

BIBLE STUDY

Paul's Epistle to the Philippians

BIBLE STUDY - WEEK 1

PHILIPPIANS 1:1-11

Introduction

Located in the Roman province of Macedonia, Philippi was a leading city of a quarter million people almost completely Gentile in character. Philippi was also a Roman colony which meant that it represented Rome to the surrounding territory in a special way. Roman law was used in city administration and taxes, most officials had the same titles as in Rome, and the Latin language was used. The Gospel of Christ came to Philippi when Paul was called to preach in Macedonia through a special vision which we can read further about in Acts 16:9, 10.

Paul writes this letter from prison to the church at Philippi; which church he founded and formed with help during his second missionary journey.

BIBLE STUDY

1. Phil. 1:1,2 - How does Paul identify himself and Timothy?
To what groups does he address this letter?
What significance may the word all have?
What is the source of grace and peace?
2. Phil. 1:3-11 - Paul's letter to the Philippians has been known as the letter of Joy. In this section, we read of the joy of Christian prayer.
What makes Paul happy and thankful?
Do you feel similar in your friendships/relationships?
Is it different with Christian friends compared to non-Christian friends? (Yes or No) Explain why you feel that way?
3. Phil. 1:6 - What does verse 6 mean to you?
How does it affect the way we see each day of our lives?
4. Phil 1:9-11 - Find at least five things Paul prays for these Christians. (If possible, read/listen to these verses in different bible translations.)
How can we build personally on these five things Paul prays for?

5. As you hear Paul's prayer for these Christian friends, what might we learn from Paul and how might we change our prayer for our friends?
Do we focus more on material or health issues for our friends?
How might Paul's way of praying be helpful?

6. To what day does Paul look forward?
Paul mentions God or Jesus Christ how many times in verses 3 to 11 (this depends on the translation used)?
"The day of Christ." Jesus is coming back sometime. We don't know when. If you knew Jesus was coming back in a week, what would you change in your life - recognizing we are not perfect, we are sinners, but if we could be closer to perfect what would you change in your life?

7. What is the purpose of a Christian's life according to Paul in verse 11?

Personal Reflections (May be used as part of Bible Study if time allows)

Compare Chapter 1, Verse 1 of Philippians with each of the following letters of Paul: Romans 1:1; 1 and 2 Corinthians 1:1; Galatians 1:1; Ephesians 1:1; Colossians 1:1.

What does Paul not say about himself to Philippians yet says it in the other letters?

What might this reveal about Paul's relationship with the Philippians?

Compare verse 7 with 1 Peter 3:15.

What are we called to do?

How might we do it more - "Defending and Confirming the Gospel".