

New Testament Foundations: Session Sixteen

Philippians: Paul's Joy and Crown

Authorship

1. Paul wrote Philippians during his first imprisonment in Rome between _____ AD.
2. Around 50 AD, on his second missionary journey, Paul planted his first church in _____ after receiving a vision in the night from a man from Macedonia.
3. Philippi was a Roman _____ and the Gateway to the West.

Background

1. The church in Philippi, hearing of Paul's imprisonment in Rome, raised a _____ for him and sent it with Epaphroditus who was also commissioned to stay and minister to him.
2. Sometime after delivering the offering, Epaphroditus became deadly sick. The church in Philippi heard of Epaphroditus' illness and was deeply concerned for him. When he recovered, Paul sent him back to Philippi to encourage the church and to deliver this letter.

Style

1. Philippians is abrupt and discontinuous—as if Paul is so filled with _____ and affection he cannot begin one thought without it leading to another.

Philippians 1:8

For God is my witness, how I long for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:1

Therefore, my beloved brethren whom I long to see, my joy and crown, so stand firm in the Lord, my beloved.

Purpose

1. Although the primary reason for writing the letter seems to be _____ for their financial gift, several other reasons are obvious:
 - To explain the situation of his _____. (1:12-14)
 - To explain his attitude towards potential _____.

Philippians 1:20-26

For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain. But if I am to live on in the flesh, this will mean fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which to choose. But I am hard-pressed from both directions, having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for that is very much better; yet to remain on in the flesh is more necessary for your sake. And convinced of this, I know that I shall remain and continue with you all for your progress and joy in the faith, so that your proud confidence in me may abound in Christ Jesus through my coming to you again.

- To explain his plans for Timothy and Epaphroditus. (2:19-24; 2:25-30)

- To warn against the _____. (3:2-11)
- To circumvent any possible rivalries or _____. (2:1-4)

Themes

1. There are three themes that run continuously through the letter:

- _____.

Philippians 3:1

Finally, my brethren, rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things again is no trouble to me, and it is a safeguard for you.

- The _____.

Philippians 1:4, 5

In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the Gospel from the first day until now.

- The person of Jesus Christ. (Each chapter highlights a different aspect of Christ.)

Philippians 2:6-11

...who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore also God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those who are in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

- Chapter One: Christ our _____.

Philippians 1:20

For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

- Chapter Two: Christ our _____.

Philippians 2:5

Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus.

- Chapter Three: Christ our _____.

Philippians 3:8-11

More than that, I count all things to be loss in view of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them but rubbish so that I may gain Christ, and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith, that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death; in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.

- Chapter Four: Christ our _____.

Philippians 4:13

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

2. Paul concludes his letter with seven _____: Keep standing (4:1), Keep agreeing (4:2), Keep rejoicing (4:4), Keep praying (4:6, 7), Keep meditating (4:8), Keep obeying (4:9), and Keep giving (4:17).