



KING'S CHAPEL

Daily Devotional - Philippians Study

Week 1 - Day 3

Introduction:

Welcome to Day 3 of our study through the book of Philippians! Today is the final day of laying the foundation for our study as we look at the big picture overview of Philippians and answer a few contextual questions. Tomorrow we will dive into the first six verses of chapter 1. To begin your time today, take a few minutes to watch the video by the Bible project: An Overview of Philippians.

Watch the Bible Project video by clicking here - [Overview: Philippians](#) (9 minutes)

Today's Bible Reading: Acts 20:18-27

Paul's final journey through Macedonia (Philippi) and Greece marks the last time he would see these beloved churches in person.

Date: 57 AD - *This passage in Acts 20 are Paul's words to a community of church leaders at the end of his 3rd missionary journey. It will be the last time he sees these churches he helped plant just a few years ago.*

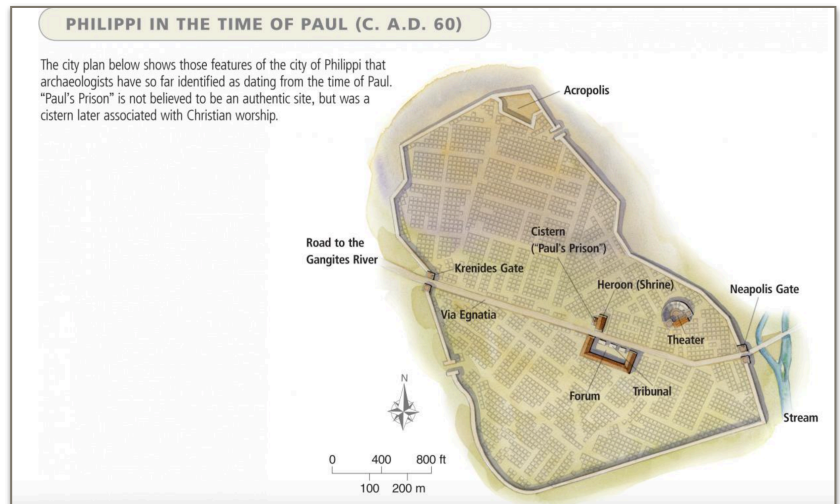
Many consider these words to be Paul's life mission statement. *As you read them, what would you say are Paul's deepest desires for these churches and their leaders? What do you desire today as you read Paul's words?*

Acts 20:18-27 - 18 "You yourselves know how I lived among you the whole time from the first day that I set foot in Asia, **19** serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials that happened to me through the plots of the Jews; **20** how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you in public and from house to house, **21** testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. **22** And now, behold, I am going to Jerusalem, constrained by the Spirit, not knowing what will happen to me there, **23** except that the Holy Spirit testifies to me in every city that imprisonment and afflictions await me. **24** But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God. **25** And now, behold, I know that none of you among whom I have gone about proclaiming the kingdom will see my face again. **26** Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all, **27** for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God.

Reflection Question: Re-read vs. 24. How do you think someone comes to embrace this type of perspective for their life? Is Paul crazy?

Introduction to Philippians

Philippi was a small city in Macedonia, founded by King Philip II, the father of Alexander the Great in 356 BC. It later became a Roman colony with many special privileges. Many Roman soldiers settled here after their retirement, and it became a military outpost known for its patriotic spirit. Thessalonica was the capital of Macedonia, but Philippi was one of the leading cities and probably the first major one entered by travelers coming from the East into Europe. It was primarily a pagan city. There was no synagogue here and obviously very few Jews. This is clear, because the God-fearers, those Gentiles who worshipped Jehovah but never became full converts, met by the river for prayer on the Sabbath, rather than in a Synagogue.



The church in Philippi was the first church in Europe that Paul founded. He attempted to go into Asia, but was led to Europe, starting with Philippi, by the Holy Spirit and a vision (Acts 16:6-10). He did this on his second missionary journey circa 49-51 AD (Acts 16). He started with Lydia and her family, a slave girl, and then the jailer and his household. With just these first few families, a church was started. He later visits for few days and the last time in person on his third missionary journey (Acts 20:1). He writes this letter near the end of his first Roman imprisonment (circa AD 62) where Acts 28 leaves off in Paul's journey.

After this he was probably released, where upon he traveled more, only to later be returned to a Roman prison for execution. Paul loved the church at Philippi and they had been faithful and generous supporters of his mission efforts even though they were very poor (2 Cor. 8-9). Most recently they had sent Epaphroditus (one of the leaders in their church) to minister to Paul and bring him another gift of funds. Paul writes this letter to send back with Epaphroditus, to thank them, tell of his circumstances and future plans, and to encourage them spiritually.

This is by far his most personal letter to a church. It is not meant to be a dissertation on doctrine like Romans or Ephesians, nor is it written primarily to confront major problems like Corinthians and Galatians. Rather it is a letter from a father to his children, from a friend to dear friends. It is hard to nail down one theme for he writes as we would to a friend, telling all that is on our heart. There do seem to be a few issues that he addresses such as unity rather than division, love and humility. He also preaches against the Judaizers, perfectionism, and antinomians. Overall this is the picture of a mature Christian's heart and attitude, a picture of Paul's heart which is full of joy and contentment in Christ, love for the church, and a passion to preach the gospel, even amidst persecution and false teaching.

Introductory & Background Questions: Philippians Study

After watching today's video and reading the Introduction to Philippians, answer the following questions to help you summarize the background study:

1. Who wrote Philippians, what are 2-3 things you've learned about the author?
2. When was Philippians written? (What impact does this make on the audience?)
3. To whom was Philippians written? (What do we know about them?)
4. In what literary style was Philippians written?
5. Why was Philippians written? What have you learned about the purpose or major themes of the letter?