

Bible Study. Philippians Ch. 1

1. Opening Prayer

2. Intro I: Philippi (from Easton's Bible Dictionary)

Formerly Crenides, "the fountain," the capital of the province of Macedonia. It stood near the head of the Sea, about 8 miles north-west of Kavalla. It is now a ruined village, called Philibedjik. Philip of Macedonia fortified the city, and called it after his own name Philippi (B.C. 359-336). In the time of the Emperor Augustus this city became a Roman colony, a military settlement of Roman soldiers, there planted for the purpose of controlling the district recently conquered. It was a "miniature Rome," under the municipal law of Rome, and governed by military officers who were appointed directly from Rome. Here, Paul and his companion Silas preached the gospel and formed the first church in Europe. This success stirred up the enmity of the people, and they were "shamefully entreated" (Act 16:9-40; 1Th 2:2).

3. Intro II: Grace (*charis*) in the New Testament

Not used in Matthew and Mark

3 times in John

6 times in Luke and 17 times in Acts

8 times in Hebrews and 10 times in the First Peter

101 times in Paul's letters

How do you understand grace?

4. Read Philippians Ch. 1

5. Discussion

- a. From verse 3, the subject of sentences is the first person pronoun singular "I" instead of "we." Why do you think Paul includes Timothy in verse 1?
- b. Verse 3 mentions Paul's thanksgiving to God, for what is Paul thankful?
- c. How do you understand "sharing in the gospel (*euangelion*, 60 in Pauline letters out of 76 in the New Testament)" in verse 5?
- d. How do you understand "good work" in verse 6?
- e. How does Paul understand "sharing in God's grace" in verse 7?
- f. How does Paul understand his situation?

- g. Paul says that he rejoices for the spread of gospel “whether out of false motives or true” in verse 18. Do you also think it is okay or joyful to see the gospel being spread out of false motives? Or what kind of false motives do you think Paul talks about?
- h. How do you understand “deliverance” in verse 19?
- i. How do you understand Christ being exalted in my body in verse 20?
- j. As the leader, what does Paul want to choose between two choices in verses 22-26?
- k. In verse 28, what is the difference between the saints and their opponents?
- l. How do you understand “struggle” in verse 30?

6. Closing Prayer