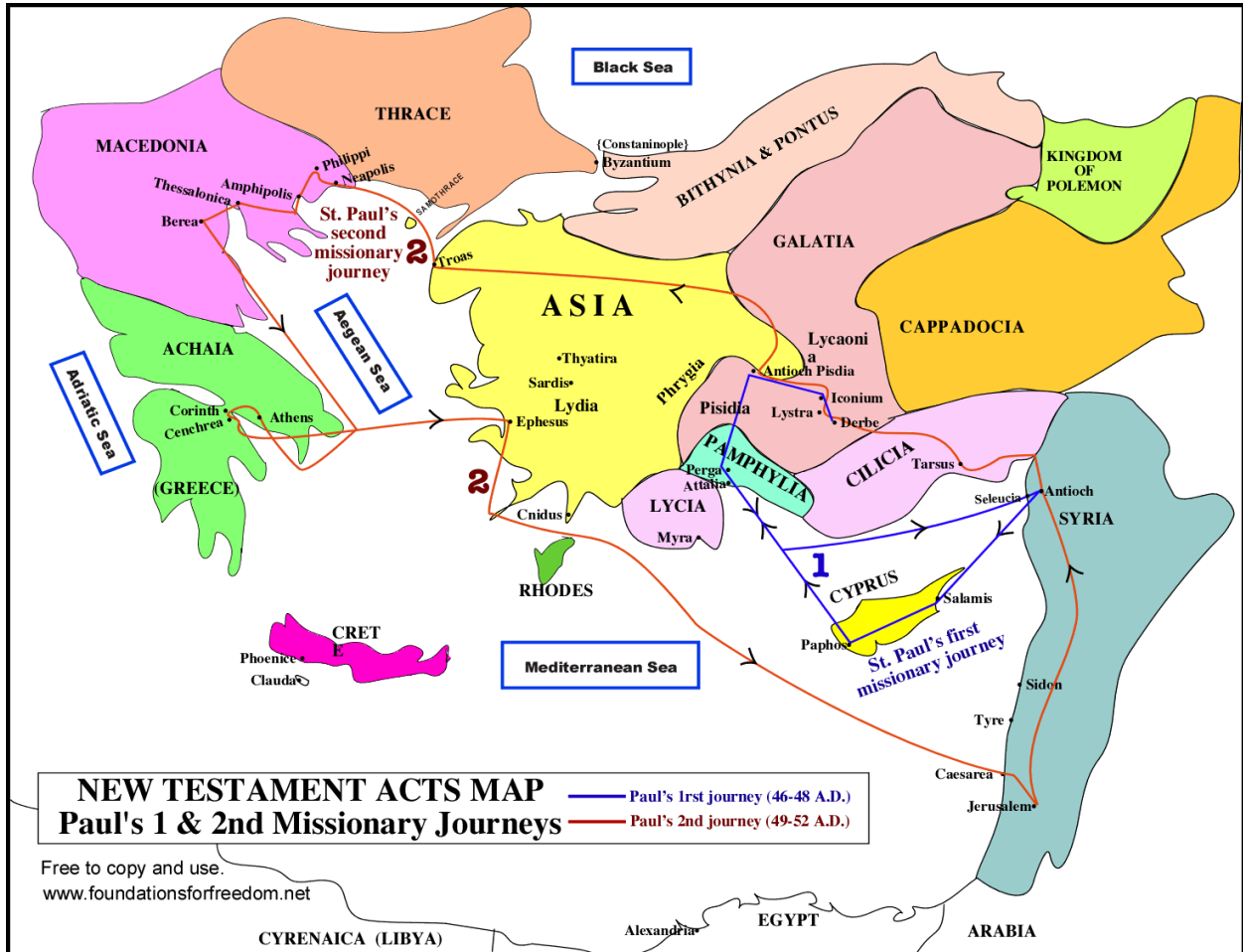


Philippians

Rejoice in the Lord



Philippians - Introduction

City of Philippi

- Located about 9 miles from Neapolis and the shore
- Located on the Egnatian way, a major Roman road from Italy to Turkey
- In the neighborhood of gold and silver mines
- After Antony and Octavius defeated Brutus there it became a Roman colony and place of retirement for Roman soldiers.

Macedonian Call (Acts 16:9-13)

- What was the foremost city of Macedonia?
- What help did the Macedonians need?
- How did Paul react to the need?
- What is similar and what is different to today?

Philippian Jailer (Acts 16:16-33)

- Why did they drag Paul and Silas to the magistrates?
- How were they described to the magistrates?
- What action did the jailer take upon being charged to keep them securely?
- What were Paul and Silas doing at midnight and how did the other prisoners react?
- At the same hour, what did the jailer immediately do?

