

Philippians: *The Joy of Living*

Introduction

I. The Author—The apostle Paul is the human author of this epistle (1:1). Paul mentions Timothy in the salutation because he is with Paul at the time of writing and also because he helped found the church. Philippians was probably written near the end of Paul's house arrest in Rome about A.D. 62.

II. **The Audience**— In A.D. 50 the apostle Paul (along with Luke, Timothy and Silas) came to Philippi with the gospel of Jesus Christ on his second missionary journey introducing the gospel to Europe (Acts 16). During their brief stay at Philippi, God worked miraculously in the lives of at least three people:

1. An *Asian* businesswoman named Lydia who was a Jewish proselyte (16:13-15)
2. A *Greek* slave girl delivered from demonism (16:16-18)
3. A *Roman* jailer saved from paganism and emperor worship (16:27-34)

Paul and Silas were illegally beaten and jailed (Acts 16:22-26). After their miraculous release from the jail, Paul and Silas traveled 100 miles on the Via Egnatia to Thessalonica. Luke and Timothy stayed behind to help establish the infant church. Timothy later rejoined Paul and Silas at Berea (Acts 17:14).

III. **The Aim**—Philippians was written for six main purposes: 1) to thank the Philippians for their love gift through Epaphroditus; 2) to inform them concerning Epaphroditus' recovery; 3) to inform them about Paul's present situation; 4) to encourage a spirit of unity among them; 5) to warn against false teachers; 6) to explain how they were to stand firm in the Lord.

IV. **The Arrangement**—

- I. Introduction (1:1-11)
- II. The Experiences of Paul (1:12-26)
- III. The Exhortation of Unity (1:27–2:30)
- IV. The Exposure of False Teachers (3:1-21)
- V. The Explanation of How to Stand Firm in the Lord (4:1-9)
- VI. The Expression of Thanks for the Gift (4:10-20)
- VII. Conclusion (4:21-23)

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V. The Analysis

There are several key characteristics of this church: 1) primarily consisted of Gentiles; 2) women played an important role in the church (Lydia, Euodia and Syntyche); 3) the church was an example of generosity (2 Cor. 8:1ff); and 4) the church was loyal, standing by Paul throughout his life. The Philippians gave Paul “the most help and the least trouble” (G. B. Caird). Paul faced three groups at Philippi that are always at work in any group: 1) professing Christians with wrong motives, 2) Legalists, and 3) Libertines or Antinomians

Key Words: Christ (70 times)
Joy/Rejoice (18 times)
Mind (12 times)

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VII. Conclusion (4:21-23)

VI. The Application