

PHILIPPIANS

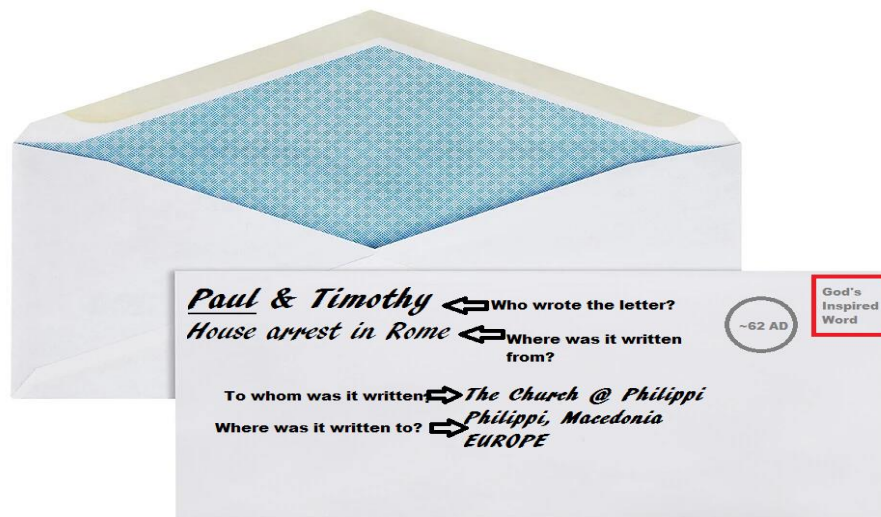
Finding Joy in Every Season



Today, we are going to be looking at an **epistle** in the New Testament. Do you know what an epistle is? It is a *letter*!

Imagine you just received a letter in the mail. The first thing you want to do is look in the upper left hand corner to see who it is from, right? Let's begin our study of the book of Philippians by doing just that.

Who is the letter from? Let's look at the upper left hand corner.



➤ Do you know who Paul is? What do you know about the apostle Paul?

Paul was a man that was radically transformed by the gospel (see Acts 9 for more details). Paul went from being a ferocious hater of the church & persecutor of Christians to being a man that loved Jesus with all His heart & had a radical love for the church. Talk about a transformation!



Paul knew that God not only saved him, but also called Him to a specific ministry. He became a missionary church planter & saw the Lord work in amazing ways through his ministry. If he were in Canada, he would be starting churches in Vancouver, Edmonton, Calgary, Toronto, Ottawa & Montreal. His passion was to reach the big cities so that the most people possible would come to know Christ.

1. THE SERVANTS

Read Philippians 1:1a

How were Paul and Timothy serving Christ?

Were they living for themselves or for God?

*Maybe instead of asking what **we** want to do when we grow up, we can ask “what does **God** want me to be (and do) when I grow up?”*

➤ **How can you be a servant of God even now?**

Ideas: caring for others, praying for family, friends, & neighbours, growing in love towards siblings, obeying parents, & telling others about God.

2. THE SAINTS

Read Philippians 1:1b

Who is the letter to?

“all the _____ in Christ Jesus who are at Philippi...”

➤ Do you know what a saint is?

** A saint is a person declared holy because of their faith in Jesus. A saint is set apart from the world and set apart for God.*

➤ How are we different from the world?

3. THE SETTING

Read Philippians 1:1b

Philippi is located in modern day Kavála, Greece. Find Greece on a map. Interestingly, it was not in Paul’s initial plans. Paul’s desire was to continue moving eastward into Asia to see the gospel spread, but the Holy Spirit kept Paul and his companions from walking out these plans.

Read Acts 16:6–10

- How did God call Paul & his companions westward toward Philippi in Macedonia?
- Was Europe initially in Paul’s plans? Was it in God’s plans?
- How did the ‘servants of Christ’ respond to God’s leading?



Read Acts 16:11–15

- How did Paul see God work in Philippi?

Read Acts 16:16–40

- What miraculous events happened in the prison cell?

PRAYER POINT

Ask the Lord to help you become a servant of Christ that lives for Him and not for self.

Paul & Silas in Philippi



"About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them, and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken. And immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone's bonds were unfastened." Acts 16:25-26 ESV

Paul & Silas in Prison – Acts 16 Skit

Jailer: “OK, you two. Come with me. [Grabs Paul and Silas and drags them off.]

Narrator: “Having received this order, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.”

Jailer: [Putting Paul and Silas into stocks.] “I’m not taking any chances with you two. You must be really vicious criminals – the magistrates were very strict about you.”

Narrator: “About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them”.

Paul & Silas: “*Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but now am found, was blind but now I see!*”

Narrator: “... and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken. [everyone shake!!!]. And immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone's bonds were unfastened. [Paul and Silas’ stocks are opened.] When the jailer woke and saw that the prison doors were open, he drew his sword supposing that the prisoners had escaped. “

Jailer: “Oh, no! The prison doors are open! I’m a goner. What will I do? They’ll put me down because the prisoners have escaped!”

Paul: [cries out in a loud voice] “Do not harm yourself, for we are all here!”

Narrator: “ And the jailer called for lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas. Then he brought them out and said,

Jailer: “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?”

Silas: “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.”

Narrator: “And they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house.”

Narrator: “And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds; and he was baptized at once, he and all his family. Then he brought them up into his house and set food before them. And he rejoiced along with his entire household that he had believed in God.”

-Modified from Christian Skit resources