

An Overview of Philippians

The Background of Philippians

Author: Paul

Philippians 1:1

Genre: Epistle

Place of Writing: Prison in Rome

Philippians 1:7

Philippians 1:12–13

Philippians 1:20

Philippians 2:17

Recipient: Saints at Philippi

Philippians 1:1

Acts 16:12

Philippians 1:3–5

Philippians 1:7

Philippians 4:1

Philippians 4:15–16

Purpose: Personal & Pastoral Concerns

Personal Concerns

He wanted to write to them...

- i. To maintain his relationship
- ii. To inform them of his circumstances.
Philippians 1:12
- iii. To give an update on Epaphroditus
Philippians 2:25–27
- iv. To thank them for their generous gift.

Pastoral Concerns

He wanted to write to them...

- i. To warn them about the danger of false teachers.
Philippians 3:2
Philippians 3:18–19
- ii. To encourage them to live out the gospel.
Philippians 1:27
- iii. To urge them to unity.
Philippians 4:2
Philippians 2:2
- iv. To exhort them to rejoice in all circumstances.
Philippians 1:18
Philippians 2:18
Philippians 3:1
Philippians 4:4

The Outline of Philippians

- I. Introductory Remarks (1:1–11)
 - A. Salutation (1:1–2)
 - B. Thanksgiving and prayer (1:3–11)
- II. Paul’s Missionary Report (1:12–26)
- III. Exhortations to Sanctification (1:27–2:18)
 - A. A Life Worthy of the Gospel (1:27–30)
 - B. A Call to Unity (2:1–4)
 - C. The Example of Christ (2:5–11)
 - D. Shine as Lights in the World (2:12–18)
- IV. Personal Matters (2:19–30)
 - A. Plans to Send Timothy (2:19–24)
 - B. Update on Epaphroditus (2:25–30)
- V. Warnings Against False Teachers (3:1–3:21)
- VI. Final Exhortations (4:1–9)
- VII. Thanksgiving for Philippian Giving and Partnership (4:10–20)
- VIII. Concluding Remarks (4:21–23)

The Message of Philippians

- An emphasis on unity
- An emphasis on joy
- An emphasis on Christ
Philippians 2:5–11
- An emphasis on the gospel

Why Study the Book of Philippians?

1. Philippians will teach us to rejoice in spite of our present circumstances.
2. Philippians will teach us to be united in Christ, even when we are scattered.
3. Philippians will teach us much about the person and work of Christ.
4. Philippians will teach us to treasure the true gospel.