to be _____ with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a _____ , and was made in the likeness of _____ : and being found in fashion as a man, he _____ himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the _____ . Wherefore God also hath highly _____ him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of _____ every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; and that every tongue should _____ that _____ is _____ , to the _____ of _____ the _____ .”

13. What does it mean to “work out your own salvation...?” How is God’s sovereignty and man’s responsibility seen in verses 12 and 13? _____

14. How did Timothy and Epaphroditus set an example of this Christ-like pattern of life (2:19-30)? _____

Evaluator: _____