

The Book of Philippians

Introduction

- A. **The Author** – Most scholars agree that the **Apostle Paul** wrote the letter to the **Philippians**. The first verse states that **Paul** is the **author**, and the information that the writer gave about himself (3:4-6) seems to harmonize perfectly with Paul's life. In addition, the **writings** of the early church fathers lay claim to **Pauline authorship**.
- B. **The City – Philippi** was a small city, founded by King Philip of Macedonia, the father of Alexander the Great. Eventually Philippi became a **Roman colony** settled by soldiers and others who were ordered to live there. These Philippian residents were given **special privileges**, and enjoyed the full rights of **Roman citizenship**.
- C. **The Church** – The **Philippian church** was founded by **Paul** on his **second missionary journey** and was the first church to be established by him in **Europe** (Acts 16). Because of his initial ministry there, several people trusted in Messiah as their Savior, laying the foundation for a **local church ministry**. Some of these were Lydia and her family, and the Philippian jailer along with his family (Acts 16:14-34). **Paul's relationship** to the church was always **close and cordial** due to their consistent benevolence of his behalf.
- D. **The Date and Place of Writing** – **Paul** was **imprisoned** when this letter was written, but there is some disagreement as to where. Some think he was in **Caesarea**, others **Ephesus**, however most believe he was in **Rome** at the time. His reference to the **praetorium** (1:13), a Roman body of troops assigned to the emperor, as well as his concern about facing **trial** and possible **death** (1:20-26), argue for his writing from Rome. The **date** of the **writing of Philippians** would then be **61 or 62 A.D.**, coinciding with his **Roman prison experience**.
- E. **Occasion for the Letter** – When the **Philippian believers** heard about **Paul's imprisonment** at Rome, they sent **Epaphroditus**, a faithful servant to minister to him. **Epaphroditus** personally comforted **Paul**, and brought a **financial contribution** from the believers at Philippi to help him. **Three times** before these believers ministered to his needs in such a way. Therefore **Paul's letter** to them could well be called a **thank you** note for their **generosity**, as well as a letter of **encouragement** and **admonishment** in various areas of their **spiritual life and walk**. After recovering from a very serious illness, **Epaphroditus** returned to **Philippi** probably carrying this **special letter**.