

Outline of Philippians

- 1 Christ, the Purpose for Living
- 2 Christ, our Example for Living
- 3 Christ, the Prize of Knowing Him
- 4 Christ, the Joy of Contentment

Author

No one seriously questions whether Paul wrote the epistle to the Philippians. Paul was a prisoner when he penned this letter (Ph.1:7,13,16). The references to the palace guard (1:13) and Caesar's household (4:22) point us to the conclusion he was imprisoned in Rome (61-63AD).

The City of Philippi

In 365BC Philip II, king of Macedonia and father of Alexander the Great, renamed the town after himself. In 167BC Philippi came under Roman rule. In 42BC Philippi became a military colony. It received a high status. The citizens enjoyed autonomous government, and immunity from taxes. They were treated as if they lived in Italy. Luke's

(NASB)	(KJV)
"emptied" or "no reputation"	
① "took upon him the form of a servant"	
② "made in the likeness of men"	
- Philippians 2:7	

description of Philippi as a "leading city of the district of Macedonia" (Ac.16:12) likely refers to its colonial status since it was the only one in the area. They prided themselves on being Romans (Ac.16:21), dressed like Romans, and often spoke Latin.

PHILIPPIANS

The measure of the church's authority is measured by its conformity to the mind of Christ. The essence of the mind of Christ is love. Its consciousness is joy. Its expression is sacrifice. If the church is characterized by love, joy, and sacrificial service, it will have authority in this world.

This is no doubt the background for Paul's reference to the believer's heavenly citizenship (3:20-21). The main highway running from Rome eastward to Asia, *Via Egnatia*, ran through Philippi (Ph.1:1). This brought much commerce through the city.

GOSPELS

Reveals the **Words** and **Works** of Jesus

PHILIPPIANS

Reveals the **Mind** of Jesus Christ

See Ph.1:7; 2:2-6; 3:15,19; 4:2,10

The founding of the church in Philippi is seen in Acts 16. It was the first town in Europe Paul preached in after leaving Troas and crossing the Aegean Sea. The first converts were Lydia who was a Gentile businesswoman from Thyatira, and the Philippian jailer. It appears the early church met in Lydia's home (Ac.16:15).

Summary

There are several reasons why Paul penned the letter. (1) To build up and reassure them of Epaphroditus who sent their gift to Paul while in prison (2:25-30). (2) To thank the Philippians for the gift they sent to him (4:10-14). (3) To announce the approaching coming of Timothy (2:19). (4) To deal with the problem of the two women in the church who needed to reconcile (4:2). Paul and the Philippian letter reveal an interesting paradox. How can a man in prison express such joy in attitude. Such an attitude

PAUL'S LETTERS

BOOK	50
Ph.	
PHILIPPIANS	
4	CHAPTERS

demonstrates an unusual view of life. It is a uniquely Christian view of life. It demonstrates the "mind of Christ", which is the key to this epistle. The theme of the epistle is participation in the gospel. Participation in the gospel means the fellowship we have in the work of disseminating the gospel. We are all partners in the work of the gospel. The key to working together as partners in the gospel is having the mind of Christ. This attitude idea is seen throughout the book (1:7; 2:2,3,5; 3:15,19; 4:2,10). Philippians 2:5-11 is one of the greatest Christological passages in the Bible. Christ did not regard His privileged position as something He needed to retain (2:6). He stooped to unbelievable depths to lift those who needed redemption. He selflessly gave up what was in His own best interests for the sake of the betterment of others. How much do we know about emptying ourselves? When we have this attitude, we will aim to make known and proclaim the gospel.



CHRIST IN PHILIPPIANS

- Philippians focuses on the "mind of Christ", and how believers ought to learn to acquire this attitude in their minds and everyday lives. Thus, Christ is the center of the book.