

Philippians and 1 Corinthians

Philippians

I. History

- A. The first church planted in Europe—on Paul’s second missionary journey, about AD50 (Acts 16:12-40).
- B. There were not enough Jews in Philippi to have a synagogue. Lyddia was the first convert, a woman of Thyatira living in Philippi. Her home became the church meeting place.
- C. Paul and Silas were jailed for casting a demon out of a woman. As a result, their jailor was converted.
- D. Paul also visited Philippi on his third missionary journey, after leaving from his three years in Ephesus—about AD56 (Acts 20:1-6).
- E. Paul was in prison in Rome (1:13f; 4:22) when he wrote this letter—between AD60 and 62.
- F. Epaphroditus, a Philippian, had just brought a financial gift for Paul in prison, and had fallen ill. He had recovered, and Paul was now sending him back with a letter of thanks (2:25-27).
- G. The church was doing well, causing Paul great rejoicing. There were apparently no theological or moral problems for Paul to address—only an apparently minor personal dispute between two women.
- H. Philippians is Paul’s happiest letter. Few problems acknowledged:
 - 1. Competitive preachers (1:15-17)
 - 2. Enemies of the cross (3:18)
 - 3. Two women at odds (4:2)

II. Recurring themes:

- A. Rejoicing—1:4, 18, 25 / 2:2, 16, 17, 18,28 / 3:1, 3 / 4:1, 4
- B. Likemindedness (the “mind” is mentioned 10x)—1:27 / 2:2, 20 / 3:15-16 / 4:2
- C. Learning from good examples—2:5-11, 19-24, 25-30 / 3:17 / 4:9
- D. Loyalty—1L4-5 / 4:10, 14-16

III. Personal notes:

- 1:1-11 Paul’s positive emotions about the Philippians
- 1:12-18 Paul’s positive attitude about his trials
- 1:19-26 Paul’s resignation to God’s will
- 2:19-30 Commendation of co-workers, and an update on Epaphroditus’ health
- 3:2-3 Warning against Judaizers
- 4:2-3 Appeal to two women and to the “yokefellow”
- 4:10-19 Thanks for the gift!

IV. The Christ-Life in us (Philippians, chapter-by-chapter)

Chapter 1 — Christ, my Life (1:21 / cf. Gal.2:20; Col.3:4)

- 8 Christ's emotions in me
- 12,18 Christ's interests paramount
- 19 Christ's Spirit in me
- 20 Christ's concerns supreme
- 23 Christ, my chief attachment
- 27-30 My attachment to Christ defining relations with outsiders

Chapter 2 — The mind of Christ (2:5)

- 1-4 Humble and others-interested
- 5-11 Example of the mind of Christ
- 12 Fear and trembling
- 14 No complaining or disputing
- 15 harmless to others
- 19-22 Timothy an example of this mind
- 25-30 Epaphroditus an example of this mind

Chapter 3 — Christ, the Quest (3:10)

- 4-14 Forsaking all to know and acquire Him
- 15-18 Paul an example of this attitude
- 20-21 Citizenship elsewhere

Chapter 4 — Christ, my strength (4:13)

- 2-3 Defeating disunity
- 4 Defeating depression
- 6-7 Defeating anxiety
- 11-13 Defeating discontent