

A Tour Through the Divine Library
(Philippians)

I. General Introduction to Philippians

-Title and Recipients: “To the Philippians” (1:1; see Acts 16:11-40)

-Author and Date: the apostle Paul and Timothy the brother (1:1); written ~AD 61 during Paul’s first Roman imprisonment

-Purpose: written for the well-being of the church (express thanksgiving, prayer, love; update; unity; coming of Epaphroditus and Timothy; warn against false teachers; exhort to stand firm, rejoice always, pray about everything, etc.)

-Structure:

- I. Suffering for Christ (ch. 1)
- II. Mind of Christ (ch. 2)
- III. Knowledge of Christ (ch. 3)
- IV. Peace of Christ (ch. 4)

II. General Overview of Philippians

-Greeting (1:1, 2); Thanksgiving/Prayer; Love (1:3-11); Report (1:12-26); Walk Worthy of the Gospel (1:27-30); Be of the Same Mind (2:1-16); Paul’s Humility (2:17, 18); Timothy’s Humility (2:19-24); Epaphroditus’ Humility (2:25-30); Beware of the Judaizers (3:1-16); Beware of the Sensualists (3:17-21); Miscellaneous Exhortations (4:1-9); Paul’s Gratitude (4:10-19); Conclusion (4:20-23)

III. Prominent Themes in Philippians

-People: Paul (1:1), Timothy (1:1; 2:19-23); Epaphroditus (2:25-30); Euodia and Syntyche (4:2, 3)

-Themes: The Sovereignty of God (1:6, 29; 2:12, 13); Unity (1:27; 2:2-5, 14; 4:2, 3); Joy, Peace, and Contentment (1:2, 4, 25; 2:2, 17, 18, 28, 29; 3:1; 4:1, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11-13); Union with Christ (3:7-14)

IV. Christ in Philippians

-Christ is Central in All Things: the love of Christ (1:8); suffering for Christ (1:13); the preaching of Christ (1:15f); Christ in life, Christ in death (1:21, 23); the humility of Christ (2:5); the day of Christ (2:16); serving Christ (2:21, 30); worship in the Spirit of Christ (3:3); glorying in Christ (3:3); union with Christ (3:9, 10); the glorious return of Christ (3:20, 21); the faithful provision of Christ (4:19)

V. Practical Lessons in Philippians

- 1) Be diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.
- 2) Union with Christ is the key to joy, peace, and contentment.
- 3) Our hope and confidence of forgiveness and acceptance with God must be in Christ alone.