

PHILIPPIANS

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INTRODUCTION

- A. Contains one of the most profound and sublime doctrinal passages of the entire New Testament.
 - 1. Philippians 2:5-9
 - 2. It affirms the divinity of Christ, His pre-existence, His equality with the Father, His Incarnation, His perfect Humanity, His death upon the Cross and His glorious exaltation.
 - B. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:
 - 1. Author: From the pen of the apostle Paul.
 - 2. CITY: Was established in 368 B.C. Philip of Macedonia
 - a. Near rich gold mines
 - b. A Roman Colony...Free City....Roman citizenship privileges.
 - c. The Ignatian Way.
 - 3. THE CHURCH: Established by Paul on 2nd Missionary Journey. 52 A.D.
 - a. Lydia
 - b. Slave girl
 - c. Jailor
 - d. **From absence of “we” passages in Acts it appears that Luke spent 7 or 8 years in the city. (Acts 16-19).
 - 4. DATE AND PLACE: Paul probably wrote near end of imprisonment from Rome about 63 A.D.
 - 5. OCCASION: A very personal letter...A “Thank You” note.
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PURPOSE

- A. Paul appears to have had a number of reasons for writing to the Philippians.
 - 1. To acknowledge the gifts that they had sent to him. (4:10)
 - 2. To give news of his own circumstances and to take away their concern that his imprisonment might have been a set-back for the gospel (1:12-26).
 - 3. To explain why he was sending Epaphroditus back to them. (2:25-30).
 - 4. To address the dangers of divisions and party spirit among the Philippian Christians, and to exhort them to live and act and witness in the unity of the Spirit (1:27; 2:1-11; 4:2f).
 - 5. To make them aware of the danger of being influenced by the Judaizers and perhaps at the same time to warn them of the danger of a false perfectionism (3:12-16).
 - B. Encouragement to endure and to trust their lives to their Lord in all things and under all circumstances (1:27-30; 2:12-18; 3:17-21; 4:4-9).
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OUTLINE

A. FELLOWSHIP IN GOSPEL (Chapter 1).

1. Consider the people involved in this fellowship, Paul, Timothy, etc.
2. Fellowship as to its purpose - promotes good out of evil. (*"For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain"*(1:21).
3. The product of this fellowship "Let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ." Particular meaning because of their Roman citizenship.

B. THE PATTERN OF THE GOSPEL (Chapter 2).

1. Patter woven in 3 colors.
 - a. Unity; (b) Humility (c) Cooperation in Christ.
2. Paul illustrates in the lives of Timothy & Epaphroditus how this gospel looks in human form.

C. WARNINGS OF THE GOSPEL.

1. Against false teachers.
2. Against lagging (3:12).
3. Against those who would teach that a Christian need not live like a citizen of heaven.

D. EFFECTS OF THE GOSPEL:

1. They will be new creatures with a new character (more later)
 2. They will have new capabilities, with new opportunities. (*"I can do all things in him that strengthened me"*)
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LESSONS IN LIVING

A. THE ART OF REJOICING (4:4).

1. A vital lesson for every Christian.
2. Rome may separate him from his fellows, but can never separate him from his Lord.
3. Circumstances had not made him hard of bitter.

B. THE CHARACTERISTIC OF GENTLENESS (4:5).

1. Is never an issue of weakness.
2. Is ever the offspring of strength.

C. THE CURE FOR CARE - a most needed lesson (4:6).

1. Worry is an alloy that mars and spoils.
 2. In this passage we have the ante-dote for worry.
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Lessons in Living cont.

D. THE SENTINEL OF GOD'S PEACE (4:7).

1. Peace is found in the absence of discord.
2. This peace of God shall "guard your hearts and your thoughts in Christ Jesus.
3. This is the figure of a siege - Life surrounded by subtle foes.
4. But within peace stands a sleepless sentinel and guard, LIFE IS SECURE.

E. HOW AND UPON WHAT TO THINK IS HERE SET OUT (4:8).

1. These things.
2. READ.

F. WE ARE TO PASS FROM THINKING TO DOING (9).

1. Paul's example is worthy of our imitation.
 2. Impossible to have beautiful mind and a repulsive life.....or conversely.
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