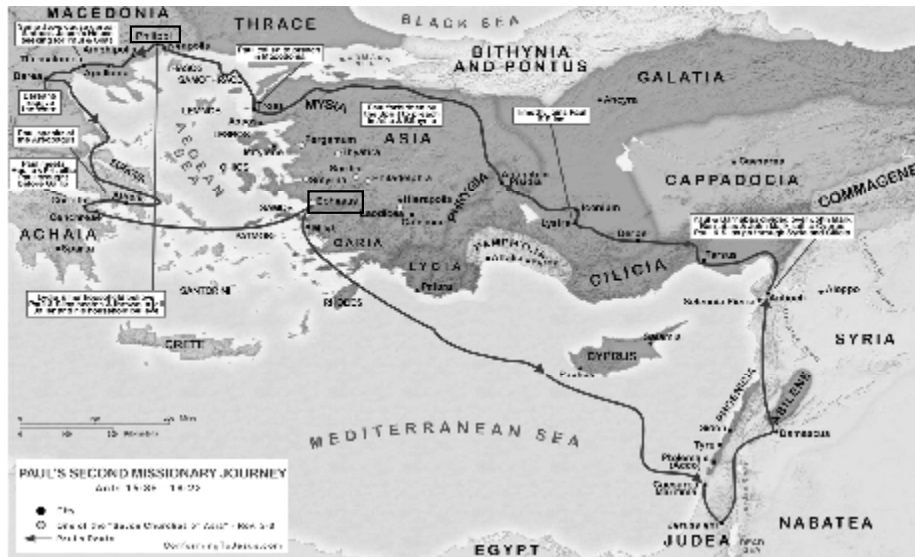
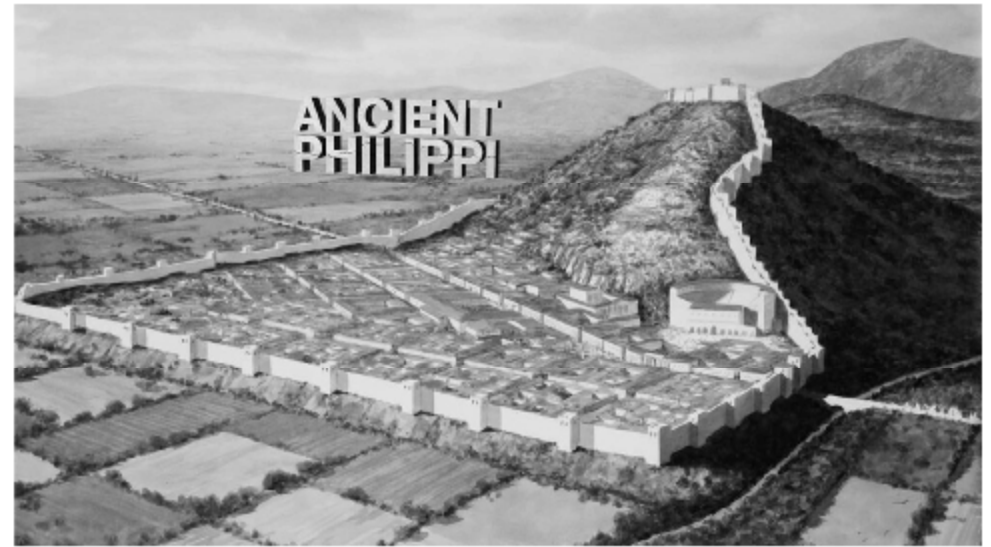




Philippians 1



Events in Philippi (Acts 16)

- “These men are throwing our city into confusion, being Jews, and are proclaiming customs which it is not lawful for us to accept or to observe, being Romans” (Acts 16:20-21).
- In “A.D. 49, Emperor Claudius had expelled the Jews from Rome because they had been blamed for creating a religious disturbance” (Hendriksen).

Events in Philippi (Acts 16)

- The owners of the slave girl were using the current political climate against Paul & Silas.
- Their real reason for opposing Paul was that he had deprived them of income by healing the girl of demon possession.
- The reaction of the crowd shows their eagerness to behave like the people of Rome & punish Jews (Acts 16:22—stripped & beaten & thrown in jail).

Events in Philippi (Acts 16)

- The fact that women were meeting by the river about a mile outside the city to pray indicates that Philippi had no synagogue—would have needed 10 Jewish men to form one.
- Jews could have been expelled from Philippi at the time of Claudius’ decree that they must leave Rome.
- By the time Paul left, men were among the believers (Acts 16:40), and the church at Philippi had begun (ca. AD 50).

