

citizens of Philippi, possibly the reason for Paul's emphasis on humility (chapter 2) and their being citizens of heaven (3:20).

Paul and the Philippians

After Christ's ascension and the scattering of the church (in Acts 8), the Apostle Paul is saved on the road to Damascus (Acts 9). This was followed by about ten years of seclusion, after which Paul was recruited by Barnabas to help teach the new believers at Antioch. From there Paul made three missionary journeys. On the second one, he is directed by the Holy Spirit to go to Macedonia, and he stopped in Philippi. The whole story is in Acts 16, which should be read before studying Philippians. A wealthy lady named Lydia and the family of a Philippian jailor are converted, plus probably a few others, but the group is very small when Paul left the city. He visited them two more times on his third missionary journey (2 Corinthians 8:1-5; Acts 20:6), and on two different occasions they sent him a gift of financial support (4:16). The gift from the Macedonians that allowed Paul to leave the profession of tent making for fulltime ministry included a contribution from these Philippians (Acts 18:2-5). After his third missionary journey, Paul was arrested and imprisoned two years in Caesarea and then transported to Rome for trial before Caesar. While awaiting trial, Paul was visited by a man named Epaphroditus with yet another generous gift from the Philippians.

A Purpose and a Theme

Paul and the Philippians had not seen one another for four years, so Paul was very joyful to hear of their continued love and concern for his ministry. Epaphroditus became very ill, but when he recovered, Paul sent him back to the Philippians with this letter of joy over their financial participation in the Gospel (1:5). The purpose of this letter is to thank

them for their gift, but the theme goes beyond that. Paul uses this occasion to make a link between joyful living and participation in the Gospel. Joy is described as contentment, and the Gospel is all of Paul's ministry, not just evangelism. [Since Paul did all things for the sake of the Gospel (1 Corinthians 9:27), we can define the Gospel as all the ministry things Paul did.] The epistle to the Philippians says that joy is to be found in our working together for the sake of the Gospel.



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BOOK PANORAMA

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BOOK PANORAMA

Philippians

By Dr. David A. DeWitt

The History of the City

Before the 300s B.C., this city was called "Krenides," meaning "The Little Fountains" because of the numerous springs of water nearby. In the 300s, Philip II of Macedon (father of Alexander the Great) captured the city because of its nearby gold mines. He then renamed it Philippi after himself. Philippi remained a Macedonian/Greek city until 42 B.C. That year it became the stage for a very significant historical event. The forces of Antony and Octavian defeated those of Brutus and Cassius at the Battle of Philippi. This battle ended the Republic of Rome and began the Roman Empire.

A Historical "Soap Opera"

Octavian (after the death of his uncle Julius Caesar) became Caesar Augustus. Antony married the sister of Augustus/Octavian, but while in Egypt, Antony had an affair with Cleopatra, divorced his wife, and married Cleopatra. This led to war between he and Augustus, resulting in a victory for Augustus and Egypt being brought into the Roman Empire. Augustus was the Caesar at the time of Christ's birth and the one who appointed Herod the Great as king of the Jews. Meanwhile, the city of Philippi became a Roman colony (Acts 16:12), loyal to Augustus and receiving all the benefits of a city in Italy—including Roman law, Roman citizenship, and exemption from certain taxes. This became an issue of extreme pride and security for the

Philippians

Theme: *The participation in the Gospel is joyful because it involves:*

Proclamation (about Christ)	Unity (in Christ)	Humility (like Christ)	Knowledge (of Christ)	Peace
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Through financial participation (1:1-11) 2. In suffering circumstances (1:12-14) 3. By enduring those with the right message but the wrong motives (1:15-18) 4. While keeping an eternal perspective (1:19-26) 	<p><i>be standing firm in</i></p> <p><i>one mind</i></p> <p><i>one spirit</i></p> <p>and</p> <p><i>one purpose</i></p>	<p>Which means:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Modeling the attitude of Christ Jesus (2:6) 2. Emptying ourselves of our authority (2:7a) 3. Taking the form of a servant (2:7b) 4. Being obedient unto death (2:8) 5. Letting God exhort us (2:9-11) 6. Working for God's good pleasure (2:12-13) 7. Focusing on eternal rewards (2:14-18) <p>*Like Timothy and Epaphroditus</p>	<p>1. Discerning <i>evil workers</i> (3:1-3)</p> <p>2. Which does not put <i>confidence in the flesh</i> (birth position, education, zeal, or accomplishments (3:4-6)</p> <p>3. About <i>righteousness which comes from God, Christ, and the power of the resurrection</i> (3:7-11)</p> <p>4. Which we continually <i>press on to obtain</i> (3:12-16)</p> <p>5. Of the apostles' example (3:17-21)</p>	<p><i>Rejoice in the Lord always; and again I will say, rejoice!</i> (4:4)</p> <p>Defined as:</p> <p>Peace</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In person-to-person harmony (4:1-5) 2. Through prayer (4:6-7) 3. By dwelling on moral excellence (4:8-9) 4. Through Christ, who strengthens us in all circumstances (4:10-23)
1:1 ----- 2:6	1:27 ----- 2:4	2:5 ----- 30	3:1 ----- 21	4:1 ----- 23

Timeline of Philippians