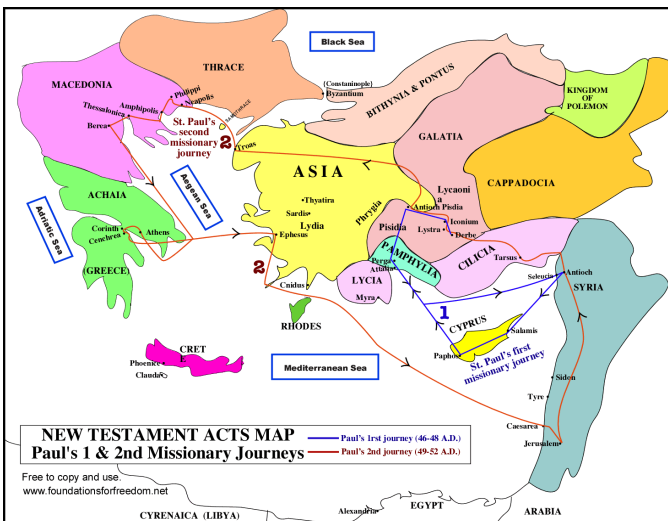
Epistle to the Philippians

- What is an epistle?
- How do you think it was read?

Read through the whole book of Philippians (estimate about 14 minutes)

Overview

- What main themes (topics) do you see in Philippians?
- Describe Paul's relation to the Philippians?
- What does this imply about the Philippians?
- Were the Philippians a diverse group?
- Are there indications the Philippians were mature?



First Converts

Lydia (Acts 16:14-15)

- Why were they meeting at the riverside and not at the synagogue?
- What was Lydia's occupation?
- How did she heed Paul's words (v15)?

Philippians - Chapter 1

Greeting (Philippians 1:1-2)

v1 doulos (1401) - bound servant - a slave

- What title did Paul take (v1)?
- What three groups were addressed (v1)?

Thanksgiving and Prayers (Philippians 1:3-11)

v5 koinonia - Fellowship, partnership, participation

- How often did he thank God for them (v3)?
- In what percentage of his prayers (v4)?
- When did they begin their fellowship with Paul (v5)?
- Their fellowship made them partakers of what (v7)?
- Is starting enough (v6)?
- What was Paul's condition when he wrote Philippians (v7)?
- What did he pray that would abound (v9)?
- What does love have to be in (v9)?
- Is there a temptation to not be sincere (v10)?
- What fruit of righteousness is to fill them (v11, Gal 5:22-23, 2 Pet 1:5-9)?

Paul's Activity (Philippians 1:12-18)

- What was the result of Paul's imprisonment (v12, Rom 8:28)?
- Who learned Paul's purpose (v13)?
- Can we be encouraged when someone else does what is right (v14)?
- Can we teach and preach with wrong motives (v15-16)?
- Who appointed Paul to defend the Gospel (v17, Acts 9:15-16)?
- Can we rejoice that Christ is preached even from a wrong motive (v18)?

Life or Death (Philippians 1:19-26)

- What was Paul's expectation and hope and why (v20, Rom 1:16)?
- At what times would Christ be magnified (v20)?
- What did Paul consider as factors for life or death (v21-24)?
- Do we think of death the way Paul did (v23)?

Encouragement (Philippians 1:27-30)

- How can our conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ (v27)?
- What did Paul mean by one spirit and one mind (v27)?
- Why do we need to strive together (v27)?
- Is it easy to be terrified by our adversaries (v28)?
- Do we think of suffering as something granted to us (v29)?

Philippians - Chapter 2

Look To Others (Philippians 2:1-4)

It is unfortunate the chapter break is here. Verse 1 beginning with “therefore” obviously shows its relation to what is in chapter 1.

- What thought preceded the “therefore” (v1)?
- How do the “if any” statements affect our behavior (v1)?
- What does it mean to be like-minded (v2)?
- How do we esteem others better than ourselves (v3)?
- Is esteeming others better than ourselves difficult?

Mind of Christ (Philippians 2:5-11)

- How do we put this mind in us (v5)?
- What does it mean to not consider it robbery (v6)?
- Who was Christ bondservant to (v7)?
- Is any of our obedience as tough as death on a cross (v8)?
- What was the purpose (v11)?

Own Salvation (Philippians 2:12-13)

- How do we work out our own salvation (v12)?
- Why should it be done with fear (v12)?
- How does God work in us to will (v13)?