The Theme of Philippians

A Christlike Model of Joyful Maturity

Philippi—History

- Located in Macedonia about 10 miles from the Aegean Sea
- Originally named Krenides (“springs”), for a good water supply
- Renamed “Philippi” in 356 BC by King Philip II of Macedonia, father of Alexander the Great, who expanded the city due to gold mines in the area

Philippi—History

- In 42 and 41 BC Octavian (later known as Caesar Augustus) won two significant battles near Philippi and made it a Roman colony.
- Many Roman soldiers retired to Philippi with grants of land from the emperor.
- They also guarded the frontier of Rome.
- They were proud of their Roman citizenship, which granted them important privileges.

Philippi—Privileges of Roman Citizenship

- Freedom from scourging
- Freedom from arrest except in extreme cases
- The right to appeal to the emperor
- Exemption from tribute
- The right to acquire, hold, and transfer property
- The right and responsibility to regulate their own civic affairs

The Epistle to the Philippians

- The letter reflects Paul’s knowledge of the city’s unique status (the only Roman colony in the region).
- Paul’s imprisonment for Christ “has become well known throughout the whole praetorian guard” (Philippians 1:13).
- Paul tells them to “continue to exercise your citizenship in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ” (1:27)—citizen of heaven > citizen of Rome.

The Epistle to the Philippians

- As worshippers of Christ, the Philippians would have faced persecution, especially from those who worshipped the Roman Emperor (1:27-30).
- By this time Nero was on the throne of Rome. The description of Christ’s true deity & kingship in Php. 2 contrasts with the false deity of Nero.
- Paul includes greetings from members of Caesar’s household to the Roman veterans of Philippi (4:22).

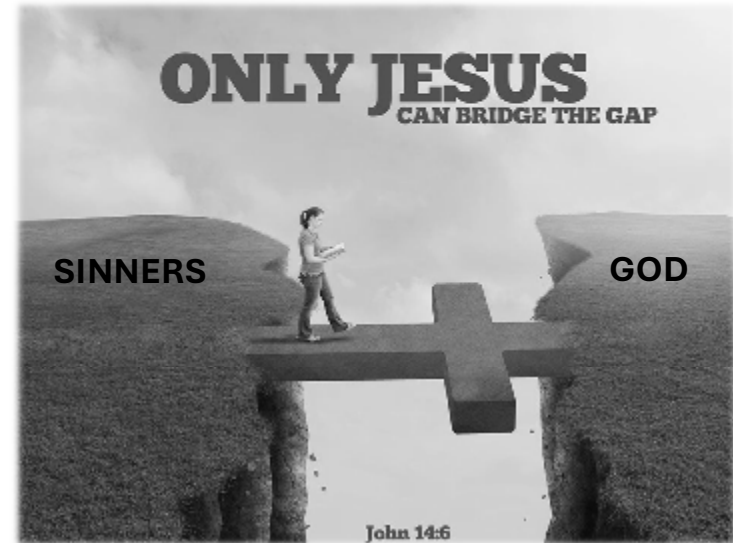


What is the Gospel? (1:5, 7, 12, 16, 27)

- The word means *good news* and refers to Christ's death, burial, & resurrection to pay the penalty for human sin (1 Corinthians 15:3–6). He has made it possible for us to be right with God.
- To recognize our need for such good news, we must also understand the bad news.

What is the Bad News?

- We are all sinners (Romans 3:23).
- No one does good (Psalm 14:1).
- God is pure & holy and “evil cannot dwell with [Him] (Psalm 5:4).
- “For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 6:23).



Philippians 1:9-11

- Paul prays for their love to grow abundantly with knowledge & the discernment that enables them to know what really matters (is excellent); thus, they will be pure, blameless, & filled with Jesus' goodness for God's glory.
- Feelings can lead us astray, but discerning knowledge of God & His Word will be a protection. We will know if someone is speaking the truth or not. We will love wisely & discern what is best.

Overview of Chapter 1

- 1:1-11—Paul celebrates the Philippians & encourages them, saying hardly anything about his current circumstances
- 1:12-26—Paul shares about his own circumstances without self-pity.
- 1:27-30—Paul prepares them for suffering & struggle: he says to stand firm in unity without fear as citizens of heaven.

Stand Firm

- 1:28—speaks of opponents who feel threatened by the gospel for which the Philippians are standing firm. Note that they are afraid of words and ideas! But their response is not to debate but to physically attack.
- Sinners are unreasonable. They have no good arguments to oppose God's truth, so don't be surprised when they resort to gossip, avoiding you, canceling you, or even worse.

Stand Firm

- In Ephesians 6:17, the only offensive part of the armor of God is the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God.
- We fight with ideas, but they are God's ideas, and He is all powerful.
- We fight, but we don't fight alone; we're together with other believers in unity (1:27), and we have God Himself on our side (1:6).