

Introduction To Philippians

Philippians 1:1-2

Introduction

I The Author

A. The human authors:

1. Paul = **Saul** (*Hebrew*) **Paul** (*Latin*)
 - a. His pre-conversion life:
 1. He was a Roman citizen/**devout** Jew - Acts 22:3
 2. He was a Pharisee and member of the Sanhedrin
 3. He was a **persecutor** of the saints - Acts 8:3; 9:1-2
 - b. His post-conversion life: - Acts 9:1-19; 22:1-29
 1. He was a **herald** of Jesus Christ - Eph 3:7-11
 2. He was an apostle/church planter - 1 Tim 2:7
 3. He was author of at least **13** NT books
2. Timothy = “Dear to God”
 - a. He was **raised** by his mother/grandmother - 2 Tim 1:5
 - b. He was converted on Paul’s 1st journey - 2Tim 3:10-11
 - c. He accompanied Paul on his 2nd journey - Ac 16:1-3
 - d. He was appointed **pastor** in Ephesus - 1Tim 1:3; 3:14
3. **Servants** of Christ Jesus - Ps 40:6-8

B. The divine author: God

1. It is God-**breathed** - 2 Tim 3:16-17
2. It is Jesus Christ-embodied - John 1:1
3. It is Spirit-**inspired** - 2 Pet 1:20-21

II The Recipients

A. The primary recipients: The Philippian church

1. To all the **saints** in Christ - 1 Cor 6:9-11
2. To all the overseers/deacons - Tim 3:1-13; Tit 1:5-9

B. The secondary recipients: The **catholic** church

III The Historical Background

A. The date: Approximately 60-62 A.D.

B. The city of Philippi

C. The church of Philippi - Acts 16:9-40

D. The circumstances:

1. Paul was awaiting **trial** in Rome - Ac 28:30-31

2. Paul was under arrest, yet **FREE** - Eph 3:1; 4:1; 6:10
- #### E. The occasion and purpose:
1. To **thank** the Philippians for their gift - 1:3-6; 4:10-19
 2. To report his own circumstances - 1:12-2:18
 3. To **encourage** them to stand firm - 1:27-28; 3:1-21
 4. To commend Timothy and Epaphroditus - 2:19-30
 5. To **exhort** them to humility and unity - 4:2-4
- #### F. The overall theme and key verse:
1. Overall theme: **Joy** in suffering - 1:21-24
 2. Key verse: Philippians 1:6

IV The Greeting

A. The conferring of blessings:

1. **Grace** = “God’s **favor** in spite of man’s demerit”
2. **Peace** = “Man’s **release** from enmity with God”

B. The source of blessings:

1. God the Father - The **initiator**
2. The Lord Jesus Christ - The **Savior**

PERSONAL APPLICATION

Take some time this week to consider the following:

1. Would you describe yourself as “joyful”? Why or why not?
2. Where do you need to experience God’s “grace and peace” right now? Ask God to help you apply what He has made available.
3. Definition of Joy: “Joy is a gift from God (Ps 16:11) to those who believe the gospel (Lk 2:10) being produced in them by the Holy Spirit (Rom 14:17; Gal 5:22) as they receive and obey the Scripture (Jer 15:16; 1 Jn 1:4) being mixed with trials (Rom 5:3-5; James 1:2; 1 Pt 1:6) and set their hope and their heart on future glory (Rom 5:2; 12:12; 1 Pt 4:13; Jude 24).”
4. Ask the Holy Spirit to teach, equip and minister to you through our study of Philippians. And consider making a commitment to read through Philippians and to discuss the weekly application questions with a friend or spouse.

BOB HALLMAN - THE EPIC LIFE

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