Without Complaining (Philippians 2:14-18)

- How close do we come to doing all things without complaining (v14)?
- Does doing most things without complaining meet this standard (v14)?
- Did the prisoners in the Philippian jail notice that Paul wasn't complaining?
- Will people today take notice of us if we do all things without complaining?
- How can we not complain, when we notice much in a crooked and perverse world?

- How does this make us blameless and harmless?
- How noticeable is a shining light (v15)?
- Is this way of life related to holding fast the word of life and not being in vain (v16)?
- What did it mean to be poured out as a drink offering (v17)?
- Why was Paul glad and rejoicing at this(v17)?

Sending Timothy (Philippians 2:19-24)

- Why was Paul sending Timothy (v19)?
- Is it possible to insincerely care (v20)?
- Can we do good things and still be seeking our own (v21)?

Epaphroditus (Philippians 2:25-30)

- How was Epaphroditus a fellow soldier (v25)?
- Who sent Epaphroditus to Paul (v25)?
- Was it their practice to help Paul (2 Cor 9:4, 2 Cor 11:9)?
- How serious was Epaphroditus sickness (v27)?
- Why was he to be held in esteem (v29-30)?

Philippians - Chapter 3

Rejoice and Beware (Philippians 3:1-2)

Paul continues his instructions to the Philippians

- Why does he say “finally” rejoice (v1)?
- Where should they rejoice (v1)?
- Is hearing something repeatedly useful (v1)?

Paul’s Old Credentials (Philippians 3:3-6)

- Why could Paul have taken confidence in the flesh?
- Were the things he mentioned bad things?
- Do we have risks of placing confidence in the wrong things?

All for Christ (Philippians 3:7-11)

- How did Paul consider his old credentials?
- Compared to Christ, how should we consider anything?
- Did Paul have righteousness on his own (v9)?
- Did Paul consider it a privilege to have fellowship (share) in Christ’s sufferings?

Toward the Goal (Philippians 3:12-16)

- In this life, have we ever attained (v12)?
- Why did Paul need to press on (v12)?
- Why should we forget what is behind (v13)?
- Could Paul have gotten the prize if he didn’t keep pressing forward (v14)?
- How should mature Christians think about these things (v15)?
- How will the mature walk and think (v16)?

Our Walk (Philippians 3:17-21)

- Do we have examples and patterns (v17)?
- If we don’t follow the example, what are we (v18)?
- What is the result of focusing on earthly things (v19)?
- Where is our citizenship (v20)?
- What does it mean to be a citizen, how should it affect us (v20)?
- How is conforming related to being subdued (v21)?

Philippians - Chapter 4

Stand Fast (Philippians 4:1)

- What does it mean to stand fast?
- Where were they to stand fast (v1)?
- How did Paul show his care for them in this verse (v1)?
- Who would we describe as our joy?

Same Mind (Philippians 4:2-3)

- What does it mean to implore?
- What did he implore Euodia and Syntyche to be (v2)?
- Where was the same mind to be (v2)?
- Do we sometimes need to help others be of the same mind in the Lord (v3)?
- How would we do that?
- What do we know of Euodia and Syntyche's past (v3)?

Short Commands (Philippians 4:4-7)

- How frequently should we rejoice (v4)?
- Does our rejoicing depend on our physical circumstances (v4)?
- How did Paul react in unpleasant circumstances, such as jail or prison?
- How will our gentleness be known to all men (v5)?
- Why are we told to do this (v5)?
- How often should we be anxious (v6)?
- What should we do instead (v6)?
- What needs to be included in our prayers and supplications (v6)?
- How does the peace of God guard us (v7)?

Meditate on these Things (Philippians 4:8-9)

- What does it mean to meditate, is this a casual effort (v8)?
- Who comes to mind when we think of true, just, pure (v8)?
- What happens when we just try to avoid bad things (Matthew 12:44-45)?

- Define each of the things we are to meditate upon.
- Is this how Paul lived (v9)?

Contentment (Philippians 4:10-13)

- What had hindered their care for Paul (v10)?
- How had Paul come to be content (v11)?
- Does our contentment depend on our physical circumstances (v12)?
- Are there limitations on all things (v13)?

Sharing with Paul (Philippians 4:14-20)

- Did the Philippians just share once (v16)?
- Did they limit their sharing to when he was there (v15-16)?
- Why did Paul seek their sharing (v17)?
- Who really supplies our needs (v19)?

Closing (Philippians 4:21-23)

- Were there saints in Caesar's household (v22)?
- How might they have learned the Gospel?