

Handout 1: Philippians Lesson 1

ST. PAUL'S SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEY: Approximate dates: 50 – 52 AD Companions: Silas, Timothy, Priscilla and Aquila, Luke Mission field: Syria, Turkey, Greece Approximate miles traveled: 2,800 miles Sent by church of Antioch, Syria	
Syria and Cilicia (Tarsus, the capital of Cilicia was Paul's hometown)	Acts 15:23
Derbe and Lystra in Lycaonia (Timothy's home)	Acts 16:1-5
Phrygia and Galatia (Roman provinces)	Acts 16:6
Mysia to Troas	Acts 16:6-10
Samothrace and Neapolis	Acts 16:11
Philippi in Macedonia	Acts 16:12-40
Amphipolis and Apollonia	Acts 17:1
Thessalonica	Acts 17:1-9
Beroea (Berea)	Acts 17:10-15
Athens	Acts 17:16-34
Corinth	Acts 18:1-18
Cenchrea (Cenchreae)	Acts 18:18
Ephesus	Acts 18:19-21
Caesarea	Acts 18:22
Jerusalem	Acts 18:23
Antioch, Syria	Acts 18:23

The order of St. Paul's letters in the canon of the New Testament is listed according to length and not according to date except for the Letter to the Hebrews that comes last.

SUMMARY OF ST. PAUL'S LETTER TO THE PHILIPPIANS

Biblical Period	#12 The Kingdom of the Church			
Covenant	The New Covenant in Christ Jesus			
Focus	Reflecting the Life of Christ in word and deed		Standing firm in the knowledge and peace of the Lord	
Scripture	1:1-----2:1-----3:1-----4:1-----4:23			
Division	Greeting and Paul's present circumstances	Appeal to have the mind of Christ	Appeal to have knowledge of Christ	Appeal to live in the peace of Christ and Paul's farewell
Topic	Suffering and submission		Belief expressed in behavior	
	Examples from experience		Exhortation	
Location	Probably from house arrest in Rome			
Time	Probably sometime between 61-63 AD			
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The principal divisions of the Letter to the Philippians:

- I. Paul's greeting and report on his present circumstances (1:1-30)
- II. Paul's appeal to have the mind of Christ (2:1-30)
- III. Paul's appeal to have knowledge of Christ (3:1-21)
- IV. Paul's appeal to live in the peace of Christ and his farewell (4:1-23)

Paul writes to the Philippian Christians from prison, probably in Rome. The reason for Paul's letter is to express his gratitude to the Philippian church (1:3-11; 2:19-30; 4:10-20) for supporting him spiritually by their prayers and materially during his imprisonment (1:7). It is one of the most personal of all St. Paul's letters.

"Joy" is the keyword in Paul's letter to the Philippians and helps to define the theme of his letter. Joy fills Paul when he shares in the life and mission of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in partnership with the Philippian community (1:5). St. Paul repeats the noun "joy," *chara* in Greek, five times in 1:4, 25; 2:2, 29; 4:1. He also uses the verbs "to rejoice" (*chairo*) eleven times: twice in 1:18; 2:17, 18; 4:4; and once in 2:28; 3:1; 4:10 and "rejoice with" (*synchairo*) in 4:17 and 18 for a total of eighteen expressions of joy (*Interlinear Bible Greek-English*, vol. IV, pages 532-540).

St. Paul's greeting in verses 1-3 follows a standard form found in most of his letters:

1. Paul's name (along with any co-senders)
2. The name or identity of the addressee
3. The personal greeting and blessing in the name of the Lord

Paul begins to build on his theme of joy in 1:4. Joy is a fruit of the Holy Spirit (Gal 5:22), a Christian virtue intimately connected to works of charity (love in action), and derived as a gift of a soul in the grip of divine grace (Thomas Aquinas, *Summa theologiae*, 2-2:23.4):

- Joy is a gift that comes from union with God and acknowledgment of His loving providence toward His creation.
- The peace of God gives Christians the experience of joy in relationships and in all kinds of circumstances.
- Joy is a work of grace God gives all Christians and which will come to completion on "the day of Jesus Christ" in His Second Advent (verse 6).

In verse 10, Paul prays that the Philippian community will be able to "discern" what is of value. The verb "discern" is from the Latin meaning "to distinguish between, determine, resolve, decide" (*Modern Catholic Dictionary*, page 111). Discerning is a spiritual wisdom that enables the Christian to view events in life in a supernatural light and to therefore make decisions based on the will of God for the Christian's life.

In 1:27-28, Paul urges the Philippian Christians to *conduct yourselves in a way worthy of the gospel of Christ* as they:

1. Persevere in standing firm in the unity of one spirit as the Body of Christ.
2. Have one mind in proclaiming the doctrinal truth of the Gospel.
3. Are not intimidated by opponents and detractors.

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Handout 2: THE LIFE OF PAUL: “Apostle to the Goyim (Gentiles)”

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>Year AD</u> (all dates are approximate)
Born at Tarsus (modern Turkey) sometime between 7 and 12 AD of Jewish parents who are Roman citizens and traced their ancestry to the tribe of Benjamin (Rom 11:1; Phil 3:5)	10?
Arrival in Jerusalem to study with Gamaliel (Acts 22:3)	30
Sent as an officer of the Sanhedrin to arrest Christians in Damascus & conversion (Acts 9; 22:6-16; 26:12-18)	36
Three-year sojourn in Arabia and mission to Damascus (Gal 1:17)	36-39
Visit to Jerusalem (Gal 1:18)	39
Sojourn in Tarsus (Acts 9:30)	?
Arrival in Antioch, Syria to serve the Christian community (Acts 11:25)	43-44
1 st Missionary Journey (Acts 13-14) -Cyprus -Roman Province of south Galatia (Antioch Pisidia) -Lycaonia (Iconium, Lystra)	45-49
Visit to Jerusalem for the Council of the Jerusalem (Acts 15)	49/50
2 nd Missionary Journey (Acts 15:36-18:21): -at Athens & Corinth (Greece); meets Roman governor Gallio* -wrote 1 & 2 Thessalonians	50-52 50?52 51-52
3 rd Missionary Journey (Acts 18:23-21:14) -visited Phrygia & Galatia -at Ephesus (Turkey) -wrote 1 Corinthians -mission to Macedonia -wrote 2 Corinthians -at Corinth (Greece) -wrote letter to the Romans	53-58 53 54-57 54 57 57?58 57-58 57/58
Return to Jerusalem (Acts 21:15-23:22)	Spring of 58
*Roman Governor Felix; two- year imprisonment at Caesarea. Hearing with Governor Festus at Caesarea = sent to Rome (Acts 24-25)	58-60
4 th Journey: Voyage to Rome & shipwreck off the coast of Malta (Acts 27)	60?61
Paul imprisoned in Rome (Acts 28) -wrote letters to the churches at Colossus, Ephesus, Philippi, and to Philemon	61-63
*Voyage to the east and the west (Spain? Voyage to Britain?) letters 1 Timothy & Titus	63-67
Final Roman captivity: 2 Timothy letter	67
Martyrdom by beheading	67